



June 20–27, 2020

7 nights total; 5 days of instruction, 1 day of excursion

Deepen your writing and explore the connection between inspiration and place in this immersive 5-day generative writing workshop in the Italian hill town of Civita di Bagnoregio, in Lazio, just north of Rome.

Writing about place is a way to look both inward and outward, to explore and understand ourselves by observing the world around us. Eudora Welty describes the experience as “...by knowing where you stand you grow able to judge where you are.”

Foreign travel offers the spark of inspiration that can lead to transformative experiences in how we look at the world and discover how and where we fit in. When we pause our routines to look, listen, and reflect, we come back to our usual lives renewed and refreshed.

Writing about a place as ancient as Civita provides an opportunity to explore the elements that make a specific place unique. This may include the layers of history, nature, human culture, and the built environment across time to bring us to the present moment. A discovery of place through writing will help cultivate skills writers can use to ground their future writing on any topic.

We will begin our immersive workshop with observation and readings, then move to define place and gain perspective as we write. Exercises and prompts will jump start our process as we deepen skills in image, voice, language, structure, and narrative. Daily “pilgrimages” and a day-trip to the nearby hill town of Orvieto will add context and richness to our work. As weather allows, we will write outside when possible and share work in a supportive environment that encourages risk, experimentation and new ways of looking at the world around us.



WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS

- Open to writers of fiction, nonfiction, prose or poetry (writing sample requested with registration)
- 5 full days of instruction
- 1 excursion day to the nearby hilltown of Orvieto (transportation provided)
- Introduction and private tour of Civita with local guide
- * Welcome dinner and day of departure breakfast included
- A small group of 8-10 participants and 2 workshop leaders offers opportunities for one-on-one learning, feedback and time to write
- Free time to relax and explore!

REGISTRATION

OPENS OCTOBER 15

Gabriela: gveritas@gmail.com or
Sharon: sharon@sharonmentyka.com





Lo Studio entrance at the Civita Institute facilities



WORKSHOP LEADERS

GABRIELA DENISE FRANK and **SHARON MENTYKA** are past Civita Institute Fellowship recipients who have lived and worked in Civita di Bagnoregio, Italy.

Gabriela is a writer of essays and fiction. Her work contemplates identity, sexuality, gender, aging and the built environment. *CivitaVeritas: An Italian Fellowship Journey*, a collection of essays and prose poetry during and about her residency in Civita di Bagnoregio in 2010. Off the page her installation and performance work transforms storytelling into experience. An alumna of Artist Trust's EDGE Development program for literary artists, her work is also supported by residencies, grants and fellowships from Vermont Studio Center, Mineral School, Invoking the Pause, 4Culture and Jack Straw.



Sharon is a writer, teacher and graphic designer practicing in Seattle. As the 2012 Civita Institute Astra Zarina Fellowship recipient, Sharon created *Civita Immaginata*, a series of storytelling maps, using visual means to create an 'atlas' designed to envision Civita through multiple lenses, some of which included culture, geography, food, history and the built environment. Her historical fiction book *Chasing at the Surface* received the 2016 National Outdoor Book Award (NOBA) in the Children's category. *Think Smart, Be Fearless: A Biography of Bill Gates* will be published in October 2019 by Sasquatch Books. Sharon is also a current board member of the Civita Institute, where she serves as Communications Chair.



Workshop Cost & Registration

Workshop Cost: \$900 per person. Facilities cost is additional (see below) and is paid directly to the Civita Institute, a Seattle, WA based nonprofit; and includes a one-year membership. Only Civita Institute members are allowed to stay at and use the facilities.

Airfare and food, unless noted, are the responsibility of the workshop participants.

Deposit: \$200 per person first-come, first-served
Note that deposit is refundable only if workshop is cancelled.

Writing Sample:

To secure your space, a 10-page writing sample and a brief description of what you hope to gain from the workshop is requested.

Balance due: May 1, 2020
After that date, call for availability.

To Reserve or Questions—
email **Gabriela** at gveritas@gmail.com or
Sharon at sharon@sharonmentyka.com

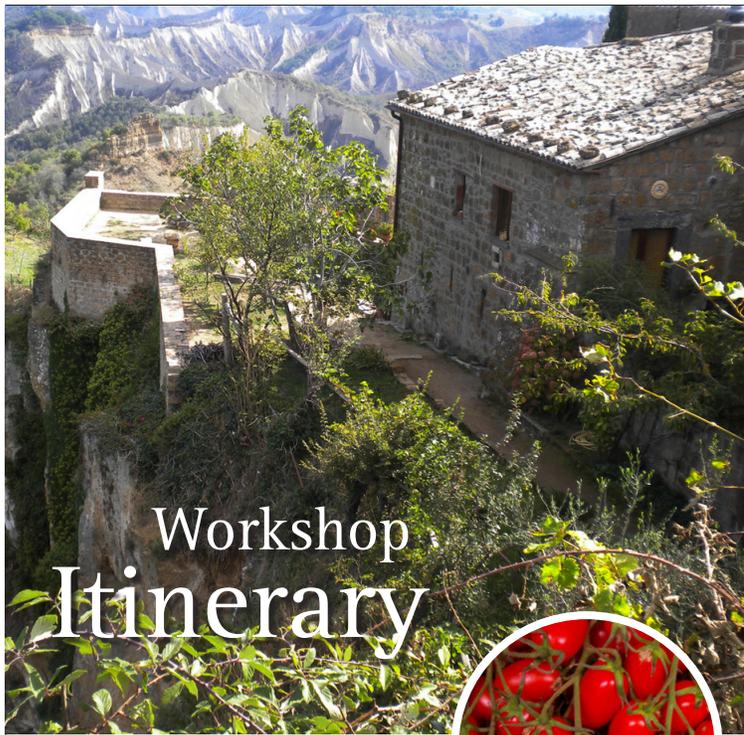
Civita Institute Facilities

The Civita Institute's facilities are beautifully renovated, rustic stone apartments located in the heart of Civita di Bagnoregio. Participants also have access to the adjacent garden and library. The Civita Institute does not provide lodging on a commercial basis. Only members are allowed to stay at these facilities in Italy, based on membership donations made in the United States.

At certain minimum member donation amounts contributed to the nonprofit Civita Institute, members are granted stay and use privileges at the accommodations located within the facilities in Civita. For additional photos, visit www.civitainstitute.org Facilities are fully furnished with full kitchen, bathroom, and linens and are stocked with grocery basics. First-come, first-served based on receipt of workshop deposit.

The minimum donations and stay benefits granted to members are as follows:

Lo Studio: US \$1160 for 7 nights (sleeps 3-4)
Il Ruderino: US \$750 for 7 nights (sleeps couple or single)
Il Giardino: US \$650 for 7 nights (sleeps couple or single)



Workshop Itinerary

Sat, June 20, 2020

DAY 0: ARRIVAL IN CIVITA

- Arrive by 4:00 pm
- Welcome Group Dinner!

Sun, June 21

DAY 1: WORKSHOP

- Group coffee
- Walk to Bagnoregio for first observations, buying groceries, and lunch
- Introduction to writing about place; readings, exercises
- Dinner as a group

Mon, June 22—Wed, June 24

DAY 2–4: WORKSHOP

- Daily pilgrimages; lessons; and writing in Civita
- Lunch on your own
- Sharing of work and dinner as a group, or on your own

Thurs, June 25

DAY 5: WORKSHOP

- Trip to Orvieto by bus or taxi
- Lunch on your own in Orvieto
- Review of lessons, and dinner as a group

Friday, June 26

DAY 6: WORKSHOP

- Daily pilgrimage; lessons; and writing in Civita
- Group farewell lunch
- Workshop review/presentation
- Dinner as a group, or on your own

Saturday, June 27

DAY 7: DEPARTURE—Arrivaderci!

- Farewell breakfast and coffee
- Walk to Civita bus, transfer to Orvieto bus, train

Generative Writing Workshop Goals

- Generate new work through the discovery of place
- Tap into rituals of place as a means of expand creativity
- Recognize that writing can connects us to experience in an intimate way
- Share work in a safe, supportive environment
- Experiment with new techniques and ways of moving ideas to words

Who Will Benefit from this Workshop?

This generative writing workshop is open to writers of fiction, nonfiction, prose or poetry. Writers who have been working on their craft for a period of time will benefit the most from this workshop.

PLEASE NOTE: to secure your space, we will request a 10-page writing sample and a brief description telling us what you hope to gain from this workshop.

**We look forward to working together
with you and sharing this special place!**

