



## **2024 Poetry Apprenticeship**

Heid E. Erdrich

Wednesdays 6-8 PM & Saturdays 11-Noon | CST | Zoom

*\*The first and last meeting of Winter term are planned for Wednesdays, 6-9 PM CST  
Summer term classes will be on Wednesdays 6-9 CST*

### **Course Description**

The 2023 Poetry Apprenticeship Program is a mixture of one-on-one time with Heid E. Erdrich and time spent with your full poetry cohort in peer activities.

During your meetings with your cohort Heid will give craft lessons and writing prompts. These meetings will shift as the year goes on to be centered on peer feedback (workshop) and discussion of reading which includes poetry collections, videos, books and articles on craft, the writing life, organizing manuscripts, and more.

Throughout the apprenticeship, you will have one-on-one meetings with Heid (online via Zoom) on days to be determined according to both of your schedules. Your one-on-one sessions will be tailored specifically to you and your goals. The primary reading for these sessions will be your poetry. One-on-one time will revolve around your goals for your poetry as well as considering suggested edits to your work. During these sessions, Heid will provide intensive craft instruction and feedback, but you will also be able to ask questions and discuss concerns.

These one-on-one meetings include one introductory meeting before the program kicks off in February, one goal-setting phone call, two meetings over Summer and Fall, and one manuscript consultation session with Heid after the program after you submit your final manuscript (in December, 2024). The final manuscript consultation and edits must happen by February 28, 2025.

Heid's presentation topics will include craft concerns (such as titles, line breaks, crafting poem in a series, and use of poetic forms), the discussion of essays by poets from the book *Personal Best: Makers on Their Poems that Matter Most* edited by Erin Belieu and Carl Philips, as well as topics such the personal and the political in poetry, the use of language other than English in poems, and an examination of what makes a poem or collection of poems ready to submit for publication. Poets are expected to revise their poems using *The Art of Revising Poetry* as a guide. Presentations will be tailored to the group needs, once Heid meets everyone in January, and as the year progresses.

Apprentices will be asked to read their work aloud, if possible, to share drafts of poems with the entire cohort, and to take part in Workshop according to our agreed upon schedule.

Please see below for a week by week schedule. **Wednesdays 6-8 p.m.** will be our core meeting time with an hour of follow up time Saturday mornings in Winter. Please note that the first and last meeting in Winter will be 6-9 p.m. CST.

In Summer, we will meet Wed. 6-9 pm CST. If need be, we can schedule Sat. meetings to make up for any scheduling issues late June- mid August.

Specific lectures and assigned readings will be tailored to individuals and/or to the cohort, once Heid has gotten a feel for what you want and need in 2024. Similarly detailed syllabi will be provided in Summer and Fall terms—what you'll find below is the **Winter** schedule as well as proposed Summer and Fall schedules to be discussed in our first weeks.

## **Independent Work Break**

In May, there will be no group meetings scheduled by your Mentor. We will decide as a group how we would like to spend our time together during these weeks. Cohorts can devote time to sharing work with one another in a workshop format and also in discussions of our brief reading assignments. In the past, cohorts have taken turns bringing prompts and writing together.

## Readings

The primary reading for the course will be peer poetry and texts related to the craft of poetry. Purchase or borrow books listed here:

- *Personal Best: Makers on Their Poems that Matter Most* edited by Erin Belieu and Carl Philips
- *The Art of Revising Poetry*, Charles Finn and Kim Stafford
- *Tallchief*, Elise Paschen (source of the title for *Killers of the Flower Moon*)

In addition, you will be asked to read and present three **first books by poets of your choosing**. Presentations are scheduled for the last day of Winter. Other reading will be provided during our Zoom meetings or in follow up documents shared via Google. You may wish to choose books written by our guest authors.

Additional references for the course will be provided in our meetings including:

- *Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom*, Felicia Rose Chavez
- *Ordering the Storm - How to Put Together a Book of Poems*, Susan Grimm
- *Gathering Voices: Creating a Community-Based Poetry Workshop*, Marty McConnell
- *How Dare We! Write - A Multicultural Creative Writing Discourse*, Sherry Quan Lee

## Visiting Writer & Publishing Professionals

*At least four guest authors will meet with your cohort. This is a tentative list based on Loft schedule and subject to availability. Video interviews may be substituted where scheduling does not allow for synchronous visits.*

- Marilyn Nelson
- G.E. Patterson
- Sun Yung Shin
- Su Hwang
- Michael Kleber Diggs
- Roy Guzman
- Elise Paschen

*Guest Authors will visit our meetings to talk about constructing manuscripts, their first books, or to share generative exercises. Most of these visits will take place in late Winter, Summer and a few in Fall.*

## **One-on-One Meeting, Winter**

You and Heid will set up a meeting to take place in Winter (most likely late Feb.-March). To prepare for your first one-on-one meeting with Heid, please make notes on the following:

- Aside from writing and revising your poetry, what are your goals for the year? Be as specific as possible, but don't worry about being held to the goal. Call it an aspiration. Be ready to tell Heid what your goals are in the short term such as reading a particular group of poets at depth, or reading all the works of a specific poet, or studying form or line breaks. Be ready to discuss your overall professional goals such as completing a polished collection (or chapbook) that you can submit to contests or publishers or use for grants or fellowships, or for your own self-satisfaction. After your meeting with Heid, write down the goals you discussed and send them to Heid. Your goals statement will help Heid shape your year-long apprenticeship.

We will also engage in a creative exercise on vision and revision to prepare for this goal-setting conference.

## **Approach to Workshop**

Over the course of the year, you will read and discuss your own and your cohorts' work. The format of peer discussion will vary, although it will include peer review/workshop time. Together, we will determine how your cohort time will be shaped. We will learn about different forms of workshopping and make a workshop agreement before we proceed. Workshop guidelines will be provided once we have a Workshop Agreement in place, however, it is fair to expect you will share 3 poems per workshop or equivalent pages.

**Poems will be shared on the SUNDAY BEFORE YOUR WORKSHOP IS DUE - via Google.**

### **WORKSHOP GROUPS**

**A: Sarah, Arleta, Tyra**

**B: Baudelaire, Krisanne, Lia**

**C: Nick, Evelyn, Elijah**

## SCHEDULE

### January 2024

- One-on-one orientation meeting with Heid.

During the weeks leading to the start of the apprenticeship, you'll meet with Heid to discuss your goals and to be sure the program is a good fit for you.

### January 24-31:

Orientation Meeting: Wednesday, January 24, from **6-7:30 p.m.** CST on Zoom

### January 31

First cohort meeting: Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 **6-9 pm**

By way of introduction, we will spend this first meeting answering some questions about poetry in our lives - see below. We'll also discuss our entire schedule and syllabus. There will be time to ask questions. We will also engage in a generative exercise meant to let us get to know one another.

- Be ready to speak briefly about why you enrolled in the cohort and how poetry already functions in your life. What does poetry give you? Why is it important? Which poets do you love? Which collections or poets guide you? What poetry publications do you read or follow?

## February 2024

Reading for February: *Personal Best* (detailed assignment to follow)

### February 3

Cohort Meeting: Sat. February 3, 11–12 Noon, CST

We will begin with a generative exercise and then begin creating a Workshop Agreement. This agreement will detail how our cohort meetings focused on responding to peer poetry will be conducted.

- Read the Workshop Agreement Draft that Heid will share via Google.
- In addition, each of you should be ready to speak for a minute on specific poems or poets that are meaningful to you.

*Once we have a Workshop Agreement we've all committed to, Heid will share the workshop assignment details.*

### February 7- 13

The cohort will receive video content from Heid that can be watched any time during the week. Heid will be traveling to a writing conference and unavailable. Do your February reading during this brief break from meetings.

- To prepare for this week with no meeting, select from the following videos in which your mentor discusses the craft of poetry and the writer's life as well as teaching poetry and working with writers and visual artists:

Craft Talk: Visual Art & Pedagogy (video interview, 33 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ZHhT74ktAg>

Craft Talk: Native American Poetry & Book Making (video interview, 1 hour)

<https://poetshouse.org/event/craft-talk-with-heid-e-erdrich/>

Conversation (audio, 11) minutes

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/podcasts/146998/a-conversation-with-heid-e-erdrich>

Interview (read only)

<https://www.poetrynw.org/interview-how-did-we-come-to-this-an-interview-with-heid-e-erdrich/>

Interview (read only)

<https://www.cincinnati.com/article/heid-e-erdrich-uses-words-as-catalysts-for-change/>

Conversation with poet Louise Waakaaigan (video 13 minutes )

<https://lyricality.org/2021/08/15/poets-heid-e-erdrich-louise-k-waakaa-igan-in-conversation/>

Beginning at about 40 minutes, you can hear a craft conversation with Kinsale Drake. She talks about a “Rantina” around a controversial figure - before she was found to have misstated her Indigenous identity. We both talk about elements of craft that are important to our poetics.

<https://www.facebook.com/BPLPresents/videos/372370368037062>

## **February 14-17**

Cohort Meeting: Wed. February 14, 6–8 p.m. WORKSHOP GROUP A

-Our Workshop Agreement will provide guidelines for preparing to share your work for peer and Mentor feedback.

-We will follow up on the video content provided in the course. Please prepare 3 questions that came from engaging the videos Heid provided.

Cohort Meeting: Sat. February 17, 11 a.m.–Noon, CST DISCUSSION OF *Personal Best*

## **February 18-24**

Wed. Feb. 21 6-8pm CST

WORKSHOP GROUP B

Sat, Feb 24, 11–12 p.m. CST

DISCUSSION OF *Personal Best*

## **February 25–March 2**

February 28, 6–9 p.m. CST

WORKSHOP GROUP C

## March 2024

### March 2-9

Cohort meeting: Sat. March 2, 11-noon, CST	GENERATIVE EXERCISE
Cohort meeting: Wed. March 6, 6-8 p.m. CST	WORKSHOP GROUP A
Cohort meeting: Sat. March 9, 11-noon CST	DISCUSSION OF <i>Personal Best</i>

### March 10-16

Cohort meeting: Wed. March 13, 6-8 p.m.	WORKSHOP GROUP B
Cohort meeting: Sat. March 16, 11-12 CST	GENERATIVE EXERCISE

### March 17-23

Wed. March 20, 6-8pm CST	WORKSHOP GROUP C
Sat. March 23, 1am -12 noon CST	DISCUSS: <i>The Art of Revising Poetry</i>

### March 24-30

Wed. March, 27 6-8pm CST	WORKSHOP GROUP A
Sat. March 30, 11am -12 noon CST	DISCUSSION OF <i>The Art of Revising Poetry</i>



## April 2024

### April 3- 6

Wed. April 3, 6-8pm CST

WORKSHOP GROUP B

April 6, 11am -12 noon CST

DISCUSSION OF *The Art of Revising*

*Poetry*

### April 9-15

Wed. April 10, 6-8pm CST

WORKSHOP GROUP C

April 13, 11am -12 noon CST

GENERATIVE EXERCISE

### April 14-20

Wed. April 17, 6-9pm CST

PRESENTATIONS

## May 2024

**Apprenticeship Retreat Time.** There will be no regularly scheduled online meetings in May. You will use the month for independent, generative writing time. Your challenge is to put into practice what you are learning in the apprenticeship. This time is meant to allow each apprentice to retreat, read, research and readdress goals for the year. Those who have been feeling pressured to produce can take time to slow down. Those who want to gain momentum with their collection, or work toward other goals such as submitting poems for publication, can organize their time in a way that best serves them. Heid will provide suggestions for how you might spend your time, but here are some ideas based on suggestions by a previous mentor:

- Travel, relax, catch up with family and home life if you already have thirty pages of drafts.
- Revise. Heid will provide revision techniques to encourage you to revise what you have written since January.
- Deepen your writing practice as you continue to work independently. Set a goal for one to three (1-3) poem drafts a week or a series of (3) poems. This is a good option for poets who are feeling pressured to produce each month or who have fallen behind in other goals.

This month of independent study should set you on your way toward workshopping 25 new poems over the summer. Continuing to draft poems on your own this month will allow you more time later in the summer for the activities that make the season a recharge for us all.

Heid will take the month to plan the second half of the apprenticeship year with your goals and development in mind.

**During the independent study month, the cohort might want the option to continue communication with one another via a digital platform that will be identified. Any peer sessions in May would be informal and optional and take place without Heid. You will decide as a group what you'd like to do.**

## Summer

During the summer months you'll have three program related engagements:

- You'll meet with Heid to discuss your work in depth.
- You'll have the opportunity to meet visiting authors.
  - Please note that our guest author dates are tentatively scheduled for Wednesday nights, but this may change based on author availability. Heid will give you plenty of notice around visiting author dates.
- You'll meet informally with your cohort.
  - Summer is often a good time for a cohort to discuss their collective goals and recalibrate. This might mean sharing work more (or less) often, or focusing more on prompts, or the published work of others. You can also divide into two groups during the summer months if half of the group wants to workshop and the other wants to read, etc. Heid will provide more guidance on work over the summer when the time comes.

## June-August 2024

Wed. June 19, 6-9pm CST

Wed. June 26, 6-9pm CST (TBA)

Wed. July 10, 6-9pm CST

Wed. July 17, 6-9pm CST

Wed. July 24, 6-9pm CST

Wed. July 31, 6-9pm CST

Wed. Aug. 7, 6-9pm CST

Wed. Aug. 14, 6-9pm CST

## The Syllabus

A detailed syllabus will be provided each term. It will include the finalized meeting date schedule. **You are responsible for referring to the syllabus regularly.** I will often remind us of it as well.

## Assignments

Assignments will be provided via Google each week. They will include details on how to prepare for the upcoming meeting and links for further reading.

## Access to Heid During the Apprenticeship

I will be available to you outside of class via email throughout the year. I want to hear from you and am excited to develop our apprenticeship, however part of what I want to show you is that writers, especially working writers, need strong

boundaries. Monday and Fridays are my writing days. My mentorship and other work takes place Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

If you email me Monday through Thursday, you should receive a message back quickly. If you email me after 5 p.m. on Thursday or during a weekend, travel time, or holiday, I may not be able to get back to you before the next Tuesday. I am, however, open to a text at any time for urgent or joyful messages - like a publication or reading opportunity. If you will miss a meeting or be less prepared than expected, please give me 24 hours notice if at all possible. My phone number is 651-335-3014. I do not use voicemail. A text is preferred.

For information about the Loft's commitment to equity, inclusion, and anti-racism, and the Loft's expectations around behavior in classrooms, events, festivals, and conferences, please see [loft.org](http://loft.org).

## Technology

All of our manuscripts are disbursed electronically via a digital service that we will determine in our first meeting. You *must* have basic Microsoft Word, Google Docs and email literacy to participate in the course.

All documents shared with me and/or the cohort must be Google docs (rather than PDFs) so we can comment within the document.

## MENTOR EXPECTATIONS FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES PROVIDED IN ORIENTATION

### Bio

**Heid E. Erdrich** has authored several poetry collections, including *Little Big Bully*, a National Poetry Series winner. Erdrich edited *New Poets of Native Nations* anthology from Graywolf Press and has received many honors, including the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry from the Library of Congress and a National Artists Fellowship from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation. She regularly serves as a visiting writer and most recently taught a term at Dartmouth College as a scholar of Native American Literature. Heid is Ojibwe, enrolled at Turtle Mountain. She is the first Minneapolis Poet Laureate.

A firm believer in service to the literary community, Heid regularly serves as a visiting writer and panelist for awards and grants. She is the 2023 chairperson of the National Book

Awards Poetry Panel. Heid reviews books and provides blurbs and encourages such service to those she mentors. She is the inaugural Minneapolis Poet Laureate for 2024.

Heid has a particular interest in the intersection of poetry, performance, and visual art. Her poems have been commissioned for the National Gallery of Art, Baltimore Museum of Art and elsewhere. She has collaborated on poem films, with choreographers and on public art projects. Since 2005, Heid has curated dozens of art exhibits focused on Native American artists. One of her favorite workshop approaches is to engage writers in poetry in the ekphrastic mode - responding to visual or other arts.