

THE POETIC IMAGE

Winter Quarter 2022 - The Rosenbach

Virtual Class, Via Zoom

Thursdays 6:30-8:30 PM EST
Jan 13, Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10

Instructor: Gabrielle Bates



Description: Each week, for the first four weeks, we will approach the topic of “the poetic image” from a new angle, reading and discussing a range of example poems, and writing poem drafts of our own using generative prompts. In the fifth and final week, participants will have the chance to share a poem they wrote during our time together, for encouraging feedback. Whether this is the first poetry course you’ve ever taken or your fiftieth, you’re guaranteed to leave with a deeper understanding of the ways that language and imagery inform and expand each other, historically and in a contemporary context.

Week 1 (1/13)

Introduction / Beauty and Ugliness / Engaging the Senses / Image v. Detail

Week 2 (1/20)

Structure and Connective Tissue: Formal and Rhetorical Methods for Juxtaposing, Layering, and Accumulating Imagery

Week 3 (1/27)

Ekphrasis

Week 4 (2/3)

Surrealism / Poetry Comics

Week 5 (2/10)

Class Workshop Week / Show-and-Tell!

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Please email the poem draft you want to share with the class (in Word doc or Google doc format) to Gabrielle Bates: gabbybates@gmail.com by Wednesday, 2/9

Ongoing Assignments and Practices:

- 1) **Observation log:** Please keep an “observation log” for the duration of our time together of things that catch your attention as you go about your daily life. Your log could be in a physical notebook, in the Notes app on your phone, or anything else; as long as you can keep it close and jot images down as you notice them, it will work! Entries should primarily be things you see, touch, smell, taste, or hear—observations pertaining to the senses. We’ll start most, if not all, of our classes by sharing an item from our logs, so make sure you’re adding to yours on a regular basis.
- 2) **Reading Aloud:** There’s no better way, for the vast majority of poems, to feel the impact of sound and lineation choices than to activate the poem in the air, with the breath. When I send you poem packets in advance of class, I encourage you to read some of those poems out loud to yourself, if you can, to experience them on your own. When reading aloud in class, I ask that you please try to read the music that has been scored on the page, by which I mean: pause ever-so-briefly at the end of each line and pause *slightly* longer between stanzas. Not big dramatic pauses, but very short ones, will do the trick.
- 3) **Poem Packets:** Each Friday, I will send out a poem packet that corresponds with the following week’s topic. Please engage with these readings to the extent that you have the time and desire to do so. Completing these readings ahead of class time is not required, but is recommended.

Zoom Basics:

In general, I ask that everyone please mute yourself whenever you’re not speaking during class. I hope to hear your beautiful voices in our discussions (enthusiastically and often!), just not the various shuffling sounds and dog barkings and leaf blowers that happen to interrupt while others speak. The chat bar is also going to be a great space to communicate with me and with each other, throughout the course. I will do my best to monitor the chat, but please always feel free to

“raise your hand” with the reaction button, or unmute yourself and interrupt me, if it seems like I’ve missed an important question there.

I’d love it if you would please keep your videos on as much as possible when we’re in class together, unless we’re taking a writing break or you need to be off-screen for some reason. In general, I’d like for us to approximate being in a room together as much as we can, and being able to see each others’ faces and expressions is a part of that in-person joy! That said, I totally understand if you need to turn your video off for any reason, at any time, and I will never make you provide any sort of excuse for that. Please do what you need to be comfortable in our virtual space.

I will likely be recording these sessions, but the recordings will never be made public; they will only be for your fellow students, should they need to miss a class, so that they can catch up. If you’re the type of person who’s worried about getting distracted by your own face, a nifty trick you can do is hide your “tile” by hovering over your video, clicking the ellipsis button, and then choosing “Hide Self View.”

If you have any accessibility needs (live transcription, for example), please let me know as soon as possible, so I can make sure our zoom room is adequately equipped.

Class Directory:

Before our first meeting, I will send out a link to a Google Doc, where you may add any contact information you feel comfortable sharing with the rest of the class.

About the Instructor:



Gabrielle Bates is a poet and visual artist from Birmingham, Alabama, currently living in Seattle, where she works for Open Books: A Poem Emporium and co-hosts the podcast The Poet Salon. Her poems can be found in the *New Yorker*, *Poetry Magazine*, *Ploughshares*, and *American Poetry Review*, among other venues, and her debut poetry collection *Judas Goat* is forthcoming from Tin House in 2023. She teaches occasionally through Hugo House, the University of Washington campus in Rome, and other literary centers. You can connect with her at www.gabriellebat.es or on Twitter (@GabrielleBates).