

## INFORMATION PACK

### **Creative Writing in Art Criticism: A Workshop with An Paenhuysen**

An Paenhuysen, a Berlin-based writer, curator and arts educator, comes to Malta to present the workshop: **Creative Writing in Art Criticism**.

This workshop will appeal to all kinds of writers, who are either interested or already engaged in writing for the arts, from critics, journalists, curators, artists, students, academics, bloggers and commentators, to professionals responsible for creating content and communications for cultural organisations and institutions.

This is an exciting opportunity for professional and aspiring writers and communicators to expand their skills and network, under the expert tutelage of An Paenhuysen, who is highly regarded in her field. Through varied teaching and learning techniques, the workshop will provide much-needed skills and knowledge, paving the way for a new generation of professional arts writers and critics in Malta. It's also an opportunity to simply improve your writing skills and meet others with a shared passion.

Creative Writing in Art Criticism explores the art of writing about art, by combining seriousness with a dose of lightness and experimentation. The workshop begins and ends with an online session, with the main component taking place in Malta over two days on 31st November and 1st December. Participants are expected to attend all online and offline sessions. The workshop will be presented in English, however for those who prefer to write in Maltese, support will be available from linguist and arts manager, Francesca Mangion.

#### AN PAENHUYSSEN

An Paenhuysen is a freelance writer, curator, and arts educator. She is a lecturer with Node Curatorial Studies Online, where she delivers courses on critical and creative writing, and curatorial studies. An has curated exhibitions at the Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum of Contemporary Art, Berlin, as well as the exhibition *Gesture Sign Art, Deaf Culture / Hearing Culture*, in Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Berlin. She has published a book about the Belgian avant-garde, and has written for exhibition catalogues and art magazines such as *Spex*, *Artslant*, and *WhiteHotMagazine*.

#### THE WORKSHOP

From An Paenhuysen:

*How to write and think about art? If we change the style or form of writing, does content follow? And what does it mean to write and think in language other than your own?*

*In this workshop we'll explore writing about art, by combining seriousness with a dose of silliness and purposelessness. The idea is to give art writing a space to play around and travel; enjoying liberties that escape reason.*

*Different formats will be used in short finger exercises that loosen the sound of your hand and stir the mind; from half thoughts, picture haikus and cut-up-style collages to micro-stories and poems.*

*The long-term aim of the workshop is to instigate a community of art writers who share a thinking space. Thinking is a dangerous activity; it involves radical vulnerability. To think for yourself and to put your opinion out there can be risky. It is much easier to accept the status quo. To gain confidence and strengthen your voice, it's necessary to have a safe space to experiment. This writing workshop would like to stimulate the sharing that is crucial in developing a critical voice.*

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The workshop is produced by Nicole Bearman (We Live Here) and Margerita Pulè (Unfinished Art Space), two arts professionals highly accomplished in their fields and passionate about raising levels of knowledge and professionalism in the Maltese arts sector.

Nicole Bearman is a cultural producer with more than 20 years experience creating programmes, events and publications for visual arts and craft organisations, museums, universities and festivals, in Sydney and Malta, including ŻfinMalta National Dance Company, Blitz, Malta Design Week, the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse Museum), Sydney Design Festival, the Biennale of Sydney, and Object, Australian Centre for Craft and Design. She was both Editor of, and contributor to numerous art, architecture and design magazines, including Object, Australian Art Collector, Indesign, Monument, Vogue Living and POL Oxygen. Nicole holds degrees in Visual Arts and Museum Studies, both from the University of Sydney.

Margerita Pulè is an artist, writer and programmer. She holds a Masters in Fine Art in Digital Art from the University of Malta. She runs the independent organisation Unfinished Art Space and edits Malta's quarterly contemporary art publication ArtPaper. She was responsible for much of the curation of the Cultural Programme of Valletta European Capital of Culture 2018 title 2012 – 2017, commissioning and coordinating a large number of projects and exhibitions within this programme. Margerita's artistic practice attempts to exist outside the conventional structure and aesthetic of the exhibition space and seeks to interact and gain meaning through other modes of existence such as interventions and temporal events. [www.projectdisintegration.org](http://www.projectdisintegration.org)

### **Registration deadline**

8 November

### **Cost**

€50 per person

### **Workshop dates**

WORKSHOP DATES: 31 November & 1 December, 10.30am to 4.30pm  
ONLINE SESSIONS: 21 November & 10 December (evenings, time to be confirmed)

### **Location**

The workshop takes place at DOMA, an eighteenth century townhouse on St Paul's Street, Valletta, designed by architect Chris Briffa, and part of the Valletta Vintage portfolio. <https://www.vallettavintage.com>

### REGISTRATION – WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NEXT

Please provide the following information in an email and send it to:  
[info.creativecriticalwriting@gmail.com](mailto:info.creativecriticalwriting@gmail.com)

1. YOUR NAME
2. OCCUPATION
3. WHY WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP?
4. WILL YOU BE WRITING IN ENGLISH OR MALTESE?
5. A SAMPLE OF YOUR WRITING, MAX. 500 WORDS (THIS IS OPTIONAL) – ANY KIND OF WRITING, A SHORT TEXT, PRESS RELEASE, AN EXTRACT, A POEM ETC

If you have any questions regarding your application please contact:  
Nicole Bearman & Margerita Pulè  
[info.creativecriticalwriting@gmail.com](mailto:info.creativecriticalwriting@gmail.com)

Creative Writing in Art Criticism: A Workshop with An Paenhuysen is supported by a Project Support Grant, Malta Arts Fund – Arts Council Malta, and by Valletta Vintage and Artpaper.