

Suzanne Fox: Teaching Information for Art Museums

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Art Museum Workshops by Suzanne Fox

An inspiring teacher with a multidisciplinary background, Suzanne Fox offers unique courses that meld writing and literature with art museum settings and inspirations. All are customized to a given host venue’s collections, mission and community, and all can be adapted to a variety of lengths, schedules, and sizes.

 **The Muse at the Museum: Writers Weekend Retreat.** Treat yourself to two days of writing—and a respite from the demands of everyday life—in a beautiful, inspiring museum location. This event is for writers of all genres and skill levels who want to immerse themselves in their writing or just recharge their creative batteries. Multi-published author and writing teacher Suzanne Fox will lead the group, offering a series of discussions, brief readings and exercises designed to give structure to the weekend and energize our work. You choose how many of the group sessions you’ll attend, ensuring that you also have plenty of time to write, revise, and reflect on your own. Your tuition includes the Writers Weekend Retreat notebook of materials, all group sessions, and a half-hour private conference with Suzanne. *Host venues: please note that the instructor also makes herself available for an optional Saturday evening dinner with participants off-site and/or a reading and reception Friday evening if desired by the venue.*

 **Writing Art.** Throughout history, the visual and literary arts have inspired, intertwined, and sometimes competed with each other. This unique workshop uses discussion, brief readings, a variety of fun and sometimes quirky writing assignments, and group as well as individual visits to the host venue’s galleries to explore the varied ways writing can evoke the experience of an artwork—or, better yet, offer a parallel and equally powerful experience. Whether you are an art lover who’d like to try writing, a writer looking to write more evocatively, or a visual artist looking to enhance your ability to write about your own art, this workshop will help you hone your expressive skills and “see” art more fully—and enjoyably—than ever before.

 **Writing in Color.** Whatever kind of writing you do or hope to do, it’s crucial to infuse “color” into your work. This workshop helps participants hone the energy, distinctiveness, contrast, and emotion of their writing by taking inspiration straight from the galleries of the hosting museum or art center. Gallery visits, in-class exercises, brief readings and discussions are designed to inspire new awareness of how vivid writing can be.

 **Character Sketches.** This workshop uses the portraits and/or figural art on exhibit in the hosting venue to help participants write literary portraits—of characters real or fictional—with new vividness, power, and ease. Gallery visits, in-class exercises, brief readings and discussion explore techniques such as simplification and exaggeration and considerations such as accuracy and scale, all of which shape written character evocations as well as visual ones. Memoirists, personal historians, genealogists and fiction writers of all experience levels can hone their skills through this fresh perspective on literary portraiture, and art lovers will enjoy looking at visual portraits in this fresh perspective.


🌀 A Sense of Place. Setting is a crucial part of fiction, memoir, narrative nonfiction, even poetry and children’s book writing. Using the landscapes on display in the hosting museum or art center, this class helps writers of all experience levels and genres evoke place more powerfully. We’ll visit the exhibits for discussions and exercises, reading setting descriptions from published writers, and learn a variety of ways to make place and setting truly come alive in our work.


🌀 The Artist as She-Ro: A Woman’s Journey of Creative Rebirths. This extraordinary multi-disciplinary workshop adapts the template of the “hero’s journey” to contemporary female realities to understand the arc of creative lives from a transformative new perspective. By understanding our personal stories as archetypal journeys into the unknown and back, we are better able to embrace the uniqueness of our gift, survive setbacks and self-doubt, and claim the power each of us has to matter in the world. Through the dialogue, reflection, readings, art-making, art-viewing and journaling we share in our time together, we redefine the notion of the female hero—the “she-ro”—in a way that encompasses apparently *un-heroic* figures such as artists...and, of course, ourselves. *Please note that this class as described here is for women only and requires a minimum of two seven-hour days of workshop time. However, this same class can be adapted to a seminar format and/or shorter lengths of time at a venue’s request.*





Teaching Support from Suzanne Fox


As both a creative artist and a former arts administrator, Suzanne understands how difficult the work of arts organizations can be. Her goal as a teacher is to ensure that her offerings support their sponsors on all levels, from excellence of instruction to financial viability, consistency with their mission, and appropriateness for their community.


 **Long-term partnership.** While Suzanne is happy to conduct a single class, talk, or event for a venue if requested, her preference is always to work towards an ongoing relationship with the organizations that offer her classes to create the momentum, visibility, synergy and ease such teamwork can offer.

 **Flexibility.** Need to “tweak” details such as length, timing, class size or focus to make it work for your organization? Suzanne is glad to adapt her offerings so that each fits perfectly for the hosting venue. She is also delighted to custom-design a workshop for your organization; email suzanne@bookstrategy.com for more information on this option.

 **Insightful, inspiring and entertaining instruction.** No amount of class support is effective if the class itself is not strong. As the testimonials included in this packet prove, Suzanne teaches topics and themes she loves with insight and passion. Her deep knowledge of her subjects, skill at guiding class dialogue, vivid sense of humor and lively energy all make her classes fun, fruitful, and even transformative.

 **Course workbooks.** All of Suzanne’s offerings are taught using her own detailed workbooks, which provide structure during the course and send participants home with a rich source of further exploration. Venues may duplicate workbook materials themselves as part of the class tuition or add a small (\$10 or less) materials fee and have Suzanne bring them herself. Workbook covers can be personalized with a venue’s name, address, and/or other information if desired.

 **Promotional, media, and press support.** Suzanne works with venues to help provide materials such as postcards, flyers, and a press kit (including among other items a detailed “Q and A” that makes writing articles easy for press contacts) that can be adapted and used by the venue to get news of her classes out. She is also glad to guest-post on a venue’s blog; conduct media interviews; attend venue events to meet both staff and prospective students; and do whatever else is requested to help promote her classes and the venues that sponsor them. Naturally, all of the classes she teaches are publicized, with venue links and information, on her own websites and blogs as well; see “About Suzanne” for a listing of these links.

 **Financial partnership.** Suzanne is open to working with venues under the financial arrangement they prefer, whether it be a flat fee or a share of tuition revenue. As noted above, her goal is always to create an offering that is financially profitable for the hosting venue as well as for her own business.

About Suzanne Fox

Suzanne Fox is a published author in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. A gifted, passionate, and inspiring teacher, she speaks on themes including writing, literature, creativity, the visual arts, and the shape of women's lives.

Suzanne graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from Douglass College, earning highest honors with a double major in Art History and English. She completed honors work in art history under special arrangement with Princeton University, worked in both the curatorial and education departments of the Rutgers Art Museum, received a New Jersey Women's Club award, and was selected for the highly competitive Metropolitan Museum of Art Internship in 1976.

Suzanne's professional life began in the business world, where she wrote investment and marketing materials for organizations including Blyth Eastman Dillon PaineWebber, Dean Witter Reynolds, Citibank, and Oppenheimer Mutual Funds. Working in collaboration with graphic designers to invent unique brochures, manuals, and books, she won a Direct Mail Marketing Award among other honors.

In the late 1980s, Suzanne left the corporate world to pursue her first love, creative writing. She received her MFA degree in Writing from the prestigious Columbia University School of the Arts, winning a Writing Fellowship and awards from the Benjamin Burns Foundation and the Academy of American Poets, among others. Upon her graduation in 1990, she was invited to become the School's first centralized admissions director, designing and managing the process by which over 1,500 applications each year were evaluated by faculty in film, theater, writing and visual arts.

Since leaving Columbia, she has acted as a consulting editor, writer and "book doctor" for professional clients including designer Diane von Furstenberg, career expert Rhonda Ormont, and interior designer Charlotte Moss; for organizations including the YMCA's national Arts and Humanities Office, the National Poetry Series, and the Mayor's Office of the City of New York; and for a variety of private clients.

Published by Simon & Schuster in 1997, Suzanne's first book, the memoir *Home Life: A Journey of Rooms and Recollections*, was excerpted in *Glamour* magazine, featured in *Elle* and *Mirabella*, and selected as an Editor's Choice book by the *Chicago Tribune*.

Suzanne's popular fiction has been published by Berkley Penguin Putnam (pen name Suzanne Judson) and Harlequin Enterprises (pen name Suzanne Scott), while her essays and poems have been published in *American Letters and Commentary*, *Parnassus: Poetry in Review*, *Poetry Northwest*, and the Scribners' *British Writers* biography and criticism series.

Suzanne reviews books for *Publishers' Weekly*, the book industry's leading journal, and has been selected for residencies at the Yaddo, Atlantic Center for the Arts, and Vermont Studio Center artists' colonies.

In 2002, she left her New York apartment and clients to spend more time with her parents, both now deceased, in Vero Beach. Suzanne used this experience in her participation in the 2007 Art of Hospice

collaboration between the VNA Hospice and the Vero Beach Museum of Art and in a series of recent small books include *Grief Country: A Meditation on the Landscape of Loss*; *Wearing the D*; and *Not Broken: Poems from the Art of Hospice*.

Suzanne is a gifted and popular speaker whose workshops on creativity, writing, memoir, literature, personal growth, and journaling inspire as well as inform their participants. She has spoken to varied groups including the American Association of University Women, the Romance Writers of America, the Daughters of the American Revolution among many others, and teaches regularly at the Vero Beach Museum of Art and the Lotus Center in Vero Beach, Florida. Articles on Suzanne and her work have appeared in *Vero Beach Magazine*; *Vero Beach 32963*; and the *AARP Newsletter* among other publications.

Suzanne has two new works in progress. Her new literary novel is set in the nineteenth century and inspired by the shell mosaics in a unique British home from the period, now owned by the National Trust. Her memoir of her caregiving years focuses on the objects in her parents' home and the process of sorting and disposing of them after her parents' deaths.

When not writing or teaching, Suzanne enjoys yoga, blogging, spending time outdoors, and, of course, reading. She is a frequent visitor to museums, galleries, and art centers and also creates both jewelry and altered books.

For more information on Suzanne, her books, and her upcoming classes, please visit her website at www.bookstrategy.com. To contact Suzanne regarding teaching or speaking engagements, email suzanne@bookstrategy.com. To read her blogs, visit www.workingwriterwonders.blogspot.com; www.decluttered.creative.blogspot.com; and www.griefglow.blogspot.com.



PHOTO CREDIT: JON PINE

Praise for Suzanne Fox

The comments below respond to Suzanne’s speaking, teaching, book consulting, and creativity coaching. Titles of individuals quoted are as of the time they provided their testimonial, and may in some cases have changed since the comment was offered.

☞ Through writing, consulting, and speaking, Suzanne Fox helps people weave together the fragments of life, including the broken, hidden, lost or undiscovered pieces, into stories of wholeness that heal. Her own journey serves as testimony to living a life guided by one’s heart and soul, an adventure filled with integrity and passion. An encounter with Suzanne in any form—through speech, story, or conversation—is always filled with laughter. Her work sharpens one’s determination to invent—and reinvent—both a life and a body of work that are creative, coherent, and compelling. —*Dr. Elizabeth Mount, president, Capacity Works*

☞ Suzanne Fox is a natural and gifted teacher. I am among a growing group of people who have become serious fans of Suzanne’s teaching: anytime she offers a class, I want to attend, regardless of the topic. I always learn something new. Her handouts are packed with useful information and resources. But the best thing about her classes are that she presents topics in a way that makes you think differently about something you thought you knew. —*C.J. Madigan, owner, Shoebox Stories, and author, Behind the Studio Door*

☞ Suzanne’s workshops give such a charge of energy! At the first presentation of hers I went to, I left feeling more in touch with my creativity than I had in years, and ready to take on the world. Suzanne has immense talent as a speaker. She pulls people into her fiery, thoughtful visions, and brings them closer to their own. —*Abby Walters, President, Flying Turtle Enterprises*

☞ Suzanne Fox is a dynamic writer, editor, and coach, and a wonderful human being. Her insight into human language and psychology is deep, and her skill in assisting others to achieve their goals is vast. Working with Suzanne is a pleasure and a great gift. —*Jeremy Geffen, author of The Journey Through Cancer*

☞ In both short-format and day-long intensive sessions, Suzanne offered a rich, entertaining, informative and valuable presentation that helped me take my own work from high-potential to publishable. I credit Suzanne’s insights for many of the improvements in my novels and vital help at the beginnings of what has become a rewarding and, I’m pleased to say, successful career. —*Roxanne St. Claire, New York Times bestselling author, winner of the RITA, Maggie, Daphne du Maurier, and Readers Best Awards*

☞ Your talk was the best we've had in the seven years I've been attending--no faint praise! —*Eleanor Wade, president, American Association of University Women, Vero Beach Chapter*

☞ Suzanne has the knack of solidly nailing the topic in a tight relatable fashion. Healthy doses of humor and wit are sprinkled throughout her workshops. You take away a refreshing sense that you've learned what you came to learn *and* encouragement for more positive growth ahead. —*Cynthia Grabenbauer, director of publicity, Vero Beach Book Center*

🌀 Suzanne is an expert communicator. I have been struck by her ability to relate deftly to a wide array of people with consistently impressive levels of grace, charm, humor, and efficacy. As a speaker, she truly enthalls her audience—imparting information and wisdom in a way that makes it easy to grasp and remember. —*Dawn Bailey, (former) director of publicity, Vero Beach Book Center*

🌀 Thank you for the extraordinary job you did presenting at our Teen Writers Workshop. The energy in the room was palpable. Not only were the students enthralled with your personal writing journey, but they were also tremendously excited by your interactive writing exercises. Perhaps the best commentary came from a Sebastian River High School, who appeared on a local television show to discuss her own writing and the workshop. “It’s a thrill to be exposed to professional writers,” she said. “Suzanne Fox is great!” We concur. —*Charlotte Terry and Pam Proctor, directors, Teen Writers Workshop at the Laura (Riding) Jackson Foundation*

🌀 Suzanne Fox’s recent *A Resonant Heart* program at the Center for Spiritual Care was a poignant and moving experience for those who attended and a resounding success for our Center. Through careful planning, meticulous preparation, professional execution and a congenial working style, Suzanne made this event a pleasure for us to offer and a powerful way to share our services with the community. It is a joy to work with Suzanne. —*Carol Ludwig, spiritual director and co-founder, Center for Spiritual Care*

🌀 What is especially exciting—to a literary agent, and to readers—about Suzanne Fox’s work is that she is multi-talented. Most writers must confine themselves to one genre. From literary fiction and nonfiction to commercial novels, Suzanne can do it all. —*Wendy Lipkind, founder, Wendy Lipkind Literary Agency*

🌀 Most of us have a limited understanding of poetry that reaches back to high school and all of those “old” and often confusing poems we are required to read. So it was with a certain reluctance that I decided to attend Suzanne’s event, *A Resonant Heart*. I was not only surprised, but actually enthralled. I thoroughly enjoyed the evening, which ended before I knew it. Suzanne is an artist with words when she speaks and when she writes. That evening I truly fell in love with poetry, grasping for the first time its ability to evoke strong emotion in just a few lines. It was like a gourmet meal: I savored every moment. —*Robert Konforti, founder, Konforti Wellness Center*

🌀 Suzanne Fox has been employed as an editor by the Board of Education and the Mayor’s Office of the City of New York for the development of several important, even historical, publications and reports. Her contributions to these works was invaluable. In addition to her editorial expertise, Ms. Fox has demonstrated a keen understanding of complex issues and an ability to communicate these concepts in clear, understandable language and format. Her organization and interpersonal skills are superb. My recommendation of her for work of all kinds is without any qualification whatsoever. —*Linda Wernikoff, director, Office of Special Education Initiatives, Board of Education of the City of New York*

The comments below were offered by students and speaking audiences on anonymous evaluations.

🌀 What generosity you give your teaching. The day was full of information, and I can't believe the detail and depth of the workbook you sent us home with.

🌀 I especially liked the fact that you never referred to your notes, even when the discussion was most complicated. It's so hard to stay interested when an instructor just reads from her material.

🌀 Both your lecture and the discussion following it were excellent. You have a real gift for articulating concepts, and also for guiding dialogue in a way that is respectful but keeps it on track.

🌀 I loved every moment. Brilliant, inspiring, and above all, fun!

🌀 It was a real treat to take a class that blends writing and the visual arts. I especially loved seeing the connections between the craft of writing and the craft of painting. The writing exercises inspired by the art were wonderful.

🌀 DeCluttering Your Creativity was unique and excellent. It went so far beyond the usual organizational guidance, helping me pinpoint the inner connection between creative blocks and clutter. It assured me that I wasn't alone in struggling with these issues. I'm going home energized and inspired.

🌀 Your program was wonderful: full of information, yet informal and entertaining too. It made my mind wander to all the right (write?) places.

🌀 Your class on fiction synopses, queries, and marketing was the best guidance on these subjects I've ever gotten, including workshops at conferences. It will definitely enable me to submit with more confidence and success.

🌀 I can't tell you what an "up" feeling the class today gave me. I can't wait to get started on my writing again. I'm only sorry I didn't find you and your teaching twenty years ago.

🌀 As a lifelong Jane Austen fan, I wasn't sure how much new perspective I would gain from your class, but my uncertainty *wasn't* justified. Your introduction to her work and life showed me how modern it was in many ways, yet also honored the realities of her time. You also helped me see *Pride and Prejudice* in an entirely new and deeper way. Your scholarship is first-rate, and your presentation was lively and never dull.

Selected Speaking/Teaching Clients, Organizations and Venues

- ✧ Vero Beach Museum of Art
- ✧ Metropolitan Museum of Art
 - ✧ Rutgers Art Museum
 - ✧ Vero Beach Book Center
 - ✧ Indian River State College
- ✧ American Association of University Women
 - ✧ New York Institute of Technology
- ✧ Romance Writers of America National Conference
- ✧ Teen Writers Workshop at the Environmental Learning Center
 - ✧ Space Coast Writers Guild
 - ✧ Center for Spiritual Care
- ✧ VNA Hospice of the Treasure Coast
 - ✧ Bay State Hospice
 - ✧ Write by Night LLC
 - ✧ Lifelong Learning Institute
- ✧ Daughters of the American Revolution
 - ✧ The Lotus Center
- ✧ Riverside Theater Benefit Committee

