

# JENNIFER MCGUIGGAN, MFA

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## EDUCATION

### **MFA, Writing, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT**

Area of Concentration: Creative Nonfiction

Intensive Semester Study with Sascha Feinstein, Douglas Glover, Patrick Madden, and Robert Vivian

Workshops with Laurie Alberts, Mark Cox, Connie May Fowler, Christopher Noël, Mary Ruefle, Sue William Silverman, and Larry Sutin

Generative workshops on Writing the Short Story; Poetry for Prose Writers; and Exploring the Lyric in Prose and Poetry

Creative Thesis: *For All We Learned, The Sea* (linked essays)  
Advisor: Robert Vivian

Critical Thesis: “Spinning a Web of Wonder: Capturing and Conveying Awe on the Page”  
Advisor: Patrick Madden

Graduating Lecture: “The Secret Life of Language”  
Advisor: Robert Vivian

### **BA, English, *magna cum laude*, Grove City College, Grove City, PA**

## AWARDS, GRANTS, & RESIDENCIES

Finalist, *Hunger Mountain* Creative Nonfiction Prize (judge: Robert Michael Pyle) (2016)

Nominee, *Best of the Net 2015* Anthology, published by Sundress Publications (2015)

Finalist, *Prime Number Magazine* Award in Creative Nonfiction (judge: Ned Stuckey French) (2014)

Grant and one-month residency, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT (2014)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member, Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)

## **TEACHING & SPEAKING**

### **In-person**

Panelist, NonfictionNOW 2018, Phoenix, AZ (November 2018)

Workshop Leader, HippoCamp 2018: A Creative Nonfiction Conference, Lancaster, PA (August 2018)

Workshop Leader, Conversation & Connections (presented by *Barrelhouse*), Pittsburgh, PA (October 2016)

Workshop Leader & Panelist, HippoCamp 2016: A Creative Nonfiction Conference, Lancaster, PA (August 2016)

Workshop Leader, Conversations & Connections (presented by *Barrelhouse*), Arlington, VA (April 2016)

Workshop Leader, HippoCamp 2015: A Creative Nonfiction Conference, Lancaster, PA (2015)

Keynote Storyteller and Workshop Leader, Soul Sisters Conference, Portland, OR (2013)

Storyteller/Speaker, Golden Ticket, Alchemical Theatre Laboratory, New York, NY (2013)

Mentor and Workshop Leader, Pen & Paper Retreat, Manzanita, OR (2011)

Lecturer, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT (2011)

Panelist, Writing Lab Panel, 2010 BlogHer Conference, New York, NY (2010)

### **Online**

Instructor, Flash Essays, Creative Nonfiction (2016 – present)

Two sections per semester (14 students per section) ([www.creativenonfiction.org](http://www.creativenonfiction.org))

Founder, Host, & Instructor, The Word Cellar Writers Guild (2015 – present)

Online writing community and education center ([www.thewordcellarwritersguild.com](http://www.thewordcellarwritersguild.com))

Workshop Facilitator, The Word Cellar Writing Workshops (2011 – present)

Small group, MFA-style workshops in which participants exchange work for feedback ([www.thewordcellar.com/the-word-cellar-workshops](http://www.thewordcellar.com/the-word-cellar-workshops))

Writing Coach/Mentor, The Word Cellar (2003 – present)

Individual, customized mentoring sessions, including written editorial feedback and coaching conversations ([www.thewordcellar.com/mentoring](http://www.thewordcellar.com/mentoring))

Instructor, One-Moment Memoirs (2015 – present)

Created the curriculum for and taught this 4-week writing course; 25 students across 2 sessions; Now available as a self-paced workshop ([www.thewordcellar.com/omm](http://www.thewordcellar.com/omm))

Instructor, *The Writing Life: Rituals, Rhythms, & Practices* (2014 – 2015)

Created the curriculum for and taught this 4-week writing course; 98 students across 3 sessions ([www.thewordcellar.com/writinglife](http://www.thewordcellar.com/writinglife))

Instructor, *Write into the Heart of Your Story* (2013 – 2015)

Created the curriculum for and taught this 2-week creative writing course; 128 students across 3 sessions ([www.thewordcellar.com/writeheartstory](http://www.thewordcellar.com/writeheartstory))

Instructor, *Alchemy Inspiration: Start Writing* (2012)

Created the curriculum for and taught this 4-week creative writing course; 39 students across 2 sessions ([www.thewordcellar.com/alchemy-inspiration/](http://www.thewordcellar.com/alchemy-inspiration/))

Guest Instructor, *Poem It Out* from [LizLamoreux.com](http://LizLamoreux.com) (2012)

Guest Instructor, “One-Moment Memoirs,” *wishstudio’s wishBIG ecamp* (2012)

Co-Creator and Co-Instructor, “Emerge,” *Live it to the Full Courses* (2011 – 2012)

Instructor, *Alchemy Daily: 30 Days of Writing Prompts* (2011)

Created the curriculum for and taught this creative writing course; 85 students across 3 sessions; content now available as an e-book ([www.thewordcellar.com/alchemy-daily-ebooklet](http://www.thewordcellar.com/alchemy-daily-ebooklet))

Instructor, *Alchemy: The Art & Craft of Writing* (2010 – 2012)

Created the curriculum for and taught this 6-week creative writing course; 136 students across 5 sessions ([www.thewordcellar.com/online-course/](http://www.thewordcellar.com/online-course/))

## **CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

NonfictionNOW, Reykjavik, Iceland (2017)

Conversation & Connections (presented by *Barrelhouse*), Pittsburgh, PA (2014)

Creative Nonfiction Writers’ Conference, Pittsburgh, PA (2014)

River Teeth Nonfiction Conference, Ashland University, Ashland, OH (2013)

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference, Chicago, IL (2012)

Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP) Conference, Washington, DC (2011)

BlogHer Conference, San Francisco, CA (2008)

BlogHer Conference, Chicago, IL (2007)

American Society of Journalists & Authors (ASJA) Writers Conference, New York, NY (2007)

412 Creative Nonfiction Festival, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA (2006)

## **CREATIVE WORK & PUBLICATIONS**

### **Works-in-Progress**

*For All We Learned, The Sea* (literary nonfiction book of linked essays)

*The Age of Faith* (working title; memoir)

### **Book**

Editor, contributor, and publisher, *Lanterns: A Gathering of Stories*. 2009. (Anthology of prose, poetry, and photography by seven women writers and artists)

### **E-book**

*Alchemy Daily: 30 Days of Writing Prompts, Inspiration, & Magic*. 2011.

### **Prose Poetry**

"A Glut Against the Darkness." *TAB: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics*. January 2017.

### **Interview**

"Online Survey for the Editor of an Anthology of Borrowed Form Essays." *Punctuate*. April 25, 2018.

### **Essays**

"True Names." *The Rappahannock Review*. July 2018.

"What Happened on June 21, 2018." *Essay Daily*. July 11, 2018.

"Learning How to Fall." *Prairie Schooner* blog. September 16, 2016.

"Half a World Away (Fugue Unfinished)." *The Manifest-Station*. October 11, 2015.

"The Sound Is Its Own Thing." *Flycatcher*. June 2015.

"Writing Workshop Is Not Group Therapy." *Brevity's Nonfiction Blog*. February 24, 2015.

"What is Your Emergency?" *New World Writing*. Fall 2014.

"More Pages, Fewer Screens." *Bella Grace*. Summer 2014.

"Velocity." *The Collapsar*. November 25, 2013.

“Love and Silverware.” *Connotation Press*. September 25, 2013.

“Sugar Baby.” *Extract(s)*. August 1, 2013.

“Changing Places: The Scottish Highlands.” *Dixon Hill*. June 2012.

“What It’s Like Living Here: Greensburg, PA.” *Numéro Cinq*. May 2012.

“A Lesson in Kindness 22 Years in the Making.” *Kind Over Matter*. January 23, 2012.

“Literary Citizenship.” *Hunger Mountain* blog. August 11, 2011.

“The Awkward Phase.” *Magpie Girl*. August 2011.

“Collecting Sea Stories.” *Gypsy Girl’s Guide*. September 28, 2010.

“Being Brave, with Baggage.” *SoulRetreats: How to Host a Tribe with Art and Soul*. August 2010.

“How to Write: Climb the mountain, explore the plateau.” *LizLamoreux.com*. June 2, 2010.

“Overcoming Your Natural Sticking Points.” *Magpie Girl*. October 2009.

## **Articles**

"Outside Pittsburgh, A Fine Dining Restaurant for Everyone." *12fwd.com*. August 8, 2018.

“Soul Sisters: The Power of Women Gathering.” *Mingle* (from Stampington & Co.). Spring 2014.

“Be Present Retreats: Community & Creativity.” *Mingle* (from Stampington & Co.). Autumn 2011.

“Putting the Food Back into School Food.” *JUST CAUSE Magazine*. July/August 2009.

“Motor City Blight Busters.” *JUST CAUSE Magazine*. May 2009.

“The Westmorland Celebrates 50.” *Pop City*. May 27, 2009.

“The Pittsburgh Project: Building Community, Building Lives.” *Pop City*. December 10, 2008.

“A Passion for All Things Wine.” *Pop City*. August 27, 2008.

“Beleza: A Story of Hope and Friendship and Social Justice.” *Pop City*. August 20, 2008.

“The Carnegie International: Life on Mars, Here in Pittsburgh.” *Pop City*. May 7, 2008.

“250 & Fit: Power in Numbers.” *Pop City*. February 13, 2008.

“Land Use the Sustainable Way.” *Pop City*. November 28, 2007.

“Those Thoroughly Modern Libraries.” *Pop City*. September 26, 2007.

“Greening the Neighborhoods.” *Pop City*. August 16, 2007.

“The Afterlife of FORE Systems.” *Pop City*. June 20, 2007.

“The Great Adventure of Grassroots Racing.” *Pop City*. May 9, 2007.

“Greening Our Chemical World.” *Pop City*. December 13, 2006.

“Hatching Entrepreneurs.” *Pop City*. September 13, 2006.

“The Price is Right.” *Pop City*. August 9, 2006.

“Something Old, Something Green.” *Pop City*. June 27, 2006.

“Celebrating African American Culture.” *Pop City*. June 14, 2006.

## **PUBLIC READINGS**

HippoCamp Conference, Lancaster, PA (2015)

Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT (2014)

Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival, Twin Lakes Park, Greensburg, PA (2013)

Juxtapositions Reading Series, Keynote Café, Jeannette, PA (2013)

Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT (2011)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **The Word Cellar Writers Guild (2015 – Present)**

Founder, Host, & Instructor

Online community, education, & resource center ([www.thewordcellarwritersguild.com](http://www.thewordcellarwritersguild.com))

### **The Word Cellar (2003 – Present)**

Sole Proprietor, Writer, Editor, Instructor, & Consultant

Independent online writing classes, plus freelance writing, editing, consulting, and mentoring

services for individuals, businesses, and organizations. Clients include Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media at St. Vincent College. ([www.thewordcellar.com](http://www.thewordcellar.com))

***Hunger Mountain: The VCFA Journal of the Arts***

Assistant Editor (2011 – 2012)

Manuscript Reader (2010 – 2013)

**Seton Hill University's E-Magnify (full-time: 2001– 2006; contractor: 2012 – 2015)**

Online Media & Marketing Coordinator at this center for women entrepreneurs, Greensburg, PA

**Carnegie Mellon University (1999 – 2001)**

Support Staff & Assistant to Director of Language Technologies Institute, School of Computer Science, Pittsburgh, PA

**International Volunteer and Soup Kitchen Coordinator (1998 –1999)**

Forest YMCA, London, England