

AUD Indelible Festival of Literature

March 14th- March 31st
American University in Dubai

Our forthcoming (and first ever) AUD Indelible Festival of Literature will be a public Zoom event hosting world renown poets, novelists, literary agents, and writing stylists who will be sharing their work and ideas with an audience from around the world.

WEEK 1

Sunday, March 14: 6:00 PM

Ruth Padel, RSL, ZSL (Poet, novelist, non-fiction writer, UK)

What Songs Do You Sing? From a Lifetime of Making Music to Poems about Beethoven

The award-winning UK poet (and Charles Darwin's great-great granddaughter) Ruth Padel has always loved singing. But she has also quietly played the viola, too. Her latest poetry collection, *Beethoven Variations*, begins with her parents getting together playing music and follows her collections *Emerald*, mourning and celebrating her mother, *Learning to Make an Oud in Nazareth* about the divisions but also the music of the Middle East, and *Tidings – A Christmas Journey*, a narrative sequence inspired by Europe's most ancient musical form, the carol. She reads poems and talks about writing the life of one of the world's greatest creators and composers

Bio: Ruth Padel is an award-winning British poet and author. She began life as a classicist studying ancient Greek, and has spent much of her life in Greece, especially Crete. She is a passionate wildlife conservationist and also a musician. She now lives in London and has published twelve poetry collections, seven non-fiction works and a novel. Ruth is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Literature and Zoological Society of London, and Professor of Poetry at King's College London where she hosts a popular series of Poetry And Events, combining poetry with other areas of life and learning. In July, she will publish her second novel, *Daughters of the Labyrinth*, set on Crete

[Registration Link](#)

Monday, March 15: 6:00 PM

Maria Donovan (published novelist, UK)

Writing in Real Time

Maria Donovan talks about her debut novel, *The Chicken Soup Murder*, and her attempt to write it in real time. This coming-of-age novel, which follows one boy's obsessive search for justice and looks at the effects of loss and bereavement on three households living side by side in a small Dorset town, is set in 2012 against a backdrop of real events in the UK and beyond. What made the author choose this approach? How did it work out? Would she do it again? This one-hour session will feature short readings and time for additional Questions and Answers.

Bio: Maria Donovan is a British author writing short fiction and novels as well as factual content related to research interests in people, history, place, medicine and science, writing craft and the publishing process. Maria's writing is informed by her experiences as a nurse, traveler, musician and performer and as a university lecturer (how did that happen?) as well as insights into the human condition from her own slightly strange perspective. Maria is also author of the novel *The Chicken Soup Murder*, which was a finalist for the Dundee International Book Prize.

[Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, March 16, 6:00 PM

Leslie Gardner (literary agent, Artellus Ltd., UK)

Practical Writing: What Makes a Good Novel?

Literary agent and founder of Artellus Ltd. Literary agency scholar Dr. Leslie Gardner will discuss the "practical" aspect of novel writing for success. Writers in general and novelists specifically may wonder: how to go about making a success of your work and how to get it published? What skills are required? Is that more practical than you want? Dr. Gardner will share her experience and advice in answering these questions.

Bio: Leslie Gardner, PhD, founded Artellus Ltd in 1986 after extensive work at American publishing houses, and a British entertainment agency representing writers internationally at www.artellusld.co.uk. A graduate of the University of Essex's Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies, she is presently a Fellow in the department. She was co-convenor of 'Feminism(s) and Technology' and other feminism and classicist conferences, and author of 'Rhetorical Investigations: G B Vico and C G Jung' (Routledge 2014) and an upcoming book on ghostwriting, also with Routledge. She has also published numerous papers in books and peer-reviewed journals and edited books of collected papers.

[Registration Link](#)

Wednesday, March 17, 6:00 PM

Roula-Maria Dib, poetry discussion (UAE)

Simply Being: Poetry and the Pandemic

Roula-Maria Dib will discuss the role of poetry during the pandemic and the notion of verbal alchemy as per her book, *Jungian Metaphor in Modernist Literature* (Routledge, 2020). The author will also read and discuss the techniques and stories behind some of her poems in *Simply Being*, her recently published poetry collection (Chiron, 2021).

Bio: Roula-Maria Dib (PhD, Leeds) is an assistant professor of English at the American University in Dubai, and editor-in-chief of Indelible, the university's literary journal. A creative writer and scholar in the fields of literature and Jungian psychology, her poems, essays, and articles have appeared in several journals. She has authored *Jungian Metaphor in Modernist Literature* (Routledge, 2020) and a poetry collection, *Simply Being* (Chiron Press, 2021). The themes that pervade her poetry usually revolve around different aspects of human nature, ekphrasis, surrealism, and mythology.

[Registration Link](#)

Thursday, March 18: 6:00 PM

Indelible Evening: Open Mic event, featuring poets (Canada, USA, UK, UAE, Ireland):

Bernard Pearson, Claude Barbre, Lorette Luzajic, Christine Murray, Carly J. Brown, David R. James, Steve Pottinger, Hedy Habra, Susan Porterfield, Joan Leotta

A group of prolific poets and regular contributors to our literary journal, *Indelible*, will be reciting poems of their choice from their latest poetry collections.

[Registration Link](#)

WEEK 2

Sunday, March 21: 1:00 PM

Poetry Contest Student Winners (AUD Students)

Theme: Food and Health in Creative Writing

[Registration Link](#)

6:00 pm: Omar Sabbagh (UAE)

Only Connect: A Talk on the Creative Facets of Critical Writing

This talk will desecry and detail the many various ways in which critical writing, attendant, vitally, on critical reading and thinking, is only falsely viewed as separate from creative writing: how, in short, the work of critique is deeply involved with and indebted to the imagination.

Bio: Omar Sabbagh is a widely published poet, writer and critic. He has published five poetry collections, two novellas, and much short fiction, some of it prize-winning. A study of the oeuvre of Professor Fiona Sampson, *Reading Fiona Sampson: A Study in Contemporary Poetry and Poetics*, was published with Anthem Press in July 2020. He has published scholarly essays on modernist, as well as contemporary poets. Many of these works are collated in, *To My Mind Or Kinbooks: Essays on Literature*, (Whisk(e)y Tit, 2021). He also has two books forthcoming, namely: *Morning Lit: Portals After Alia*, a forthcoming book of poetry and prose (Cinnamon Press, 2022); and *Y Knots*, a collection of short fictions. He holds a BA in PPE from Oxford; three MA's, all from the University of London, in English Literature from KCL. Presently, he teaches at the American University in Dubai (AUD), where he is Associate Professor of English.

[Registration Link](#)

Monday, March 22: 6:00 PM

David Crosbie, writing style tips (UAE)

Prose Mechanics: Style Through Syntax

In this talk, we will introduce new ideas and new approaches to help us mature as writers, with the aim of producing prose that flows better and exhibits more clarity and flexibility.

In learning to write better, we will take reading as our starting point and, using a better understanding of language, sharpen our eyes to see the texture and mechanics of well-written, beautiful sentences - their flow, their structure and their cadence - and bring this improved understanding to our own writing.

Bio: The speaker, David Crosbie, has been teaching English in the Emirates for the last 15 years, and for the last two years, while working with both learning and experienced writers, been pioneering a new approach to budding good prose style.

[Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, March 23, 6:00 PM

Juliet Bates (bestselling novelist, France)

Pictures of Home

Juliet Bates will discuss notions of home and belonging in her new novel *The Colours*, published by Fleet (Little Brown UK) in 2020.

Bio: Juliet Bates was born in the north-east of England. After studying art and art history, she lectured in the UK and is currently teaching at the Ecole Supérieure d'Arts et Médias de Caen/Cherbourg in France. In 2017 she completed a PhD in creative writing at the University of Manchester. Her debut novel, *The Missing*, was published by Linen Press in 2009, and her short stories have appeared in British and Canadian journals and magazines. Her second novel, *The Colours*, was published by Fleet in spring 2020.

[Registration Link](#)

Wednesday, March 24, 6:00 PM

Fiona Sampson (poet, MBE, UK)

Elizabeth Barrett Browning: the making of a pioneering poet

The internationally acclaimed poet and writer Fiona Sampson introduces and reads from *Two-Way Mirror*, her new biography of one of Britain's leading writers. Elizabeth Barrett Browning wrote one of the most famous lyric poems in the English tradition, 'How do I love thee? Let me count the ways'. A world famous writer, at a time in the nineteenth century when few women dared even publish under their own name, Barrett Browning was a committed campaigner for Italian independence and the abolition of slavery, and against child labour - and she managed all this despite living with chronic illness and disability. Hers is the fascinating story of a woman becoming an artist through sheer determination, and her pioneering, modernising poetry charts it all.

Bio: Fiona Sampson is a leading British poet and writer, published in thirty-eight languages, who has received international awards in the US, India, Macedonia, Albania and Bosnia. A Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, of the English Association and of the Wordsworth Trust, she's published twenty-seven books and received an MBE for Services to Literature. She has served on the Council of the Royal Society of Literature and is a Trustee of the Royal Literary Fund. Other honours include the Newdigate Prize, Cholmondeley Prize, Hawthornden Fellowship, and awards from the Arts Councils of England and of Wales, Society of Authors, Poetry Book Society and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, as well as various Book of the Year selections. She's also a broadcaster and newspaper critic, librettist and literary translator, and was editor of *Poetry Review* 2005-12. Her internationally acclaimed *In Search of Mary* Shelley was shortlisted for the Biographers Club Slightly Foxed Prize. She recently received two major European prizes, the 2019 Naim Frashëri Laureateship of Albania and Macedonia, and the 2020 European Lyric Atlas Prize, Bosnia. *Two Way Mirror*, her biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning, appears in 2021. She is Emeritus Professor of Poetry, Roehampton University.

[Registration Link](#)

Thursday, March 25, 6:00 PM

Peter Salmon (novelist, UK)

Who was Jacques Derrida?

Who was Jacques Derrida, and why does he have such a towering, and foreboding reputation across modern philosophy, thought by some to be a genius, others a charlatan? His biographer Peter Salmon goes back to Derrida himself, from his childhood in Algiers to his miracle year of 1967 which saw the birth of deconstruction, to his late turn to ethics and the politics of friendship. This will be a fascinating and accessible exploration of a thinker who continues to exert a huge influence on modern thinking from philosophy to religion, from gender studies to literature.

Bio: Peter Salmon is an Australian writer living in the UK. His biography of *Jacques Derrida, An Event Perhaps*, was published by Verso on 13th October 2020. He is a regular contributor to the *New Humanist*, and has been published in the *Sydney Review of Books*, the *Guardian*, the *Tablet*, *Cordite* and *Versopolis*. His first novel, *The Coffee Story* (Sceptre, 2011), was a New Statesman Book of the Year. He has written frequently for Australian TV and radio and for broadsheets including the *Guardian* and the *Sydney Review of Books*. *The Blue News*, his satirical column about books and publishing, was subsequently collected and published by Melbourne University Press as *Uncorrected Proof* (2005). He has received Writer's Awards from the Arts Council of England and the Arts Council of Victoria, Australia. Formerly Centre Director of the John Osborne/The Hurst Arvon Centre (2006-2012), he also teaches creative writing, most recently at Pembroke College, Cambridge and Liverpool John Moores University.

[Registration Link](#)

WEEK 3

Sunday, March 28, 6:00 PM

Justina Robson (bestselling novelist, UK)

Fabulous Powers: Writing the Unreal, Creating Reality

Fantasy, Science Fiction and Magic Realism (plus many combinations and variants) hold an uneasy critical relationship with contemporary and historical realist fiction, and either a venerating or exploitative relationship with mythology and stories of the divine. Justina Robson will talk about the inheritance and development of 'unreal' or fabulous elements in fiction composition and the play between artist, art and the numinous universe of divine inspiration. She is particularly interested in the point where this very interior and spiritual approach meets the hard-headed rationalism (alleged) of Science Fiction. Robson will use her own work for examples, discussing the craft of putting things together and how the person who reads/witnesses must be taken into account as they are the medium in which the author is working.

Bio: Novelist Justina Robson is from Leeds, England and is the author of eleven published science fiction novels and many short stories. She was the winner of the 2000 Amazon Writers' Bursary, for her first two novels which explored AI and human engineering respectively. Her third novel moved towards the far future - set in a transhuman solar system of political upheaval and personal change as humans encounter their first post-singularity aliens. After that her stories branch out towards the metaphysical and esoteric within that same universe, in the most philosophical of her SF books, "Living Next Door to the God of Love". After that she took a sharp left turn into a series - "Quantum Gravity" - which, while different in tone, continued playing with cyberpunk and bodily augmentations alongside the mystical and magical incursions of other kinds of realities into the human contemporary world. She has most recently written about further human engineering in the female-centric world of *The Raft*, featured in the novel "Glorious Angels", and in the corporatized far future where people themselves are commodities of an entirely cynically constructed environment - "The Switch". In addition to her original works she has also written "The Covenant of Primus" - the Hasbro-authorized history and 'bible' of *The Transformers*. Her short stories range widely, often featuring people and machines who aren't exactly what they seem.

[Registration Link](#)

Monday, March 29, 6:00 PM

Bryony Armstrong, Polly Hember, Joshua Philips (UK)

Modzoom: Pomodoro-Style Writing Session

Initiators of "Modzoom", Bryony Armstrong, Polly Hember, Joshua Philips will discuss Modzooming, and the importance of setting up a digital writing group. This session will start off with an introduction to Modzoom's weekly online writing session: how and why it started, and how it works. Then, Polly, Bryony, and Josh will invite the audience, writers from different areas, to join a pomodoro-style writing session, which the audience can use to do anything they think will suit a focused, "short sprint" style, be it articles or emails!

[Registration Link](#)

Tuesday, March 30, 6:00-7:00 PM

Anthony Anaxagorou (UK)

Empire, Diaspora, and Family in Anthony Anaxagorou's After the Formalities

Anthony Anaxagorou will give a reading from his latest poetry collection, *After the Formalities* with the focus being around how empire, diaspora and family shape people.

Bio: Anthony Anaxagorou is a British-born Cypriot poet, fiction writer, essayist, publisher and poetry educator. His poetry has been published in *POETRY*, *The Poetry Review*, *Poetry London*, *New Statesman*, *Granta*, and *elsewhere*. His poetry work has also appeared on BBC Newsnight, BBC Radio 4, ITV, Vice UK, Channel 4 and Sky Arts. His second collection *After the Formalities* published with Penned in the Margins is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and was shortlisted for the 2019 T.S Eliot Prize. It was also a *Telegraph* and *Guardian* poetry book of the year.

In 2020 he published *How To Write It* with Merky Books; a practical guide fused with tips and memoir looking at the politics of writing as well as the craft of poetry and fiction along with the wider publishing industry. He was awarded the 2019 H-100 Award for writing and publishing, and the 2015 Groucho Maverick Award for his poetry and fiction. In 2019 he was made an honorary fellow of the University of Roehampton. Anthony is artistic director of Out-Spoken, a monthly poetry and music night held at London's Southbank Centre, and publisher of Out-Spoken Press.

[Registration Link](#)

Wednesday, March 31, 6:00 PM

Virtual Poetry Reading: Grand Finale (UK, USA, UAE, Canada, Ireland)

Our poet guests, will join together for a final poetry open mic that concludes the festival.

[Registration Link](#)