Naropa University

The Braided River: Activist Rhizome

Summer Writing Program
June 14 - July 11, 2015
We take our imago “braided river” as an alternative to the traditional “tree of life.” Here we have the image that symbiosis teaches, that life is a braided river. Things come apart—like algae or fungus—and then come back together again. We want to look at the complexities of our own lives, our gnosia, our natural environment, the urgent issues around—just one example—water scarcity and its opposite: flooding—the way we stop and start and are interrupted by the exigencies of unnatural weather, of illness, of death, of endless war, strife, genocide, apartheid, just as we stop and start in our artistic lives and work through creative crises. How many strands go on simultaneously in our documentary poetics, in our fictions, our librettos, in our collaborations? We want to invoke a contemplative awareness of how to tread on our increasingly endangered planet with grace and intelligence and mindfulness and keep the weave and ambulation going, inside and outside, as we make our work and incorporate ideas of radical investigatory form: third mind (Burroughs & Gysin), the long poem, the cine-poem, the appropriated conceptual poem, the shamanic trip to the other side, meta-fiction, memoir, and dharma and somatic poetics.

Jess, Sent On The VII Wave, 1979, Collage and mixed media © The Jess Collins Trust Image courtesy of Pomegranate Communications, Inc. (pomegranate.com) All rights reserved.
The 41st Summer Writing Program is open to any interested participant.

A unique and invigorating aspect of the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics year-round MFA in Creative Writing and Poetics, and low-res MFA in Creative Writing, the Summer Writing Program (SWP) is split into four individual weeks, and open to credit and noncredit students, as well as members of the public. Students may sign up for one, two, three, or all four weeks. Each student selects either one workshop or printshop class to attend per week. Weekly workshops run on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Printshop and book arts classes run from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Afternoons are devoted to lectures, special graduate and undergraduate credit classes, panel discussions, readings, and performances. There is no application process for noncredit students.

Week-by-Week Programming

Each week of the program is designed to offer a distinct theme with a rich array of guest instructors and speakers to fully explore an innovative perspective.

**Week 1**
Disparities, Exigencies, Identity, Lineage

**Week 2**
Who Am I When I Dream?: Philo-poetics

**Week 3**
The Activist Rhizome

**Week 4**
Sangha, Cross Worlds Common Ground

Summer Writing Program Staff

**Allen Ginsberg (1926–1997)**  Beloved Spirit, Co-founder

**Andrea Rexilius**  SWP Coordinator

**Anne Waldman**  SWP Artistic Director, Co-founder

**Kyle Pivarnik**  JKS Special Projects Manager

Naropa University

**CHÖGYAM TRUNGPÄ RINPOCHE**  (1939–1987) Founder

**CHARLES G. LIEF**  President

**CHERYL BARBOUR**  Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

**TODD KILBURN**  Vice President for Business Affairs and Chief Financial Officer

**JANET CRAMER**  Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

**JANET ERICKSON**  Dean of Admissions

**ROBERT CILLO**  Dean of Students