

Poetry  
Retreat with  
Ellen Bass

Nanoose Bay,  
BC, Canada

## The World Split Open



In 1968 the great poet Muriel Rukeyser wrote, “What would happen if one woman told the truth about her life? The world would split open.”

This weekend in June all of us—men and women—will journey into that world of truth-telling.

But it isn’t so easy to tell the truth. Not only do we need courage, but we need craft. As another great writer, Willa Cather said, “Only the artist . . . knows how difficult it is.” And so we will study the craft together, reading model poems by contemporary poets and discussing central topics, such as the concept of discovery, image and metaphor, sentiment and sentimentality, and the power of sensory detail. We will engage our greatest resources—attention, precision, imagination—to bring our own new poems into being. We’ll strive for language that is accurate, fresh, and alive and we’ll learn strategies to help us write poems whose form, music, rhythm, diction, and meaning work together as an powerful whole.

With the inspiration of this gathering, expect to surprise yourself in making poems that are more vivid, more true, more beautiful and complex than you’ve ever written before. Both experienced and beginning poets are welcome, as are teachers of poetry.

2016  
June 3-5

Cost: \$550 CDN  
includes tuition  
and meals

Register with  
Tina at  
[tbiello@shaw.ca](mailto:tbiello@shaw.ca)

Limit 20 writers

One room and  
plenty of  
camping onsite.

List of  
accommodations  
upon request.

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Irene Young