

# Mountain Writers Series



## Lessons in the Echo: Mythology and Craft

A Poetry Workshop with Matthew Minicucci

Tuesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM  
March 7 – April 11, 2017

Multnomah Friends Meeting House – Portland

Louise Glück begins her poem “Ithaca” by telling us “The beloved doesn’t/need to live. The beloved/lives in the head. The loom . . . .” We understand because of title and context, she’s writing about Penelope, Odysseus, and the events of the Odyssey. But she’s also writing about the dissolution of her own marriage. This begs the question: how does mythology help us consider and compose on difficult subjects? Subjects that seem to have no course but cliché? Whether it’s a poem from Charles Simic about the ferryman, Charon, gathering more bodies by the shore, or Zbigniew Herbert calmly discussing the sacrifice of Agamemnon’s daughter Iphigenia, it’s always the most difficult subjects that push us to these ancient stories as anchor for the piece. In the first few weeks, we’ll examine Greek mythology as considered by some accomplished contemporary poets, including Anne Carson, Kathleen Gruber, and Carl Phillips. The remaining class sessions will be dedicated to working on poems by the workshop participants, considering the craft of our own difficult subjects, and how mythology can function as a frame for these pieces that seem to stick in our heads, but need a push to make it to the page.

- **Meets:** Tuesdays, 6:00 – 9:00 PM, March 7 – April 11, 2017
  - **Cost:** \$290 (Six three-hour sessions)
  - **Enrollment:** Minimum 4, Maximum 12.
  - **Location:** Multnomah Friends Meeting House, 4312 SE Stark, Portland [street parking available]
- Register securely online at <http://www.mountainwriters.org/events/register.html>

Matthew Minicucci is the author of two collections of poetry: *Translation* (Kent State University Press, 2015), chosen by Jane Hirshfield for the 2014 Wick Poetry Prize, and *Small Gods*, forthcoming from New Issues Press in 2017. He is the recipient of fellowships and awards from the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, the Wick Poetry Center, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he also received his MFA. His work has appeared or is forthcoming from numerous journals and anthologies, including Best New Poets 2014, Gettysburg Review, Kenyon Review, and The Southern Review, among others.



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