

254\_S23\_Carlson

## Writing Nature's Art-Impulses

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If the Universe (or Nature, or the “Outside”) had art-impulses, how would it sing, speak, or paint them? Are we able to involve ourselves in these impulses?

“I can hardly believe that I have limits, that I am cut out and defined. I feel scattered in the air, thinking inside other beings, living in things beyond myself,” writes Clarice Lispector. What is it to think in other beings, to live in things beyond the self? What are we capable of from this vantage point?

Reading a variety of short [texts](#) (poetry, fiction, and essay), we will encounter artists as conduits or instruments of an Outside energy. This might be uncomfortable territory; we will try to deactivate our identity and freewill so that *something else* can speak. We will practice this by writing in particular forms that suspend our control. Weekly workshops will focus on developing this suspension. We want to be a vessel of the universe's speech, instruments strummed on by an afternoon, tree, or November. This will require generative writing that transgresses traditional modes of thinking as we bring this mode to polished poems and give Nature a means of expression. All curious and excited students invited.