

Anna Maria Johnson, MFA
Teacher, Writer, Editor, Visual Artist

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EDUCATION

Graduate

Vermont College of Fine Arts

MFA in Creative Writing (Dual genre: creative non-fiction and fiction), July 2012

Undergraduate

Bachelor of Arts (Studio Art with minor in English Literature), *Magna Cum Laude*, 2001
Houghton College, Houghton, NY

CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

Adjunct Faculty, Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Writing Department, James Madison University. Fall 2016 to the present. Courses taught (3-4 sections/semester): Critical Reading and Critical Writing (WRTC 103), a required first-year composition course, and Art of the Personal Essay (HUM 200), a general education humanities course.

RECENT ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Adjunct Faculty, International Study Group. Fall 2016 to Fall 2017. Course taught: Research Skills (ISC 103), preparing international students for first-year composition course at James Madison University. Skills taught: academic integrity, American expectations & ethics regarding plagiarism, using library databases to conduct research, citations, paragraph construction, thesis development, supporting an argument with evidence.

Adjunct Faculty, Language/Literature Department, Eastern Mennonite University. Fall 2014 & Fall 2015. Courses taught: Introductory College Writing 120 (a developmental writing course) and College Writing for Transitions 130. These are equivalent to first-year composition courses for below-proficiency students (120 level) and for average proficiency students (130 level). These courses included diverse learners including international students, English-

language learners, students with reading and/or processing disorders, transfer students, and typical students.

Writing Tutor for the Graduate and Professional Writing Center at Eastern Mennonite University. October 2013 to August 2016. I provided one-on-one writing coaching for graduate students from Biomedicine, Business, Counseling, Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Education, Nursing, Organizational Leadership, & Seminary. I also presented occasional workshops/class presentations on academic writing, academic integrity, APA style, and other topics.

PROFESSIONAL WRITING & EDITING

Contract writing and editing for Cavendish Square Publishing. 2016 to the present (on an individual project basis). Responsibilities include writing manuscripts for new books and revamping previous titles for the school library market, ranging from the fourth grade reading level to high school. Thus far, I've written two new books for the high school geography market and substantially revised two fourth grade level state history books (California and North Carolina).

Contract writing, editing, and assessment for the Nursing and Education Programs at Eastern Mennonite University. 2016 to the present.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Human Rights in Contemporary Africa*, part of the *Focus on Africa* series, Cavendish Square Publishing, January 2017.
- *True Teen Stories from Somalia: Surviving War and al-Shabaab*, part of the series *Surviving Terror: True Teen Stories from around the World*, Cavendish Square Publishing, scheduled to be released in 2019.

Scholarly/ Literary Criticism

- "Syntactical and Image Patterns in Annie Dillard's *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*," in *Numéro Cinq*, March 2013
- "John Agee's Unconventional Use of Colons," in *Numéro Cinq*, February 2011

Pedagogy

- "How to Teach Students to Organize their Essays," *SPELT Quarterly*, vol. 32, no. 2, pp. 31-36. Pakistan: Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers, 2017.

Non-fiction

- "In Praise of Lichens," *PAN Journal*, 2013. Monash University, Australia. Co-written with lichenologist John Villella

- “Whirlpools,” *Flycatcher: A Journal of Southern Imagination*, January 2013 (online)
- “Marginalia,” *The Doctor T. J. Eckleburg Review*, March 2013 (online)
- “Belly-dancing Mennonites,” *Center for Mennonite Writing*, March 2012
- “Retiring in Style,” *Blue Ridge Country*, August 2011 (print), October 2011 (online)
- “Sisters of Cootes’ Store,” *Newfound Journal*, March 2011—photo-essay in collaboration with photographer Steven David Johnson. www.newfoundjournal.org
- “What It’s Like Living Here,” and other articles in *Numéro Cinq*, 2011
- Monthly gardening column (2009) and cooking column (2010) for *North Fork Journal* and *Shenandoah Journal*
- “Wrestling at Peniel,” *The Mennonite*, April 2009
- “Why I Garden” published in *DreamSeeker*, spring 2008
- “Five Reasons Why I Garden,” presented on local NPR station, WMRA’s “Civic soapbox,” 2008

Fiction

- “On Fire,” short story published in anthology *Tongue-screws and Testimonies*, 2011
- “Charlie’s Arm,” short story published in *Ruminant* magazine, March 2009 (Runner-up in Short Story Contest)

Website

- Photo-essays about the natural history, ecology, and people of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and Soda Mountain Wilderness in southern Oregon, with photographer Steven David Johnson: www.cascade-siskiyou.org

Editing/Revising

- *It’s My State! California*, Cavendish Square Publishing, to be published in 2018-2019 (revised and updated all chapters and wrote 5,000 additional new words)
- *It’s My State! North Carolina*, Cavendish Square Publishing, to be published in 2018-2019 (revised and updated all chapters and wrote 5,000 additional new words)
- Dissertations and action research papers for graduate students (light editing, tutoring)

GRANT-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP

- “Take Note and Remember: The History of the Commonplace Book and its American Descendants,” National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, July 17-30, 2016
- “Embellished Note-taking: Transforming Text with Image,” Guest lecturer and workshop presenter at Winthrop University Galleries, South Carolina, October 19, 2017

PARTICIPANT IN SELECTED WORKSHOPS/CONFERENCES

- JMU Design, a 5-day intensive on course design using backward design & best educational practices, James Madison University, June 12-16, 2017. I designed a new course for general education in the humanities to be taught in Spring 2018 at JMU (HUM 200: The Art of the Personal Essay)

- Writing Renewal Retreat, June 6-8, 2017, sponsored by James Madison University. The program integrated contemplative practices, writing time, and consultation sessions. I developed an outline and bibliography for a scholarly article about using commonplace books as a pedagogical technique in writing-intensive courses.
- January & May Symposia, Center for Faculty Innovation, James Madison University, 2017
- Blue Ridge Symposium: Creating an Inclusive Writing Classroom, with Paul Kei Matsuda and Alexis Hart, April 2015
- Visual Poetry Workshop, Vermont College of Fine Art, with Jen Bervin and Jody Gladding, June 2012
- Presenter at Mennonite/s Writing VI, Eastern Mennonite University, on a panel titled “Pedagogy and Poetics”, April 2012
- Shenandoah Valley Inkslingers: member of monthly writing group, 2008-2013
- Wildbranch Writing Workshop, co-sponsored by Orion Magazine and Sterling College, June 2009, featuring Ginger Strand, Alison Deming and Eric Reese
- Writing workshops on personal essay craft with Martha Woodroof at WMRA, February 2009
- Headwaters Gathering with writing intensive (Janisse Ray and Andrew Revkin) at Warren Wilson College, March 2009

ARTWORK EXHIBITED – Images and Texts

- *A Commonplace Book*. Mixed media, accordion book. In *Precursors to the Digital Age: Commonplace Books, Scrapbooks, and More*, Patrick Gallery, Winthrop University, September 22-November 12, 2017
- *Rock. Lichen. Forest. A Season in the Pacific Northwest*. Gehman Art Gallery, Eastern Mennonite University. January/February 2014—with Steven David Johnson
- *Whirlpools and Swimming Holes*. Shenandoah Arts Council, Harrisonburg, VA, 2011—two-person exhibition with Steven David Johnson
- *Hand-made Artist’s Books and Papers*. Vermont College of Fine Arts Art Walk, July 2010
- *Traces of Place*. Harrisonburg League of Therapists, Harrisonburg, Virginia, June 2009—two-person exhibition with Steven David Johnson
- *The Creatures Among Us*. Davison Art Gallery, Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester NY 2008—two-person exhibition with Steven David Johnson
- *Mystery of Domesticity*. Fountain Art Center in Belmont, NY, August 2004—two-person exhibition with Steven David Johnson
- Individual pieces appeared at the Carnegie Art Gallery in North Tonawanda, NY, in November 2002, and in the Houghton College Alumni Show, July-August 2001

CURRENT PROJECTS

Scholarly work on using commonplace books as a pedagogical tool in a first-year composition course

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

English teacher at Eastern Mennonite School (part-time, one-year position). July 2013 to June 2014

Faculty member in Writing and Literature (half-time, one-semester position) at The Oregon Extension, a fall semester, interdisciplinary, humanities-based study program in southern Oregon, accredited through Eastern Mennonite University. August 2012 to January 2013

Co-leader of summer Cross-Cultural Seminar: Newfoundland, Labrador, and Nunatsiavut (CCUS 203 Cross Cultural Understanding), Eastern Mennonite University. June 2008

Director of the Ortlip Gallery at Houghton College, New York. Coordinated and set up exhibits for the college's main art gallery, managed budget and website. Grant-writing. Organized lecture series with guest speakers and interdisciplinary events. September 2003 to May 2005

Teaching assistant/resident assistant and tutor for the First Year Honors Program of Houghton College in London, England. Spring semester 2000

SELECTED VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Contemplative Writing Adult Education Class, Community Mennonite Church, Harrisonburg, VA, Spring 2017

Weekly Writing Workshop with Oregon Extension students, Fall 2012

Creative writing teacher, Our Community Place, fall 2010-spring 2011 (serves diverse population, including homeless and under-employed)

Stories and Portraits of Our Community Place, in collaboration with community members and photographer Howard Zehr, spring/summer 2011

Hand-made books and story-telling workshops

Paper-making and artist's books

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Violet Dutcher

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Eastern Mennonite University
1200 Park Road
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Dr. Michael Smith

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