

CAVE CANEM (SOUTH)
With the South Carolina Poetry Initiative
Poetry Workshop, 2010

PROGRAM:

Venue: **Columbia Museum of Art**, 1515 Main St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Tutors:

Nikky Finney

Patricia Smith

Frank X Walker

Kwame Dawes

Day 1: Friday, February 5th, 2010

6:30 PM-7:00 PM—Welcome and reception

7:00 PM-8:00 PM—Welcome Circle

8:00 PM-9:30 PM—Craft Talks by Tutors, Nikky Finney and Patricia Smith (30 minutes each) followed by a Q&A

Day 2: Saturday, February 6th, 2010

8:30 AM-9:00 AM—Coffee and snacks and fruit

9:00 AM-11:00 AM—Workshop I (Finney ‘A’, Smith ‘B’, Walker ‘C’)*

11:30 AM-1:30 PM—Workshop II (Finney ‘B’, Smith ‘C’, Walker ‘A’)

1:30 PM-2:30 PM—LUNCH

2:30 PM-4:00 PM—Workshop III (Finney ‘C’, Smith ‘A’, Walker ‘B’)

4:00 PM-5:00 PM—Gathering

**The participants will be divided into three groups (A, B, and C). Each group will rotate between the three tutors, spending two hours of workshop time with each tutor.*

Saturday, February 6th, 2010

7:00 PM-9:00 PM—Public Reading by Frank X. Walker, Patricia Smith and Nikky Finney. Gressette Room, Harper College, University of South Carolina.

Day 3: Sunday, February 7th, 2010

2:00 PM-3:00 PM—The Chemistry of Color: Ekphrasis Workshop—Kwame Dawes

3:00 PM-4:00 PM—10 minutes one-on-one sessions with Tutors—sign up roster will be provided.

4:00 PM-5:00 PM—Participant’s Reading

Cave Canem South is open to any poet who self-identifies as African American and resides in the Southeast of the United States. All participants must register to attend ALL three days of the workshop and ALL the sessions posted as part of the workshop.

ABOUT THE TUTORS:

NIKKY FINNEY

Born to a civil rights attorney and a teacher in the small fishing and farming community of Conway, South Carolina, **Nikky Finney** has been writing for as long as she has memory. Her poems are powerful and warm, like her southern roots, and provide glimpses into the human adventures of birth, death, family, violence, sexuality, and relationship, exploring the soul of human community. They both highlight the constants we share and appeal for more compassion, reaching from the personal into the collective with equal measures of love and rage. Writes Walter Mosely, "She has flung me into an afterbirth of stars and made my stiff bones as loose as jelly." Exploring characters as diverse as Jacques Cousteau and Saartjie Baartman (the so-called Hottentot Venus), young women defined by violence and old women killing time in a thrift store, Finney "takes a leapfrog hop of the extraordinary over the commonplace," writes *Black Issues Book Review*, as in the poem "Coda," which examines the often violent encroachment on her close-knit family. As Caribbean poet Lorna Goodison noted, Finney "calls us to consider and value again the blessings found in community, the strong bonds of family and the transcendent and inexplicable ways of the spirit." Recipient of the Kentucky Foundation for Women Artists Fellowship Award, Finney is the author of *Heartwood*, a collection of stories, and three books of poems, *On Wings Made of Gauze*, *Rice* (winner of a PEN America Open Book Award), and *The World is Round* (winner of the 2004 Benjamin Franklin Award for Poetry). Most recently, she edited *The Ringing Ear: Black Poets Lean South*, published by the University of Georgia Press. Educated at Talladega College and Atlanta University, Finney is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Kentucky and makes her home in Lexington. She has also served on the faculty at Cave Canem, the writer's center for African-American poets, and is a founding member of the Affrilachian Poets, "the coal black African voices of Appalachia," as she says. She spent the academic year 2007-2008 as Graze Hazard Conkling Writer-in-Residence at Smith College.

PATRICIA SMITH

2008 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST! Patricia Smith's fifth book of poetry is *Blood Dazzler* (Coffee House Press). Patricia is also the author of *Teahouse of the Almightly* (Coffee House Press), a National Poetry Series winner, the Best Poetry Book of 2006 on About.com, and a 2007 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award and Paterson Poetry Prize winner; *Close to Death* (Zoland Books), *Big Towns*, *Big Talk* (Zoland) and *Life According to Motown* (Tia Chucha). Her poems have appeared in *Poetry*, *The Paris Review*, *poemmemoirstory*, *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, *the Chautauqua Literary Journal*, *TriQuarterly*, and other journals, and in many groundbreaking anthologies--most recently *Gathering Ground*, *The Spoken Word Revolution*, *The Oxford Anthology of African-American Poetry and Short Fuse: The Global Anthology of New Fusion Poetry*. Her poem "The Way Pilots Walk" received a Pushcart Prize, and is featured in *Pushcart Prize*

XXXII: Best of the Small Presses. Recognized as one of the world's most formidable performers, Patricia has read her work at venues round the world, including the Poets Stage in Stockholm, Rotterdam's Poetry International Festival, the Aran Islands International Poetry and Prose Festival and on tour in Germany, Austria and Holland. In the U.S., she's performed at Carnegie Hall, Bumbershoot, the Palm Beach Poetry Festival, the Folger Shakespeare Library and St. Mark's Poetry Project. She was featured in the nationally-released film "Slamnation," and appeared on the award-winning HBO series "Def Poetry Jam." Recordings of Patricia's work can be found on the CD "Always in the Head" as well as in the compilations "Grand Slam," "A Snake in the Heart" "By Someone's Good Graces" and "Lip." Her first children's book, *Janna and the Kings*, was a Lee & Low Books New Voices Award winner. An accomplished and sought-after instructor of poetry, performance and creative writing, Smith is proud to be a Cave Canem faculty member, as well as a former Bruce McEver Chair in Writing at Georgia Tech. University.

FRANK X WALKER

Multidisciplinary artist Frank X Walker has lectured, conducted workshops, read poetry and exhibited at over 300 national conferences and universities including the Verbal Arts Centre in Derry, Northern Ireland; Santiago, Cuba; University of California at Berkeley; Notre Dame; Louisiana State University at Alexandria; University of Washington; Virginia Tech; Radford University; and Appalachian State University. A founding member of the Affrilachian Poets, he is the editor of *America! What's My Name? The "Other" Poets Unfurl the Flag* (Wind Publications, 2007) and *Eclipsing a Nappy New Millennium* and the author of four poetry collections: *When Winter Come: the Ascension of York* (University Press of Kentucky, 2008); *Black Box* (Old Cove Press, 2005); *Buffalo Dance: the Journey of York* (University Press of Kentucky, 2003), winner of the 35th Annual Lillian Smith Book Award; and *Affrilachia* (Old Cove Press, 2000), a Kentucky Public Librarians' Choice Award nominee. Walker has served as founder/Executive Director of the Bluegrass Black Arts Consortium, the Program Coordinator of the University of Kentucky's King Cultural Center and the Assistant Director of Purdue University's Black Cultural Center. The University of Kentucky awarded Walker an honorary Doctorate of Humanities in 2001 for his collective community work and artistic achievements. Transylvania University awarded Walker an honorary Doctor of Letters degree in 2002. He is the recipient of the 2006 Thomas D. Clark Literary Award for Excellence, Actors Theatre's Keeper of the Chronicle Award and a 2005 Recipient of a \$75,000 Lannan Literary Fellowship in Poetry. He has held board positions for the Kentucky Humanities Council, Appalshop and the Kentucky Writers Coalition as well as a government appointment to Cabinet for Education, Arts & Humanities and the Committee on Gifted Education. He has served as vice president of the Kentucky Center for the Arts and the executive director of Kentucky's Governor's School for the Arts. Walker regularly teaches in writing programs like Fishtrap in Oregon and SplitRock at the University of Minnesota; currently serves as the Writer in Residence and lecturer of English at Northern Kentucky University; and is the proud editor and publisher of PLUCK!, the new Journal of Affrilachian Art & Culture.

ABOUT THE CHEMISTRY OF COLOR: CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTS.

The Columbia Museum of Art celebrates its 60th anniversary year by hosting a major exhibition of art by contemporary African-American artists. The Chemistry of Color: Contemporary African-American Artists and its accompanying catalog chronicle the accomplishments and struggles of African-American artists in the latter half of the 20th century with approximately 72 works by a number of preeminent modern artists such as Romare Bearden, Jacob Lawrence, Faith Ringgold and Betye Saar. The exhibition includes works by 41 artists including Moe Brooker, James Brantley, Charles Searles, Sam Gilliam and others who have made major contributions to the development of American art. This show presents an opportunity for residents of South Carolina and the surrounding region to see an exhibition of nationally and internationally known African-American artists not seen in the state in nearly a decade.