



SRI AUROBINDO SOCIETY
Creating the Next Future



SACAC

Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts & Communication



THE EYE & I

Workshop/Retreat on Creative Thinking and Writing



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Have you felt that there is a voice in you, quiet, perhaps wordless but unmistakably there? Like a silent love, unseen but ever present. Is there a seed lying in the crevices of your mind, that is aching to sprout, secretly waiting for a nurturer? Is there winged magic inside you, cocooned and sleepy? You need a friend, a mentor, perhaps a miracle to bring it out. This is how creativity often calls to you gently, quietly, patiently from the recesses of your soul. Time can pass before you notice it, even a life time perhaps. Some are lucky enough to have tapped this and are on a journey to develop this, some need to begin the journey, take the first conscious step to one's inner treasures. This invitation comes to you to find your wings at the retreat/workshop on 'Creative Thinking and Writing'.

Activities and Approach

We explore through creative activities created with dance, drawing, silence, words, colour, movement, music, stillness, imagination, sensations, through togetherness and aloneness... a sacred, secret world within ourselves.

We will share techniques in writing with tips and exercises, with discussions and feedback, with shared platforms and individual spaces, but remember that true creativity is perhaps beyond techniques. All the techniques are there to help you to reach a special space inside of yourself from where creative expression flows. You will be asked to explore through writing the fibres of your heart and mind. To feel, to know, then to express.

Places and time

Much will happen on beautiful and serene surroundings of Sri Aurobindo Society. A place where you get a sense of spaciousness, where the mind can stretch and yawn! But that's not just it. We will go to the woods or to stimulating colourful places and ask the surroundings to be our guide and inspiration. Then we write.

The reason we would like you to stay at the serene surroundings during these days is because the secret is in the living of moments. A synergy is created through togetherness that touches in ways we cannot fathom or logically explain. We would like to sit together and gaze at the stars, write poems under the moonlight, sing, listen to the flute, use every moment as an inspiration... So, try really hard to make this more than a workshop... give magic a chance.

Why oh! Why?

Actually you'll have to figure that one out for yourself. Why be creative? Why write creatively at that? You can do what you want with the experience use it, share it or let the experience do what it will for you. It may be 'useful' in your job (or not!), as an individual... it may be deep, even dangerous and ask you to probe the deeper layers of yourself. Or, it may be just good, clean fun (never underestimate the power of fun!) Or you can boast about the certificate you get on the completion of the workshop! As you like it!

Workshop Facilitator's Profile

Harvinder Kaur, writer, poet and educator, has been writing and teaching for about two decades. She began her journey in education because it made her heart dance! After doing her Masters in English literature and Masters in Education (dissertation: Theory of Knowledge - changing paradigms) from Delhi University, she explored formal education for some years. Her questions led her to quit a regular job to work as a volunteer in non-formal education based on Sri Aurobindo's philosophy - that marked a turning point in her journey! She has worked in several capacities and experimented with formal and non-formal education. Her last full time assignment before joining as Director, ICIE (India Council for Integral Education, Sri Aurobindo Society, Pondicherry) was that of a Principal of an IB school in Mumbai. She has taken several workshops on critical and creative thinking skills ('thinking about thinking!'). She continues to explore the realms of the mind and beyond-mind and shares her journey with those who are interested. Sometimes, this takes the form of worksh(t)ops. An avid writer, led by her own deep inner quest for Light, she has written and published poetry, articles and stories in national newspapers and magazines.

She has a personal blog that has some of her published writing: www.explorewithin.blogspot.com. She can be contacted directly at harvinder@sriarobindosociety.org.in or teachertalk@rediffmail.com

About Sri Aurobindo Society

Sri Aurobindo Society is an international nonprofit NGO, working for individual perfection, social transformation and human unity, based on a spiritual foundation. Our effort is to bring change, empowerment, deeper values and excellence in various fields, including

education, village development, sustainable development and renewable energy, health, management, youth, women, Indian culture, media, films and television programmes.

The Society has been recognized by the Government of India as a Charitable Organisation, as a Research Institute, and an Institution of National Importance. It enjoys special tax benefits under the Indian Income Tax Act.

The Society's main Administrative Office is at Puducherry. It has members, centers and branches in all parts of India and several abroad.

Further information can be obtained from www.sriaurobinosociety.org.in

Who can join?

Anyone over eighteen years of age who wants to tap his/her creative side can join, especially those who have a flair for writing. Interested candidates should email the form with a sample of their original creative writing (story, poem, essay, article...).

Please send the form along with these to: response@sriaurobinosociety.org.in or a hard copy to the address provided.

We will then get in touch with you.

Details

When: 26th, 27th, 28th August 2011 (Registration: 8.30 a.m. 26th August 2011)

Where: Sri Aurobindo Society, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg Adhchini, New Delhi

How much? We would like candidates to contribute to the course expenditure.

Non-residential: Rs. 3750/-

Twin sharing with another workshop participant (4 days): Rs.5750/-

Single room basis (4 days): Rs. 7250/-

This includes lunch and two tea breaks at the workshop venue. Breakfast and dinner for residential candidates will be available at the community dining in the ashram.

Candidates who cannot manage this amount and have been selected on the basis of their form can apply to us for sponsorship and we will try to help out. Candidates who wish to contribute more (before or after the workshop) are welcome!

Note: International candidates who opt for the residential option have to add another Rs 500/- per day, (residential charges are higher at the ashram premises for international guests).

Funds are eligible for income tax deduction U/s 80G (5) (vi) of income tax act 1961. The medium of the workshop will be English.

Contact (for more information): +91-99537 55245

Registration process

Please wait for an email/call from us after you email/mail the form to us, inviting you to register and confirm your place.

Selected candidates then need to send a cheque/DD in favour of Sri Aurobindo Society, (please mention the name of the participant on the reverse side of the cheque/DD) for the place to be confirmed. Or an electronic transfer can be made, the details for bank to bank TT are provided in the form. It is

recommended that you call us to check if a seat is available before sending the cheque/transferring funds, as registration will be done on a first come first served basis after a selection is made on the basis of your form/write up. Seats are limited.

Cancellation: In case of cancellations made before August 15, 2010, on the part of the participant, 50% will be returned. After this date, no amount will be returned for cancellation.

Transfer: In case a candidate wants to transfer his/her place with another person due to any reason, this is possible after sending a form with the detail of the participant, along with transfer charges of Rs 500/-. Please note, this is subject to approval by the authorities.

Send payment to: THE EYE & I, SACAC, Sri Aurobindo Society Campus, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg Adhchini, New Delhi-110017

After receipt of form and payment an email will be sent to candidates confirming their place. A more detailed letter from the facilitator will be sent to the selected participants some time before the workshop.

Accommodation details

Candidates will be provided accommodation at the serene and beautiful Sri Aurobindo Ashram (across the road from the venue of the workshop). A comfortable room with attached bathroom will be provided on a twin sharing basis with another workshop participant. All meals (simple vegetarian breakfast, lunch, dinner) are included. If a friend is attending with you with whom you'd prefer to share the room please let us know, otherwise allotments will be made by us. Accommodation will be booked from 25th August noon to 30th August noon.