BURNAWAY

ART WRITERS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
The Art Writers Mentorship Program seeks to develop the voices of new art writers by providing them with the necessary tools, resources, and connections to significantly advance their careers as writers.

BURNAWAY is an Atlanta-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has covered the arts in Atlanta and the South since 2008. BURNAWAY’s mission is to provide critical coverage and dialogue about the arts in and from the South to champion and support the vibrant creative communities in our region. We fulfill this mission through our online arts publication, critics-in-residency program, writing workshops, and public programs.
THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- Monthly mentoring sessions with leading national and local art writers and critics
- Peer-to-peer critiques and reviews
- Overview of professional business practices
- Comprehensive reading lists and materials compiled by Mentors
- Exploration of publishing opportunities in familiar and new media formats
- Compilation of a writing portfolio. Finalized pieces may be posted on BURNAWAY.

MENTEES WILL LEARN:

- How to analyze, interpret, and evaluate art
- How to write for different audiences and platforms
- How to determine his or her voice, purpose, and style of writing
- How to pose questions and generate new ideas
- How to pitch ideas to publications
- How to work with an editor

MENTEES WILL PARTICIPATE IN:

- Monthly mentoring sessions and/or discussion groups
- BURNAWAY Visiting Mentor public talks
- Field trips and scheduled gallery/museum visits
- Monthly pre-session writing assignments
- Mentee online communication and Internet forum
- A peer network of writers and relationships that will continue beyond the program
MISSION:
The mission of the Art Writers Mentorship Program is to assist emerging writers attain the proficiency and skills they need to reach their next level of professional achievement. This is accomplished through a six-month comprehensive program, for which mentees are engaged in professional study with exceptional writers, critics, and other arts professionals.

Participants study with six mentors through structured study sessions, critical readings, and critiques, as well as through active and cooperative learning. Mentees learn to make sophisticated judgments regarding content, tone, and style; and learn professional procedures to prepare and submit various writing forms for publication.

The mentorship program is beneficial for individuals who are already writing in the profession, as well as those with a background in art history, fine arts, visual or cultural studies, and/or multidisciplinary programs.

THE MENTOR-MENTEE RELATIONSHIP:
Over the course of a six-month cycle, mentees will learn and study with some of our country’s most thought-provoking, disruptive, and forward-thinking writers. For many mentees, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to receive instruction from a selective group of knowledgeable and successful art writers, critics, administrators, educators, gallerists, and curators. All participants are expected to be fully immersed in the program. Mentees will work with mentors, who will share their insight and experience in a supportive and engaging environment.
PROGRAM FEES:
The cost for the program is $1,380, which includes all mentoring sessions, public talks, instructional material, program operations, breakfast, and lunch during the monthly Saturday sessions, as well as access to a variety of local events and venues.

The fee does not cover the cost associated with items needed to participate in the program, such as computers, printers, and other equipment.

Mentees may pay their program fee using either a personal check or credit card. The program fee is due in full 3 weeks prior to the start of the first session. No refund will be given after that date, or for early departure from the program.

Thanks to the generosity of many patrons, sponsors, and grant-making organizations, BURNAWAY is able to offer several AWMP Scholarships. Please refer to the scholarship section of the application for details on how to apply for financial assistance.

DATES, TIMES, AND LOCATIONS:
Prior to the start of the six-month cycle, mentees will receive detailed information regarding each of the mentors who will lead sessions during the cycle. Mentees will receive pre-session reading assignments and a list of exhibitions, shows, and events they will be expected to attend.

Sessions will meet on Saturdays from 9:30am to 4:00pm. A continental breakfast and boxed lunch will be provided as part of the fee. Several of the mentors will present a public talk, usually the Thursday evening prior to their session.

Sessions are held at a variety of cultural institutions and galleries around Atlanta, giving mentees a broad view of the city’s art scene.
MENTEE RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS:
Mentees are expected to comply with all BURNAWAY policies and procedures, which are designed to maximize the experience for all participants, staff, and supporters. Because the program is limited in size to 12 participants per cycle, it is the responsibility of the mentees to clear their schedules of possible conflicts.

All mentees should have a working computer with Microsoft Word/PowerPoint and a working knowledge of the applications. Internet access will be required in order to research, upload documents, and print.

A copy of the mentee’s writing portfolio must be submitted within one month of program conclusion. The portfolio should include all writing assignments, notes, and mentors’ comments produced during the program. BURNAWAY will use the portfolio to assess and evaluate each mentee’s progress and the overarching effectiveness of the Mentorship Program. The Writing Portfolio will be returned only upon the mentee’s request at the time of submission. The BURNAWAY staff may select one piece of writing from each mentee to be included in BURNAWAY’s online publication.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:
The six-month curriculum is designed to prepare mentees for a range of professional opportunities in the workplace or continued study. Mentees will leave the program with a writing portfolio and a possible published work.

SELECTION PROCESS:
Mentees are selected based on creative practice, availability, and suitability for the program. Applications are reviewed and chosen by BURNAWAY’s staff. The focus of this program is writing about contemporary art. Writers residing throughout the U.S. and working in any genre and of all viewpoints, perspectives, and demographics are encouraged to apply.
TO APPLY TO THE ART WRITERS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM,
GO TO BURNAWAY.ORG AND CLICK ON PROGRAMS IN THE
NAVIGATION MENU

Please direct any questions regarding the Art Writers Mentorship Program to program manager, Mindy Spritz, at awmp@burnaway.org.

TESTIMONIALS

“The Emerging Art Writers Mentorship Program has given me the professional and practical skills necessary to succeed in the world of art writing. I came into the program with a BFA and MFA in writing, along with extensive writing and editing experience; however, I have learned so much from this incredible workshop series. The quality of my prose, my understanding of the art world, and my ability to communicate about creativity have flourished because of EAWMP. Burnaway is training the next generation of art writers, and I’m thankful to take part in this program.” —Matthew Terrell

“Art writing is a niche area, and there are few opportunities to gather not only with leading professionals in the field but colleagues with similar interests. I found Burnaway’s Emerging Art Writers Mentorship Program a unique and rewarding program in which to think through broad issues and hone specific writing skills. It was stimulating to have discussions with a diverse, interesting group of art writers.” —Linnea West