

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Treelines: Poetry and Art with Anne Simpson

ANNAPOLIS ROYAL, Nova Scotia (March 26, 2026) – At ARTSPACE Gallery this April, the exhibition “Wandering Through Trees” from The Robert Pope Foundation invites visitors into a contemplative visual landscape. Alongside the exhibition, writer Anne Simpson will lead a poetry workshop that asks a simple but challenging question: how does one begin a conversation with a work of art?

Ekphrasis, derived from the Greek for “speaking out,” offers one way in. It is a practice that moves beyond description, drawing out the resonances, tensions, and imaginative possibilities within an artwork. In this workshop, participants will be guided through several approaches to writing ekphrastic poetry. The focus is not only on what is seen, but also on what is felt, remembered, or quietly suggested. A line of colour, a gesture in paint, or a fragment of narrative can open unexpected paths.

The workshop will include time for writing, reflection, and shared discussion. Participants will have the opportunity to read their work aloud in a small, supportive setting. Working within the gallery space, poems may emerge in response to specific pieces or to the atmosphere of the exhibition as a whole.

Anne Simpson brings a depth of experience across genres, including poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Her collection “Loop” received the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2004. Her novel “Speechless” was awarded the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award in 2021. She has also worked extensively as a mentor, serving as writer-in-residence in libraries and universities across Canada, where she has supported writers at many stages of their practice.

This session offers a focused and open environment for those curious about the intersections between visual art and language.

Treelines: Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop with Anne Simpson, Saturday, April 25, 1-3pm. Upstairs at ARTSPACE. Cost: \$40. Sponsored by NS Writers Federation.

ARTSPACE is a public Art Gallery that is operated by the Annapolis Region Community Arts Council, a registered charitable, community organization dedicated to encouraging and promoting the arts. Supported through the Province of Nova Scotia and the Canada Council for the Arts.

ARTSPACE Gallery is located at 396 St. George Street in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

For more information please contact:

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(902) 532-7069

<https://arcac.ca/>

Facebook: ARTSPACEGallery
Instagram: arcac.artsplace

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DESIGN: PETER MANSOUR / PHOTO: NICOLAS MESSIFET ON UNSPLASH

Treelines: Ekphrastic Poetry Workshop

WITH ANNE SIMPSON

Poetry can be a conversation with a work of art, but how to start that conversation? Anne Simpson, an established writer and long-time facilitator, will help you investigate art by way of poetry at the "Wandering Through Trees" (The Robert Pope Foundation) exhibit at ARTSPPLACE in Annapolis Royal in May 2026.

Ekphrasis, a word that comes from the Greek for "speaking out," shows you how to imaginatively amplify an artwork through poetry. Through this workshop, you will explore what can take your poems beyond a simple description of what you see. You will learn several poetic approaches, gain understanding from working in a group, and have time to read your work to a small audience.

Sat. April 25, 2026

Upstairs at ARTSPPLACE, 1:00-3:00PM

Sponsored by NS Writers Federation!

\$40 (Pre-registration required)

Register: arcac.ca or 902-532-7069

Please contact admin@arcac.ca to discuss available financial accommodations (such as cost reductions and payment plans), or to offer a compassionate donation (to cover the cost of participation by a participant experiencing financial barriers).



Anne Simpson writes fiction, poetry, and non-fiction. Among her five poetry collections, *Loop* was awarded the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2004. Her third novel, *Speechless*, was awarded the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award in 2021. Over the years, she has mentored many writers as a writer-in-residence in libraries and universities across Canada.

ARTSPPLACE 396 St. George St. Annapolis Royal, NS B0S1A0

