



Creating Nonfiction: Twenty Essays and Interviews with the Writers (Excelsior Editions)

Jen Hirt

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A diverse collection of essays and companion interviews that offer insight into the inspiration, drafting, and revision process.

With a title that suggests both the genre and the process of composing it, *Creating Nonfiction* is a collection of essays and interviews that aims to open readers' and writers' eyes to the formal possibilities of creative nonfiction. Included are memoirs, personal essays, literary journalism, graphic essays, and lyric essays, and the content is equally diverse, with topics ranging from childbirth to child labor, from dandelions to domestic violence.

Whereas most anthologies leave readers to speculate about the evolution of each contribution, *Creating Nonfiction* provides companion interviews that offer insight into the inspiration, drafting, and revision process that produced the essays. Cheryl Strayed talks about how working as a reporter for her hometown newspaper influenced her later writings. Dinty W. Moore reflects on the delicate balance between observation and judgment when writing about subjects whose values differ from your own. Kristen Radtke explains how she decides between textual and visual images when creating a graphic essay. Although they offer an eclectic mix of voices and styles, what these essays all have in common is that ultimately, as contributor Faith Adiele observes, "truth becomes art."

Jen Hirt is Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and Composition at Penn State Harrisburg. She is the author of the memoir *Under Glass: The Girl with a Thousand Christmas Trees*.

Erin Murphy is Professor of English at Penn State Altoona. She is the author of six books of poetry, including *Ancilla* and coeditor (with Todd Davis) of *Making Poems: Forty Poems with Commentary by the Poets*, also published by SUNY Press.

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