

# MELANIE PIERCE

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## EDUCATION

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**MFA Stony Brook University, Creative Writing & Literature** 2018  
Concentration: Fiction

**BA John Brown University, English** 2009

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence, KS** Summer 2023-Present  
**Instructor, Creative Writing**

Design and teach the following community writing classes:

- Writing Monsters: Grotesque Short Fiction (Summer 2023)
- Writing the Haunted House (Spring 2024)
- I Wrote a Story. Now What? (Summer 2024 – Expected)

**Kansas City Art Institute, Kansas City, MO** Fall 2022-Present  
**Lecturer, Liberal Arts Department**

Design and teach the following undergraduate courses:

- WRS 1001: Writing Seminar - Home and Away (Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024 – Expected)
- LIT 30ST: Haunted Houses (Winter 2024)

**Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY** Fall 2016-Spring 2017  
**Teaching Assistant, Creative Writing & Literature**

Designed and taught the following undergraduate courses:

- CWL 305: Forms of Fiction - Writing the Grotesque (Spring 2017)
- CWL 202: Introduction to Creative Writing (Fall 2016)

**Young Writers & Artists Project, Southampton, NY** 2016  
**Teaching Artist**

Co-taught the following high school classes:

- Playwriting (Fall 2016)
- College Admissions Essay Weekend Intensive (May 2016)

## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**The Story Center, Kansas City, MO** February 2022-October 2023  
**Associate**

- Provide customer service for mission-enhancement public library program that provides free classes and resources to writers and oral storytellers. Develop and facilitate monthly electives for Storytelling Certificate students. Curate, display, and maintain special collection on storytelling of 2500 books and 40 periodicals.

**Wise Blood Books**, Kansas City, MO  
**Bookseller**

February-November 2020

- As store's sole employee, work independently to manage sales floor, price used merchandise, and create content for Instagram and Twitter accounts. Organize and work Independent Bookstore Day 2020 event independently.

**Rainy Day Books**, Kansas City, KS  
**Bookseller**

August 2018-February 2020

- Provide customer service in the store and at on-site and off-site author events ranging from 20 to 1200 attendees. From March 2019-February 2020: Facilitate a monthly book club.

**LiveABC Interactive Corporation**, Taipei, Taiwan  
**English Editor & Visiting Teacher**

August 2011-February 2013

- Develop and write curriculum for Mandarin-speaking English language learners. Visit participating schools to teach one-day workshops and judge storytelling contests.

## **EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Reviews Editor**, *The New Territory*, 2022-Present.

**Associate Fiction Editor**, *West Trade Review*, 2021-2022.

**Contributing Editor**, *The Southampton Review*, 2015-2017.

**Editorial Board Member - Fiction**, *Newtown Literary*, 2014-2017.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### ***Fiction***

- "Dust Thou Art," short story, *Pleiades*, Winter 2021.
- "The Other Heartbeat," short story, *The Pinch*, November 2019.
- "Frostbite," short story, *The Tishman Review*, July 2018.
  - Nominated for The Pushcart Prize, 2018.
- "Selah," novel excerpt, *The Southampton Review*, Summer/Fall 2017.
- "I Must Conclude That You Are a Lesbian," short story, *Newtown Literary*, Spring/Summer 2014.

### ***Creative Non-Fiction***

- “Take Good Care,” *Grist*, 2024 (Expected).

### ***Interviews & Reviews***

- “Interview: Sarah Blake,” interview with Sarah Blake on her novel *Clean Air*, *CRAFT*, February 2023.
- “Leaving the Church to Find Spiritual Nourishment,” interview with Jeanna Kadlec on her memoir *Heretic*, *Electric Literature*, November 2022.
- “A Weird Hall of Mirrors,” interview with Coco Picard on her novel *The Healing Circle, Vol. 1 Brooklyn*, August 2022.
- “Transcending Intolerance and Living with Paradox,” book review of memoir *Burning Butch* by R/B Mertz, *West Trade Review*, April 2022.
- “Wrestling as Faith and Creed,” book review of novella *The Church of Wrestling* by Emily Thomas Mani, *The New Territory*, Fall 2021.
- “When Your Father Is a Man of God, But Also an Adulterer,” interview with Kelsey McKinney on her novel *God Spare the Girls*, *Electric Literature*, June 2021.

### **FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES**

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**Charlotte Street Foundation Studio Residency**, June 2021-May 2023.

**BookEnds Fellowship**, Stony Brook University, July 2020-July 2021.

**Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts Residency**, January 2019.

### **READINGS & ARTIST TALKS**

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- Open Studios, Charlotte Street Foundation, April 2023.
- Slide Slam, Charlotte Street Foundation, June 2022.
- Open Studios, Charlotte Street Foundation, April 2022.
- BookEnds Fellows Reading, Stony Brook University, July 2021.
- Slide Slam, Charlotte Street Foundation, June 2021.
- Open House, Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, January 2019.
- Southampton Writers Conference, Stony Brook University, July 2016.
- Split Words Reading Series, Stony Brook University, April 2016.
- Newtown Literary Issue 4 Reading, October 2014.

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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**Curator**, Split Words Reading Series, Stony Brook University, 2016-2017.

**Event Coordinator**, Newtown Literary Alliance, 2014-2015.