

Community Building

Escape to Create and Emerald Coast Storytellers celebrate literary art

By Christy Milliken
Marketing and Events Director,
The Seaside Institute

The Seaside Institute celebrated 30 years of community building and cultural partnership on Jan. 19 with the Escape to Create Arts Residency in a special program featuring esteemed essayist, critic, author and Seaside's poet-in-residence, Dr. Kristina M. Darling. The night also included a collaborative partnership with the Emerald Coast Storytellers.

The evening opened with a wine and cheese reception followed by Darling's reading from awarded works and a writing segment guided by Darling for the Emerald Coast Storytellers writing group. Seaside founders Robert and Daryl Davis were in attendance and have supported the Escape to Create program and the artists each year. It was wonderful to welcome the community, celebrate Darling's works, and incorporate a new partnership with the Emerald Coast Storytellers.

Escape to Create Director Marsha Dowler puts a lot of heart and soul into this program, which began at the Seaside Institute. The program evolved over the years and later became its own non-profit organization. Thirty years later, the program continues to cultivate and support award-winning artists. Marsha has a supportive community surrounding her to pull off many events over a two-month period.

Kristina Marie Darling is a poet, essayist and critic. She holds a doctorate from the Poetics Program at S.U.N.Y.-Buffalo, as well as an M.F.A. from New York University. She is editor-in-chief of Tupelo Press and Tupelo Quarterly.

A 2023 Visiting Scholar at the University of Cambridge, Dr. Darling is the author of 39 books, including:

- "Look to Your Left: A Feminist Poetics of Spectacle"
- "Stylistic Innovation, Conscious Experience, and the Self in Modernist Women's Poetry"
- "Collaborative Poetry in the New Century"
- "Silence in Contemporary Poetry"
- "Silent Refusal: Essays on Contemporary Feminist Writing"
- "Daylight Has Already Come: Selected Poems 2014 - 2020"
- "Je Suis L'Autre: Essays & Interrogations," named one of the Best Books of 2017 by The Brooklyn Rail
- "DARK HORSE: Poems," which received a starred review in Publishers Weekly

Her work has been recognized with residencies at many art centers throughout the world. Dr. Darling



Dr. Kristina M. Darling

has also lectured on contemporary literature, poetics, the publishing arts and creative writing.

Born and raised in the American Midwest, she now divides her time between the United States, Greece and the Amalfi Coast.

This special program was supported by a grant from The Merchants of Seaside.

For more information about the Seaside Institute visit seasideinstitute.org. For information about the Escape to Create Artist Residency

program that takes place in Seaside every January and February visit escape2create.org. Also, learn more about monthly events by the Emerald Coast Storytellers by visiting emeraldcoaststorytellers.com.



Scan the QR code to learn more about The Seaside Institute.



Dr. Kristina M. Darling speaks at the Seaside Institute.



The Seaside Institute celebrated 30 years of community building with a reception on Jan. 19.

Photos courtesy The Seaside Institute

Thank You!

We wish to express boundless gratitude to our **artists, our contributors, artist patrons, merchant and non-profit partners** for your generosity and support over three decades. Together we have nurtured our beloved town of Seaside as a vibrant cultural destination that embraces the essential role of the artist in presenting ideas that enrich, enlighten, and transform. With special thanks in this landmark year for the generous support of the **Merchants Of Seaside** and the **Seaside Arts and Entertainment Corporation**. We are proud of our legacy role in serving Seaside through the artists of **Escape To Create** and look forward to launching our fourth decade in 2024!



A Celebration of the Arts, Life and Community Since 1993

**MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESIDENCIES
PERFORMANCE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**



THE CHAPEL AT
Seaside
FLORIDA
582 FOREST ST

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
EVERY SUNDAY MORNING
10:00AM**

You are welcome here.

If you would like to connect with us or be added to our email list for details about kids church or special service times, hover over the QR code with your phone's camera or go to thechapelatseaside.com/connect



THECHAPELATSEASIDE.COM
FOLLOW US @THECHAPELATSEASIDE