



Warren Wilson COLLEGE

Announcement: New Director of The MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College

Following an extensive and highly competitive national search, the MFA Program for Writers and Warren Wilson College are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Rita Banerjee as the next Director of the Program.

Rita holds an MFA from the University of Washington and a PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University. She brings rich leadership experience to this position, having served as director of two MFA programs at Vermont College of Fine Arts and Long Island University. Rita is co-founder and Executive Creative Director of the Cambridge Writers' Workshop at Harvard, and she served as Interim Executive Director of Kundiman. Her extensive teaching experience spans creative writing (including poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction), literature, publishing, and foreign language in graduate, undergraduate, and community workshop settings in the U.S. and abroad. Rita is the author of the poetry collections *Echo in Four Beats*, which was named one of Book Riot's "Must-Read Poetic Voices of Split This Rock 2018," and *Cracklers at Night*. She is also editor of *CREDO: An Anthology of Manifestos and Sourcebook for Creative Writing* and author of the novella *A Night with Kali*. "Birth of Cool," one of the opening chapters of her new memoir, *Merchants of Cool: How Female Cool Could Not Be Sold*, was a Notable Essay in the 2020 *Best American Essays*.

We are proud to welcome Rita into our community and look forward to working with her. We anticipate a great future for the MFA, both continuing its great traditions and welcoming changes as the field itself is changing. We are grateful for Debra Allbery's continued leadership and so appreciate her mentoring of Rita in this transitional time toward the June 2023 Residency, when Rita's directorship will begin. The MFA Board is ever committed to supporting all of our students, faculty and alumni during this transition. We know it will be a rewarding one.