

2nd Saturday

with the Space Coast Writers' Guild
Merritt Island Public Library

Saturday, March 13th
Critiques : 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
Speaker Session:
1:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Merritt Island Public Library

The Space Coast Writers' Guild will hold its next 2nd Saturday meeting on March 13th at the Merritt Island Public Library, 1195 N. Courtenay Parkway (across from the Merritt Island High School). There will be critique workshops from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. There will be a break for lunch and then the main meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. with networking and book signings. After that, the featured speakers will begin at 1:30 pm.

The speakers for the March meeting are cover artist Nancy Dillen and novelist David Johansson. Their subject:

A Book And Its Cover

Artist and art educator, Nancy Baur Dillen is Art Professor Emeritus at Brevard Community College (BCC). She was born and raised in Quincy, a small town in rural north Florida. She graduated from Florida State University with an M.A. in Art Education and Constructive Design in 1971. After graduation, Nancy moved to Melbourne, Florida, where she became an art instructor at BCC.

With her excellent background in art, Nancy already had a head start toward establishing herself in the art community. As an educator, she had the opportunity to work with and influence the art programs on all levels. While at BCC, she expanded the art program from a one-person function to an eight-person department. She taught a variety of courses ranging from drawing to ceramics. She has been a guest lecturer, juror, exchange instructor, and art consultant both nationally and internationally.

As a painter, Dillen's landscapes reflect the two worlds in which she lives... the real and imaginary. Nancy's current series of magic realistic oil paintings treats these concerns by placing symbols found in the local environment, along with fruit, vegetables, animals, and/or invented characters that inhabit her whimsical make believe world against the intense color and open space of Florida and other places she has visited and imaged. The intensity of color and contrast found in Nancy's works reflect her single-mindedness. Using her vocabulary of symbols, she makes a statement on contemporary society. To her, art and teaching are one. Each challenges the other to see the world in a new light.

After 35 years of teaching, Dillen retired in May 2006. She is now painting on a full time basis, creating art for public places, exhibiting and conducting painting and drawing workshops locally and nationally.

David Johansson was a British Council delegate at Oxford and



Novelist David Johansson and cover artist Nancy Dillen at a Book Launch Party in Melbourne

Cambridge. A Fellow at the Wurlitzer Foundation of New Mexico, he's published in *The Burning World*, *Poetry Motel*, *Anglo Files and Issues and Identities in Literature* (Salem Press, 1996). His article, *Homeward Bound*, appeared in *Reading the Sopranos* (I.B. Tauris, 2006). Johansson has lectured on literature at Tulane and Princeton; the University of Edinburgh, Scotland and Lund University, Sweden. In the 1990's he interviewed refugees from the war in Bosnia, writing for *Florida Today* and the *Orlando Sentinel*. He currently holds the **Vance Endowed Chair in English at Brevard Community College**. *Skin of Sunset* (Squire Press, 2009) is his first novel.

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