



University
of Victoria
Centre for Studies
in Religion & Society

Centre for Studies in Religion and Society Public Lecture Series

The Windspir Sisters: a magic realist novel about an asylum and the afterlife

Laura Trunkey

Thursday, April 12th

4:30- 5:30 pm

UVic, David Strong Building, Room C118

In her fiction Laura Trunkey often firmly embeds the spiritual within a tangible reality. Of her short story collection, *Double Dutch*, the *Quill and Quire* said: “The overall effect of the collection is to make us feel that reality contains within it a spiritual dimension.”

Laura will read from her manuscript in process, *The Windspir Sisters*, a magic realist novel that explores the concepts of the afterlife, nineteenth century asylums, and female hysteria – including its documentation through wet plate photography in the style of the “Hysteria Photographs” from the Pitié-Salpêtrière in Paris. Told through the voice of one of two surviving sextuplets, it is set both in a fictional 1890’s and in “The White” – a transitional space between life and death.

Laura Trunkey’s short fiction collection *Double Dutch* (Astoria, 2016) was a finalist for the Butler Book Prize and the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, and was selected as an Indies Introduce title by the American Booksellers Association. Previous stories have appeared in journals and magazines across Canada and in the anthology *Darwin’s Bastards: Astounding Tales from Tomorrow* (D&M, 2010). Laura received her MFA in Creative Writing through UBC’s Optional Residency program in 2009. She is the Co-Artistic Director of the Victoria Festival of Authors.

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