

Event Title: Writing the Wound: How to Write Trauma Ethically

Event Description:

Our wounds are the openings to our deepest selves. The craving for connection in these soft and tender places and the instinct to seek out witnesses to our scars are universal. But how can we ensure we are writing toward healing, rather than re-traumatization? And how do we write ethically about those who have hurt us? Panelists working in fiction, nonfiction, poetry and graphic storytelling will discuss their personal experiences and best practice principals for writing trauma ethically.

Event Category: Multiple Literary Genres Craft

Participants:

Aubrey Hirsch (moderator) is a writer, illustrator and current NEA fellow. She is the author of *Why We Never Talk About Sugar*, a short story collection. Her stories, essays and comics have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vox*, *The Nib*, *TIME*, *American Short Fiction*, *Black Warrior Review*, and elsewhere.

Roxane Gay's writing appears in *Best American Mystery Stories 2014*, *Best American Short Stories 2012*, *Best Sex Writing 2012*, *A Public Space*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, *Oxford American*, *American Short Fiction*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and many others. She is a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*. She is the author of the books *Ayiti*, *An Untamed State*, the *New York Times* bestselling *Bad Feminist*, the nationally bestselling *Difficult Women* and the *New York Times* bestselling *Hunger*. She is also the author of *World of Wakanda* for Marvel. She has several books forthcoming and is also at work on television and film projects. She also has a newsletter, *The Audacity*.

Maggie Smith is the author of several books, including *Good Bones* and the national bestsellers *Goldenrod* and *Keep Moving*. Her poems and essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Southern Review*, the *Guardian*, the *Paris Review*, and *The Best American Poetry*. Smith is on the MFA faculty of the Naslund-Mann Graduate School of Writing and serves as an Editor at Large for the *Kenyon Review*.

Saeed Jones is the author of the memoir *HOW WE FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES*, winner of the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction and the poetry collection *PRELUDE TO BRUISE*, winner of the 2015 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry. His work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, *New York Times* and *GQ* among other publications.

Sumita Chakraborty *CHALK RA BORE TEE* is the author of the poetry collection *Arrow* (Alice James Books/Carcanet Press, 2020) and an in-progress

scholarly monograph titled *Grave Dangers*, which is under contract with the University of Minnesota Press. She currently teaches in literary studies and in creative writing at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor.