

## **EVENT TITLE: Unconventional Bodies Now: An Intersectional Reading**

**Event Description:** Join us for a poetry reading in celebration of bodies deemed unconventional by everyday society. Featuring five award-winning published authors living with varying physical and mental intersections, and ranging identities such as Black, Salvadoran, Mexican, Iranian-American, Indian-American writers. Come witness how the body works as a poetic tool to liberate, reinstate power, and most importantly return to self-love.

### **Event Organizer and Moderator:**

**Karla Cordero** (she/her) is a Chicana poet, professor, organic backyard farmer, and tía. She is the author of *How To Pull Apart The Earth* (Not a Cult) winner of the San Diego Book Award and Award-winning finalist for the International Book Award.

**Yesika Salgado** (she/her) is a Los Angeles-based Salvadoran poet who writes about her culture and her fat brown body. She is the recipient of the 2020 International Latino Book Award in Poetry, writer of the column *Suelta for Remezcla*, and author of the best-sellers *Corazón*, *Tesoro*, and *Hermosa*.

### **Event Participants:**

**Edwin Bodney** (they/them) is a Black, queer artist and educator who uses their work to intimately explore vulnerability and move closer to the nerve of their own pain, love, and legacy of joy.

**Aman K. Batra** (she/her) is a Punjabi-American poet, a libra, and a dinosaur enthusiast. She currently coaches youth poets, works full-time in education, and is obtaining her MFA from Antioch University.

**Sheila J. Sadr** (she/they) is an Iranian-American poet, spoken word artist, burnt-out grad student, educator, and new ameh/khaleh/auntie. She is a two-time finalist of the Stories Award for Poetry, winning the second time around. Their debut book *Birthday Girl* is out now with Not A Cult.

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### **Opening Remarks and Housekeeping Announcements**

Welcome to “Unconventional Bodies Now: An Intersectional Reading”  
Introduction to the zoom space and here is our outline for today’s event:  
Bio introduction and poetry reading from each participant  
Collaborative question and answer segment

## **Participant Initial Remarks**

**Karla Cordero:** I will define and discuss the phrase ‘unconventional body’ according to my own experiences as a Chicana living with an autoimmune disease. The two poems I’ll be sharing highlight my experiences with finding self-love and power, one during a physical therapy appointment and the second coming to terms with my body and motherhood.

**Yesika Salgado**

**Sheila J. Sadr**

**Aman K. Batra**

**Edwin Bodney:** I will highlight my experiences as a Black, queer, non-binary person living with an autoimmune disease, my relationship to my body, the intimacy I share with myself and others, and how I survive and thrive in my Blackness in a world that tries to threaten my furious joy.

## **Moderator Questions**

- 1) What does having unconventional bodies mean to you?
- 2) What kinds of celebrations and/or challenges have you encountered being a poet in an unconventional body?
- 3) What dreams do you see existing for unconventional bodies in literature?

## **Stay connected to our participants and follow them on social media**

Karla Cordero	IG @karlaflaka13
Yesika Salgado	IG @yesikastarr
Sheila J. Sadr	IG @ohohsheilaa
Aman K. Batra	IG @amankbatra
Edwin Bodney	IG @mx.ocean