

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