

AWP 2022

Event Title:

“n/evergreen: Arab/Indigenous Ecopoesis & Environmental Literatures” Panel

Panelists:

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Micaela Kaibni Raen, Amir Rabiya, feras hilal, & Janine Mogannam

Event Organizer & Moderator:

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán

Event Description:

Pluralizing and problematizing simplistic notions of land/sky/water, womanist and queer/trans Palestinian and mixed-race Arab/Indigenous poets, non/fiction writers, performers, and editors examine the ways space and place shape and guide our work. Surfacing stories grounded in geohistory, this panel will discuss the connections between Nations and narration, bodies (of work) and the lands and waters from which they emerge, decolonizing dialogues of ecopoetic and environmental literatures.

Statement of Value:

Furthering conversations in intersectional, Arab, Indigenous, and place-based art-making, this panel welcomes editors, writers, and educators surfacing stories grounded in geohistory. This gathering of artists, educators, and editors complicates and elucidates, unweaves and reweaves, the enlacings of urban ecology, terrestrial testimony, the nations within our narration—showing how Arab/Indigenities are deeply rooted, despite diaspora, underneath the urban.

Event Agenda:

1. The audience will be welcomed.
2. Panel will begin with Indigenous land acknowledgment.
3. Accessibility will be discussed.
4. The panel will be described, agenda forecast, and panelists introduced.
5. Each panelist will present.
6. There will be a dialogue beginning with questions from the moderator and then panelists.
7. The panelists and audience will be thanked.

Presenter Bios:

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, an NEA and Tulsa Artist Fellow, is the author of *Archipiélagos*; *Antes y después del Bronx: Lenapehoking*; and *South Bronx Breathing Lessons*. He edited *Yellow Medicine Review*'s global queer Indigenous issue and co-edited *Movement Research Performance Journal*'s Native issue.

Micaela Kaibni Raen is a Palestinian lesbian poet and non/fiction writer, community organizer and advocate, and international human rights activist. She is a member of the Radius of Arab American Writers, Inc. Her work appears in *Bint el Nas*, *Yellow Medicine Review*, and *The Poetry of Arab Women*.

Amir Rabiya is a librarian and author of the poetry book, *Prayers for My 17th Chromosome*. They co-edited *Writing the Walls Down: A Convergence of LGBTQ Voices*. A VONA fellow, their writing appears in *Sukoon*; *Feminist Formations*; and *Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics*.

feras hilal is a brown queer Muslim Palestinian writer/performer living on Cahuilla land. They were a Radius of Arab American Writers and Los Angeles Review of Books writing workshop fellow. They are completing a speculative mixed-genre fiction/poetry project that imagines a liberated Palestine.

Janine Mogannam is a queer Palestinian librarian, writer, VONA alum, and member of Still Here San Francisco and Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI). She has performed at Split This Rock, Litquake, and National Queer Arts Festival; and is published in *Kweli*, *Dismantle*, and *Writing the Walls Down*.

Presentation Notes:

Micaela Kaibni Raen

I have been an activist for over 30 years in the LGBT+ and Arab-American communities. My mission is to raise awareness about the need for global human rights reform for LGBT+ communities and for all people. In today's panel, I am excited to read a new work that is comprised of both poem and poetic narrative. It is entitled "Erosion" and is written in three parts. In addition, I will discuss the powerful change that can happen when we connect around issues important to our communities and create an environment that encourages all of us to move forward with our work. It needs our voices and our creativity. You are in a community of creatives at this conference and our collective messages can spark historic change that can save not only ourselves and our homelands but can save our planet as well.

Janine Mogannam

Ramaytush Ohlone—the land on which I live and its people.

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Two poems I read, "meditations in an emergency zone" and "sacred city" were published, in slightly different form, in *Writing the Walls Down: A Convergence of LGBTQ Voices* (Trans-Genre Press).

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The two books I briefly mentioned during the Q&A were *Palestinian Walks* by Raja Shehadeh and *We Are The Land: A History of Native California* by Damon B. Akins and William J. Bauer, Jr.

Titles of Works Shared:

Micaela Kaibni Raen

“Erosion”

feras hilal

“an exercise in public displays of vulnerability, or, an epic of silenced mass catastrophic proportion”

Janine Mogannam

“People of Wheat”

“meditations in an emergency zone”

“sacred city”

“Horizons”

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán

Excerpts from “Emissaries from the Arab World, Envision: A Queer/Trans Arab Multiverse”

Links:

Micaela Kaibni Raen

Online Blog:

<https://michaelakaibniraen.blogspot.com/>

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YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MicaelaRaen>

Amir Rabiya

<http://www.amirrabiya.com>

feras hilal

“an exercise in public displays of vulnerability, or, an epic of silenced mass catastrophic proportion”

<https://www.fiyahlitmag.com/2021/12/13/an-exercise-in-public-displays-of-vulnerability-or-an-epic-of-silenced-mass-catastrophic-proportion-by-feras-hilal/>

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán

Excerpts from “Emissaries from the Arab World, Envision: A Queer/Trans Arab Multiverse,” text for my video of the same name, created for “So The Darkness May Glitter: Queer & Trans Arab Futures,” a screening curated by Janine Mogannam, for the Queer Cultural Center’s 2021 National Queer Arts Festival.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKtngJG1nis&t=965s>

The text appears in “The Experimental Issue,” Volume 22.2, of *Mizna*.

<https://mizna.org/product/mizna-the-experimental-issue/>