AWP 2024 Outline

EVENT TITLE: Writing Life Post-MFA: Unearthing the Realities

EVENT DESCRIPTION: Is life after your MFA not what you thought it would be? Do you have nausea, heartburn, and indigestion about your future post-degree? We're told to aim for traditional expectations. When this doesn't happen it is easy to despair. But the truth of what success can look like after receiving your degree varies from person to person. This candid panel covers a range of perspectives on what life can offer in the next chapter. What opens up when you change your preconceptions of what's possible?

EVENT CATEGORY: Artistic and Professional Development

Event Organizer
Jessica Nirvana Ram: Jessica Nirvana Ram is an Indo-Guyanese poet and essayist. She earned her MFA at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and received her BA from Susquehanna University. Jessica's full length collection EARTHLY GODS will be published with Variant Lit in 2024.

Event Organizer & Event Moderator
Tyler Anne Whichard: Tyler Anne Whichard is a queer Southern writer from North Carolina. She received her MFA from UNC-Wilmington where she interned for Ecotone as a fiction reader and worked on Lookout Books' 2019 release, This Is My Body. Her writing appears in Brevity, The Rumpus, and HAD, among others.

Event Participants

Susan Nguyen: Susan Nguyen is the author of the poetry collection Dear Diaspora (University of Nebraska Press), which won the Prairie Schooner Book Prize, a New Mexico-Arizona Book Award, and an AAAS Outstanding Achievement Award. She is currently the Senior Editor of Hayden's Ferry Review.

Aurielle Marie: Aurielle Marie is a Black and queer poet and essayist. Winner of the 2020 Cave Canem Poetry Award, Aurielle's debut, Gumbo Ya Ya, was selected as the 2022 Lambda Literary Award winner in Bisexual Poetry. She is the 2022 Georgia Author of the Year in poetry and writes from her hometown of Atlanta.

OPENING REMARKS & OUTLINE

Moderator will welcome everyone, provide and introduction to the panel, and introduce the panelists by name. We will then ask each panelist to discuss their background with the MFA.
We have four overarching topics to cover over the course of the panel with variations on questions based on how the organic conversation flows between panelists.

At the end of the discussion we will leave time for the audience members to pose any questions they might have for individual panelists or the panel as a whole.