1) event title: Memoirs-in-Essays

2) event description: The rise of memoirs-in-essays is upon us, but what purpose does the form serve? What even is a memoir-in-essays? These four CNF writers discuss why they chose to inhabit the space between memoir and essays and the possibilities inherent in the subgenre. In this moderated Q&A, panelists will discuss the contours of the form, the freedom of liminality, and the challenges of writing the in-between.

12:10pm - 1:25pm on Thursday February 8, 2024 (75m), Room 2502A

3) event category: Nonfiction Craft & Criticism

4) event organizer: Margo Steines

5) event moderator: Margo Steines
Margo Steines holds an MFA in CNF from the University of Arizona. Her work was named Notable in Best American Essays and has appeared in The Sun, Brevity, Off Assignment, Modern Love, the anthology Letter to a Stranger, and elsewhere. She is the author of the memoir-in-essays Brutalities: A Love Story.

6) event participants and short biographies
Maddie Norris
Maddie Norris is the author of The Wet Wound: An Elegy in Essays. She earned her MFA at the University of Arizona and before that was the Thomas Wolfe scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her work can be found in Guernica, Fourth Genre, and Territory, among others.

Natalie Lima
Natalie Lima is a Cuban-Puerto Rican writer, w/ work published in Longreads, Guernica, Brevity, The Offing, Catapult, Sex & the Single Woman (Harper Perennial, 2022), Body Language (Catapult, 2022) and elsewhere. She recently joined the faculty at Butler MFA as Assistant Professor of English.

Krys Malcolm Belc
Krys Malcolm Belc is the author of the memoir The Natural Mother of the Child: A Memoir of Nonbinary Parenthood (Counterpoint) and the flash nonfiction chapbook In Transit (The Cupboard Pamphlet). He is the Edelstein-Keller Writer in Residence Fellow at the University of Minnesota.

Hea-Ream Lee
Hea-Ream Lee is a writer and teacher. She received an MFA in creative nonfiction at the University of Arizona, where she edited fiction for Sonora Review and currently teaches undergraduate writing. Hea-Ream’s work appears in Ecotone, Shenandoah, Terrain.org, Popula, Hobart, and others.
MODERATOR (5m):
Welcome to Memoirs-in-Essays. A few reminders before we begin:

- For those needing or wishing to follow along to a written text, please let the moderator of the panel, (identify moderator), know, and a printed copy will be delivered to you.
  - Please make sure that spaces marked for wheelchairs remain clear of chairs or other barriers.
  - Treat service animals as working animals and do not attempt to distract or pet them.
  - Be aware of those with chemical sensitivities and refrain from wearing scented products.
  - Please be aware that your fellow attendees may have invisible disabilities. Do not question anyone’s use of an accommodation while at the conference, including for chairs reserved for those with disabilities.
  - Consider requesting that people in the audience mask?

MODERATOR:
Introduce and identify all speakers in the order in which they are sitting.

Maddie Norris
Maddie Norris is the author of The Wet Wound: An Elegy in Essays. She earned her MFA at the University of Arizona and before that was the Thomas Wolfe scholar at UNC-Chapel Hill. Her work can be found in Guernica, Fourth Genre, and Territory, among others.

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Hea-Ream Lee
Hea-Ream Lee is a writer and teacher. She received an MFA in creative nonfiction at the University of Arizona, where she edited fiction for Sonora Review and currently teaches undergraduate writing. Hea-Ream’s work appears in Ecotone, Shenandoah, Terrain.org, Popula, Hobart, and others.

PARTICIPANT OPENING READINGS (20m)
Now each panelist will read from their own memoir-in-essays (5m each)
- Maddie
- Natalie
- Krys
- Hea-Ream

MODERATOR QUESTIONS (35m):
1) What unique craft challenges does the form of the memoir-in-essays present?
2) What is the memoir-in-essays doing that is different than the strict memoir or strict essay collection?
3) How did you handle/How are you handling the treatment of time in your memoir-in-essays?
4) What unique opportunities in terms of idea writing does the memoir-in-essays offer to your body of work?
5) In your experience and opinion, how does the form of the memoir-in-essays interact with gender and/or race? What space have you made for yourself in the form?
6) What are some of your favorite memoirs-in-essays (your own and others’)?

EACH PARTICIPANT RESPONDS TO MODERATOR QUESTIONS:

Maddie
1)
2)
3)
4)
5)
6)
We understand this portion of the event may be more spontaneous than what can be planned for in a written document. That’s okay—it’s the nature of a live event. Each presenter should still be able to provide a brief written response or bulleted list of thoughts in response to planned questions.

If the conversation veers off in an interesting, on-topic, and productive way, that’s okay, too! The point of creating this document isn’t to hamstring you into delivering a completely rehearsed discussion or reading but to provide as much information as possible to those wanting or needing to follow along to a written text.

Q&A SESSION (15m)
Please pass the wireless microphone to the person posing the question or repeat all questions into one of the wired microphones.