AWP 2024: What Bookshelf Do I Belong On?

Event Outline

The event moderator, Grace Loh Prasad, will briefly introduce the panelists and topic (5 min). We’ll hear from panelists Simon Han, Jan Stinchcomb, and Prasad on the intersections of genre in their work, their publication journeys, and what has helped them succeed in finding an audience for their work (15 minutes). Then we’ll hear from Joy Castro, author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, on how and why she champions unconventional writing as the founding editor of Machete, an imprint of Mad Creek Books/The Ohio State University Press (10 min).

This will be followed by a general discussion of the merits and challenges of hybrid and cross-genre work (30-35 min), which may include questions such as:

- Do genre distinctions help us, hurt us or both?
- Who does genre serve... Editors? Agents? Bookstores? Readers?
- What is the value of hybrid, cross-genre work?
- What are some of your favorite books that are hybrid or defy categorization?
- Which literary magazines and/or publishers are open to cross-genre, innovative writing?
- Any other advice for writers of unconventional work?

Finally we’ll open up to audience questions for the remaining time (10-15 min).

Panelists

- Joy Castro is the author of four novels, a short fiction collection, an essay collection, and a memoir. She edited the craft anthology *Family Trouble: Memoirists on the Hazards and Rewards of Revealing Family* and serves as the founding editor of Machete, a series in innovative literary nonfiction.
- Jan Stinchcomb is the author of the novel, *Verushka* (JournalStone, 2023). Her two novellas and chapbook were also published by independent presses. Her work, intended for an adult audience, sits at the intersection of literary, fairy tale, and horror.
- (Moderator) Grace Loh Prasad writes about belonging and diaspora. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times, Longreads, Catapult, KHÔRA*, and elsewhere. Her memoir *The Translator’s Daughter* will be published in 2024 by Machete, an imprint of Mad Creek Books/The Ohio State University Press.