

5TH ANNIVERSARY  
BAY AREA  
BOOK  
FESTIVAL

MAY 4 + 5, 2019  
DOWNTOWN BERKELEY  
225 AUTHORS • 100 SESSIONS  
FREE OUTDOOR FAIR



FOR TICKETS + INFO:  
BAYBOOKFEST.ORG

## Women, Gender, & Motherhood Programming

Saturday, May 4

10:00 - 11:15

### **The Legacy of Adrienne Rich and the Shape of our Feminist Future (Freight & Salvage)**

Jill Bialosky, Aya de León, Susan Griffin, Nell Painter, Morgan Parker, moderated by Sandra Gilbert

"The connections between and among women are the most feared, the most problematic, and the most potentially transforming force on the planet," wrote the legendary poet, essayist, and feminist Adrienne Rich. An early proponent of intersectionality (before the term was coined), Rich's ideas have profoundly shaped feminism. In celebration of "Essential Essays," a new collection of Rich's work edited by poet-scholar Sandra Gilbert, join a panel of trailblazing writers and thinkers—Rich's friends, colleagues, literary and scholarly descendents, and longtime editor—as they pay homage to Rich's legacy and consider her ideas today. Sponsored by Reed Schmidt.

10:00 - 11:15

### **What My Mother and I Don't Talk About: Writers Break the Silence (The Marsh Theater)**

Michele Filgate, Kiese Laymon, Carmen Maria Machado, Nayomi Munaweera

"Our mothers are our first homes and that's why we're always trying to return to them," wrote Michele Filgate in a 2017 "Longreads" essay titled "What My Mother and I Don't Talk About." The essay, which in poignant prose described the abuse Filgate endured at the hands of her stepfather and her mother's quiet complacency, went viral, then sparked an anthology. Join Filgate, along with contributors Kiese Laymon, Carmen Maria Machado, and Nayomi Munaweera as they reveal the secrets, scandals, and silences that stand between themselves and their mothers.

11:45 - 1:00

### **What Women Want (Veteran's Memorial Building Auditorium)**

Aya de Leon, Laura Lindstedt, Lisa Locascio, and Tamsen Woolf

Join a lively roundtable of four writers with very different novels that address the question of "what women want" in provocative ways. In Aya de Leon's series of feminist heist novels (latest is "Side Chick Nation"), feisty, sexy women rob the rich and protect the exploited. Finnish author Laura Lindstedt ("Oneiron") depicts seven radically different women from around the world in a bardo after death, interacting by telling their stories. In "Open Me," debut author Lisa Locascio has penned a beautifully written coming-of-age novel about a young woman discovering her sexual power. Tamsen Woolf's "Juno's Swans" tells a shattering story of friendship, love, and heartbreak between two women; it has been compared with the work of Elena Ferrante. With the support of FILI - Finnish Literature Exchange.

7:00 - 9:30

### **Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin: Film and Conversation (Freight & Salvage)**

Arwen Curry, Annalee Newitz, Kim Stanley Robinson, David Streitfeld

"Resistance and change often begin in art. Very often in our art, the art of words," said Ursula K. Le Guin in her courageous speech upon receiving the 2014 American National Book Foundation Medal. (She called for literary freedom and condemned unbridled capitalism.) Le Guin's impact on literature can hardly be overstated. Our tribute to Le Guin, who died last year at 88, will start by screening the recent documentary about her life, "The Worlds of Ursula K. Le Guin." A conversation will follow with Arwen Curry, the filmmaker; Annalee Newitz, journalist and author most recently of the novel "Autonomous"; Kim Stanley Robinson, Le Guin's friend and sci-fi legend; and David Streitfeld, reporter and author of the new compilation "Ursula K. Le Guin: The Last Interview and Other Conversations."

### Sunday, May 5

10:00 - 11:15

### **Goddesses, Grandmothers, and the Everyday Divine (Magnes Museum)**

Hallie Iglehart Austen and Vijaya Nagarajan, moderated by Arisika Razak

Start your morning by celebrating the Divine Feminine, as millions of women do around the globe. In "The Heart of the Goddess: Art, Myth and Meditations of the World's Sacred Feminine," scholar-practitioner Hallie Iglehart Austen shares female imagery throughout time, challenging dominant narratives about human nature. In "Feeding A Thousand Souls: Women, Ritual and Ecology in India," Professor Vijaya Nagarajan explores the ritual of Tamil women who rise each

dawn to create kolams, rice-flour designs that honor Hindu goddesses and incorporate concepts of beauty, mathematics, generosity, and even climate chaos. Moderator Arisika Razak, professor at the California Institute for Integral Studies (CIIS), is a healer, ritualist, spiritual dancer, and educator who practices an eclectic mix of Earth-based spiritual traditions. Sponsored by the California Institute of Integral Studies.

10:00 - 11:15

### **Resurrection: Reclaiming the Stories That Make Us Whole (Shattuck Plaza Hotel Boiler Room)**

Alexandria Brown, Mallory O'Meara, Cherríe Moraga

"If we forget ourselves, who will be left to remember us?" asks Cherríe Moraga in the prologue of "Native Country of the Heart." Start your festival experience by journeying with three remarkable writers who delve into the politics of remembering. Learn about a visionary designer who disappeared from the Hollywood horror scene, thanks to a jealous male colleague; a Mexican-American mother whose eroding memory endangers a daughter's connection to her roots; and—because "place" carries memory too—a region, the Napa Valley, whose reputation for lush vineyards and luxury homes eclipses its history of struggle.

11:00 - 12:15

### **Fierce Femmes (Florence Schwimmley Little Theater)**

Zoraida Córdova, Anna-Marie McLemore, Cindy Pon

No damsels in distress here! These powerful young women protagonists are almost as incredible as the writers who crafted them. Join Zoraida Córdova ("Bruja Born"), Anna Marie McLemore ("Blanca Y Roja"), and Cindy Pon ("Ruse") for a discussion on how their characters use their brains and brujería to devise a way out of serious danger.

11:00 - 12:00

### **Writer to Writer: Esi Edugyan and Tayari Jones (Chronicle Stage)**

Esi Edugyan and Tayari Jones

In our Writer to Writer series, two authors who are fans of each other's work come together for conversation about writing and society today. Novelists Esi Edugyan and Tayari Jones both probe racial injustice in their work, and both women have received considerable praise. Edugyan's sweeping, imaginative novel "Washington Black" was named a Top Ten Book of 2018 by the New York Times, and Tayari Jones' "An American Marriage" was an Oprah's Book Club pick for that same year. Edugyan uses magic realism to explore slavery and freedom in a stupendous tale that moves from Barbados to Nova Scotia to England. Jones weaves a devastating tapestry of a modern marriage wrenched apart by a discriminatory American justice system. With the support of the Consulate General of Canada, San Francisco/Silicon Valley and She Writes Press.

11:45 - 1:00

**On Not Mothering (Shattuck Plaza Hotel, Shattuck Ballroom)**

Sheila Heti, Emilie Pine, Grace Talusan

Whether it's by choice or chance, not mothering is still considered taboo. Talked about in hushed tones and regarded with pity or disdain, women who don't mother are made to feel like failures. But what are the windows of possibility opened up by a child-free life? What other kinds of nurturing can happen in its place? Brazen in their vulnerability, Sheila Heti ("Motherhood"), Grace Talusan ("The Body Papers"), and Emilie Pine ("Notes to Self") break the silence on not mothering, addressing the assumptions, stigmas, and surprising rewards head-on. With the support of the Consulate General of Canada, San Francisco/Silicon Valley and Culture Ireland.

1:30 - 2:45

**From Captivity to Power: A Remarkable Story of Women Rising Up (Brower Center, Tamalpais Room)**

Julia Flynn Siler interviewed by Lauren Schiller

In her third book, journalist Julia Flynn Siler shows that women have always fought for each other, even a century before #MeToo. In "The White Devil's Daughters: The Fight Against Slavery in San Francisco's Chinatown," Siler profiles the women who surmounted racial and class barriers to free sex-trafficked Chinese immigrants at the turn of the nineteenth century. Grounded in historical research, the book is an exhilarating tale of raids, bomb threats, and the 1906 San Francisco fire. Siler will be interviewed by Lauren Schiller, host of Inflection Point, the weekly radio program and podcast from KALW and PRX about women rising up. Co-presented with Inflection Point.

2:00 - 3:00

**Cathy! The Celebrated Comic Strip Creator (Chronicle Stage)**

Cathy Guisewite interviewed by Leah Garchik

She's baaa-ACK! More than forty years after the debut of her widely syndicated and nationally adored daily comic strip "Cathy," Cathy Guisewite returns with her signature wit and warmth in the new book "Fifty Things That Aren't My Fault," a funny, wise, poignant, and incredibly honest collection of essays about being a woman in what she lovingly calls "the panini generation." Join Guisewite in conversation with Leah Garchik, beloved Features columnist at the San Francisco Chronicle, for a discussion on navigating times of transition with humor and heart.

3:15 - 4:45

**A Unique Feminine Mystique: The Female Detective (Veteran's Memorial Building, Auditorium)**

Cara Black, Kjell Ola Dahl, S.A. Lelchuk

Come meet three writers who've placed dynamic women crime solvers at the center of their stories. Everyone's favorite Paris détective très chic, Aimée Leduc from Cara Black's "Murder on the Left Bank" confronts a cabal of corrupt Parisian cops, including one who masterminded her father's murder. Detective Lena Stigersand from Kjell Ola Dahl's "The Ice Swimmer" must solve the case of a dead man lifted from the Oslo Harbour while juggling a cancer scare, stalker, and untrustworthy boyfriend. Bookstore owner and PI Nikki Griffin from S. A. Lelchuk's "Save Me From Dangerous Men" tracks down men who hurt women to teach them a lesson, but when something goes wrong, she is no longer just solving a case—she's trying to stay alive. With the support of the Norway House Foundation and NORLA - Norwegian Literature Abroad.

3:15 - 4:30

### **On 21st Century Mothering (Chronicle Stage)**

Vanessa Hua, Lydia Kiesling, Dani McClain

How far will a mother go for her child? In Vanessa Hua's "River of Stars," a mother's love carries her across the ocean and then some, all in the name of protecting her baby. In Lydia Kiesling's "The Golden State," a mother takes her young child on a road trip that defies the conventions of the genre. In "We Live for the We," Dani McClain explores the power and responsibility of her own love as a new mother to a Black child in America. These three authors explore the voracious worry, stubborn hope, and deep love of 21st century motherhood.

3:15 - 4:30

### **Writer to Writer: Lacy Johnson and Carmen Maria Machado (Magnes Museum)**

Lacy Johnson and Carmen Maria Machado

In our Writer to Writer series, two writers who are fans of each other's work come together for a conversation. Carmen Maria Machado, National Book Award finalist and author of "Her Body and Other Parties" and the forthcoming memoir "In the Dream House," sits down with Lacy Johnson, author of "The Other Side" and "The Reckonings," which was hailed by *The Millions* as "a collection that converses with itself and the reader, asking us to question our beliefs and our roles in a system that perpetuates violence." The two discuss how they navigate their way through the thorny narrative terrain of abuse, discovering agency and power in the process.