

Meher Divya Manda

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- *Sicko Girl & Other Women* (Short Story Collection)
Penguin Random House, India and Feminist Press, USA, Spring 2027
- *A Town Like Every Other* (Graphic Novel)
Hachette, India Fall 2027

Works under Submission

- *Some of Many Women* (Poetry Collection)
Finalist: 2024 Gaudy Boy Book Prize, 2025 Colorado Prize for Poetry

Chapbooks

- *Busted Models* (Poems)
No, Dear Magazine / Small Anchor Press, 2019

Anthologies

- Kitano, Christine, and Alycia Pirmohamed, editors. *They Rise Like a Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets*. Blue Oak Press, 2022.
- Season 4 Yearbook, *Peach Magazine*
- Dupcak, Amy, editor. *Words After Dark: A Lit, Lyrics & Liquor Anthology*. LUCID RIVER PRESS, 2020.

Fiction

- Aliza, *Epiphany Magazine*
- Rainwater Candy, *Catapult Magazine*
- Mourning Period, *Cosmonauts Avenue*

Poetry

- Fragment as a Bit-Actor, *Ocean State Review*
- Fragment as Revisionist, *Wildness*
- Elegy for Earnestness, *Honey Literary Inc.*
- Dear Amma / Mai / Ma / Aayi / the tune of my breath in anguish, *Variant Lit* (Forthcoming)
- “Self Portrait as Love and Its Offering”, *The Margins*
- The Rains Catch Me By Surprise, *The Margins*

- Kneeling, *Barren Magazine*
- Sacrilege, *Kweli Journal*
- Some of Many Women, *Sporklet October Issue*
- “those girls”, *Pithead Chapel*
- Pillow Talk, *Parentheses Journal*
- There Are Other Ways To Say ‘I Love You’, *Air Talk* (No, Dear and Wendy’s Subway)
- A Citizenship Sonnet, *Glass Poetry*
- An Abecedarian to Mother’s Tongue, *Los Angeles Review*
- Things I Do Extraordinarily: For The Immigration Overlords Who Demand A Proof of Excellence, *Glass Poetry*
- The Other, *Winner of La Lengua Multilingual Writers Contest*
- Mother’s Tongue, Anomaly, *Newtown Literary Vol. 12*
- I Buy Mangoes to Lunch, *Lumina Spring 2019 Issue*
- WOMAN, *America’s Emerging Poets 2018* by Z Publishing

Essays

- On Anger and Becoming My Father’s Daughter, *Peach Mag*
- What Diane Nguyen Talking About Taking A Step Back, *Catapult Magazine*

Select Culture Criticism: <https://muckrack.com/meher-manda-1>

- Japanese rockers Kikagaku Moyo: ‘Watching people board a train – that’s psychedelic!’, *The Guardian*
- ‘Dhadak 2’ Is About Love, Death, and Caste in India, *Foreign Policy*
- ‘Jubilee’ Review: A Dazzling Homage to the Dawn of Hindi Cinema, *The Juggernaut*
- How ‘Garm Hava’ Reframes the Partition Narrative, *The Juggernaut*
- Casteism, Colorism & Culture: Indian Matchmaking Has A Lot Of Explaining To Do, *Bustle*
- Christopher Nolan’s baffling Tenet may be the definitive pandemic movie of our times, *Firstpost*
- The Big Sick’ film review: Kumail Nanjiani’s real-life romance makes for a heartwarming romcom, *Scroll*

CURRENT POSITION

Lecturer, Literary Arts & Studies

Rhode Island School of Design, Providence RI | Sept, 2021 — Present

- Teach seminars and workshops on Hybrid Literature, Cross-Genre Writing, Culture Criticism, Craft and Narrative, Film and TV Writing, Criticism, and Cinema, to undergraduate and graduate students.
- Taught catalog includes individual study projects for graduating students in memoir and dispatch writing, food documentation, poetry, and studies on hybridity.

- Focus: poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction, long-form feature reporting, criticism and analysis, South-Asian anglophone writing, contemporary American literature and BIPOC writing, American independent publishing, political literature.

Editor-at-Large & Publicist

Radix Printing & Publishing Cooperative, Brooklyn NY | Jan, 2020 — Present

- Manage the Publishing program at Radix: field and read manuscript submissions, select manuscripts for publishing, schedule the editorial calendar, revise manuscripts for publication, plan publicity cycle.
- Initiated The Megaphone Prize, an annual contest to recognize and publish emerging writers of color.
- Notable publications spearheaded:
 - *The Land is Holy* by noam keim; winner of the Evelyn Shakir Nonfiction Award at the Arab American Book Awards and Bronze Winner in Essays at the 2025 Foreword INDIES Book of the Year Awards
 - *Is This How You Eat a Watermelon?* by Zein El-Amin (2022); longlisted for PEN Awards Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Short Fiction
 - *The Solar Grid* by Ganzeer (2023-2025): a serialized graphic novel addressing climate change and capitalism, reviewed at *The Guardian*, *Salon*, and elsewhere.

Freelance Culture Critic

New York, NY | Mar, 2020 — Present

- Cover long-form articles, interviews, and op-ed pieces on cinema and contemporary culture, with a focus on South
- Author of the column “Dissenting Cinema” on movies that inform and shape contemporary Indian politics for *The Juggernaut*.
- Articles in *The Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Juggernaut*, *Scroll*, and more.

EDUCATION

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Fiction)

College of New Rochelle, NY | 2018

Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights

University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India | 2015

Bachelor of Mass Media (Advertising & Journalism)

K. C. College, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India | 2014

COURSES TAUGHT

- **Rhode Island School of Design, RI:**
 - Bollywood Calling: India Through the Lens of Popular Hindi Cinema
 - Mothers & Daughters: It's a Complicated Affair
 - Creative Writing: Cross-Genre Workshop
 - Introduction to Culture Criticism
 - First-Year Literature Seminar
 - *Independent Study*: Woman in Song: A Study of Music in Hindi Cinema and its Shaping of Female Iconography
 - *Independent Study*: Indian Identity in the Diaspora: Images, Language, Media
 - *Independent Study*: The Permanence of Transience: A study of Liminal Spaces and their Impact
 - *Independent Study*: Setting the Table: Food as a Catalyst for Story
- **Bryant University, RI:**
 - Fiction Writing Workshop
 - Arts & Creative Industries: Creative Writing
- **College of New Rochelle, NY:**
 - Poetry Writing Workshop: Introduction
 - Poetry Writing Workshop: Advanced
 - Research Writing Seminar
 - Fiction Writing Workshop: Introduction
 - Freshman Composition
- **K.C. College, University of Mumbai, India**
 - Creative Writing: Cross-Genre Workshop

HONORS

- **Emergent Ventures Grant 2026-2027**, Mercatus Center, George Mason University
- **Humanities Fund 2026**, Rhode Island School of Design
- **Professional Development Fund 2025**, Rhode Island School of Design
- **Gaudy Boy Poetry Book Prize (Finalist)**: *Some of Many Women*
- **2025 Colorado Poetry Prize (Finalist)**: *Some of Many Women*
- **Judge, Tournament of Books 2025**
Beautyland v. *Great Expectations*, [Judged by Meher Manda](#)
- **The Fatima Sheikh Fellowship**, *The Polis Project*: To support work on debut graphic novel, *A Town Like Every Other*
- **Best New Poets 2020 (Nominee)**
Poem "An Abecedarian to Mother's Tongue" nominated by the *Los Angeles Review*

- **Best of the Net 2020** (Nominee)
Poem “Pillow Talk” nominated by *Parentheses Journal*
- **Poet of the Week: Meher Manda**, *Brooklyn Poets*

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- **Lecturer, Bryant University** | *Sept, 2023 — May 2024*
Smithfield, RI
- **Adjunct Professor, College of New Rochelle** | *Sept, 2017 – June, 2019*
New Rochelle, NY
- **Workshop Lead** | Summer 2019
Manhattanville University, NY
- **Teaching Artist**
92nd Street Y | *Nov, 2020 — June 2023*
Community-Word Project | *Nov, 2018 - Jun, 2020*
Teachers & Writers Collaborative | *Nov, 2018 - Jun, 2020*
New York, NY
- **Adjunct Faculty, K. C. College, Mumbai** | *Jun, 2016 - Aug, 2016*
Mumbai, India

PRESS

- "The global love for RRR: Indian action film generating Oscar buzz", [CBC / Radio Canada](#)
- “But the film's anti-colonial message of two men rising up against the British Empire is underscored by a current of Hindu nationalism, said Meher Manda, a culture critic in Kochi, India,” [CBC](#)
- “Watching from afar, the USA-based duo Meher Manda and Mayukh Goswami felt compelled to start a “webcomic of dissent” that they called “Jamun Ka Ped”, [Hyperallergic](#)
- ““We exist to practice dissent and critique the administration for any anti-people policies. The handling of the COVID-19 crisis was an obvious subject to explore that,” said Meher.” [The Hindu](#)
- “Conversation with Meher Manda and Mayukh Goswami, creators of the web comic ‘Jamun Ka Ped’,” [The Polis Project](#)

- The Vast Potential of Graphic Narratives in Shaping Conversations Surrounding Socio-Political Issues, *Catharsis Magazine*
- Art against Hindutva: An interview with Jamun Ka Ped (Part 1), [*Asia Art Tours*](#)
- Jamun Ka Ped — Art Against Hindu Supremacy (Conclusion), [*Asia Art Tours*](#)
- In Conversation with Meher Manda, *Lumina Journal*

CONFERENCES

- **AWP 2026, Baltimore**
Panel: “International Writers Navigating Post MFA Literary Careers”
- **AWP 2025, LA**
Panel: “[Of Many Tongues: Diverse Traditions in Anglophone Writing](#)”
Ft: Meher Manda, Shastri Akella, Torsa Ghosal, Sham-e-Ali Nayeem, Raghav Rao

Panel: “New Mythologies in South Asian Literature: AWW”
Ft: Meher Manda, Torsa Ghosal, Jafreen Uddin
- **Page-Turner Conference 2025, Asian American Writers Workshop**
Panel: “Behind the Covers: Labor Practices in Small Press Publishing”
Ft: Tara Jayakar, Meher Manda, Jenna Hamed, and Sunny Iyer.