

Meher Divya Manda

Indian poet, short story writer, educator, and culture critic working on hybrid literature that challenges existing narratives on Indian womanhood. Currently at work on debut prose poetry manuscript and a novel.

WORK EXPERIENCE

TEACHING

Adjunct Professor, College of New Rochelle	<i>Sept 2017 - Present</i>
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- Developed intensive writing and reading focused curricula for introductory Poetry and Fiction writing workshops. Facilitated weekly workshops where students read from a range of classic and contemporary texts and drafted original writing, guided them through peer workshops and provided one-on-one feedback on their work. Helped them collate a final portfolio of original writing and organized literary readings that were attended by other students and faculty members.
- Facilitated introductory writing workshops on college writing with a variety of contemporary critical nonfiction texts and guided students through memoir writing, research writing, and critical writing.

Creative Writing Teaching Artist	<i>Nov 2018 - Present</i>
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- As a Creative Writing Teaching Artist with [Teachers & Writers Collaborative](#), [Community-Word Project](#), [USDAN](#), the [92Y](#), and the [Cooper Union Saturday Program](#), I teach concentrated writing residencies to middle and high school students at schools across New York City.
- For each residency, I build a cohesive teaching path, formulate weekly lesson plans to facilitate student writing, and edit and present a final printed anthology featuring student work.
- Taught residencies to elementary, middle, and high school students on poetry, personal narratives, and short fiction writing at Washington Heights Academy, The School of Contemporary Arts, Sheridan Academy for Young Leaders, The Fort Hamilton School, and The Bronx High School For Writing and Communication Arts, and elsewhere.

Adjunct Faculty, [K. C. College](#), Mumbai

Jun 2016 - Aug 2016t

- Taught creative writing to second-year students of Mass Media at K. C. College, Mumbai (ranked by [India Today](#) as one of the 10 best Indian institutions for journalism and advertising).
- Developed the teaching curriculum and reading materials, worked with varied writing forms like poetry, fiction, screenplay writing, theatre, and feature essays, organized the first of its kind MOTH Poetry Reading, oversaw grading and final evaluations.

PUBLISHING & WRITING

Editorial Consultant, [Radix Media](#)

Jan 2020 - Present

- Currently overseeing the editorial wing of worker-owned, independent publisher Radix Media, based in Brooklyn, New York.
- Soliciting manuscripts, setting up the annual editorial calendar, drafting editorial reports on submissions, finalizing manuscripts to publish, and designing a publicity campaign around each project are some of my primary responsibilities.
- I facilitated the debut [Own Voices Prize](#). I drafted the contest guidelines, oversaw the judging process, and the publication of the winning manuscripts. Currently leading edits for the 2021-22 projects.

Freelance Journalist

2014 - Present

- I cover culture — particularly cinema, television, and literature — that exists at the intersection of art and politics. My work has appeared in numerous publications. A selective sample can be found on my [Muckrack](#).
- My work can be found at [The Juggernaut](#), [Bustle](#), [Firstpost](#), [Scroll](#), and elsewhere.

Editorial Consultant, [Serendipity Literary Agency](#)

Mar 2019 - Jan 2020

- As an editorial consultant, I helped develop literary projects for Regina Brooks' Serendipity Literary Agency.
- Responsibilities included reading and editing manuscripts, developing pitches, co-writing sample chapters, as well as identifying prospective editors and publishers to pitch to.

VOLUNTEERING & COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

Co-founder and Curator, [An Angry Reading Series](#)

Sept 2018 - Hiatus

- Co-founded *An Angry Reading Series*, a monthly reading series highlighting anger, challenge, and questioning in literary work. I co-curate the lineup for each reading, with a focus on BIPOC emerging writers. I also design all the posters and promotional material.

Editor-in-Chief, [The Canopy Review](#)

Sept 2017 - Feb 2019

- Pitched *The Canopy Review* at the College of New Rochelle, developed its financial and creative proposals, brought together an editorial team, and set the foundation of the inaugural issue as Editor-in-Chief.
- Curated the selection of the final pieces for the first issue, led a fundraising campaign for the printing of the issue, delegated editing responsibilities to the editorial and reading team, co-designed the premier issue on Adobe InDesign & oversaw its printing.

Volunteer, [PEN Prison Writing Program](#)

Aug 2018

- Worked with Caitis Meissner, PEN America Prison and Justice Writing Program Manager, and Robert Pollock, Prison Writing Program Coordinator leading up to the PEN Breakout Event.
- Proofread the final pieces that had been selected for inclusion in the Breakout Event book and helped curate the Breakout Event, provided creative support with lineup choices.

Workshop Instructor, Central Library, Queens

Mar 2018 - Apr 2018

- Developed curriculum and reading material for an intensive four-week writing workshop on The Art of Storytelling for adults at The Central Library, Queens. Encouraged individual writing, facilitated classroom discussion, provided feedback on work and recommended readings from the Library for the participants.

ACADEMICS

- **Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing (Fiction, 2018), College of New Rochelle**
Took workshop, literature, and writing classes. Presented a prose poetry manuscript as my

graduate thesis under the guidance of advisor Dr. Nick Smart.

- **P. G. Diploma in Human Rights (2015), Mumbai University**
Pursued an independent one-year post-graduate diploma in Human Rights from Mumbai University. Presented a thesis on Feminism's Fourth Wave.
- **Bachelor of Mass Media (2014), K. C. College, Mumbai University**
Took creative writing, copywriting, journalism, film editing, photography classes. Graduated with a major in advertising, and a minor in journalism.

Awards, Fellowships, and Scholarships

- **Recipient of The Cerimon Fund Grant from Teachers & Writers Collaborative**
Earlier this year, I was chosen to receive the \$1,340 grant made possible by The Cerimon Fund from Teachers & Writers Collaborative.
- **Best New Poets 2020**, Nominated by [Los Angeles Review](#)
My poem, "[An Abecedarian to Mother's Tongue](#)" was nominated by Los Angeles Review to Best New Poets 2020. Result yet to be announced.
- **Rad(ical) Poetry Consortium Fellow at [DreamYard](#), NY, 2019 and 2020**
As a fellow, I attended workshops with poets Aracelis Girmay, José Olivarez, Vincent Toro, and Marwa Helal in 2019.
- **Winner of La Lengua Multilingual Writers Contest, [Lumina Journal](#)**
My poem, "The Other" was chosen by poet R. A. Villanueva as a winning poem for the La Lengua Multilingual Writers Contest.
- **Mentee, New York Foundation for the Arts, NY**
Poetry manuscript was personally chosen by poet Amy Lawless to mentor.
- **Finalist, Emerging Writers Fellowship, Asian American Writer's Workshop**
Made it to the top ten candidates for the Emerging Writers Fellowship of the Asian American Writer's Workshop, chosen from 150 applications.
- **Teaching Artist Fellow 2018, Community Word Project, NY**
Received training in teaching pedagogy as well as an internship as a teaching artist in a

fifth-grade classroom at the Henry David Thoreau School in Astoria NY.

- **J. N. Tata Scholar 2017, Mumbai, India**

Recipient of the J. N. Tata Endowment for Higher Education in the United States. Upon receiving a 4.0 GPA in my first year, I was elected to receive a higher gift scholarship for the remainder of my graduate studies.

Publications

Chapbook

- *Busted Models*, [No, Dear Magazine and Small Anchor Press](#), 2019

Anthologies

- *Peach Season 4 Yearbook*, [Peach Magazine](#)
- *They Rise Like A Wave: An Anthology of Asian American Women Poets*, [Blue Oak Press](#), Forthcoming
- *Lyrics, Lit & Liquor Anthology*, [Lucid River Press](#)

Poetry

- Self-Portrait as Love and Its Offering, The Rains Catch Me By Surprise, [The Margins](#) (*Forthcoming*)
- Kneeling, [Barren Magazine](#)
- Some of Many Women, [Sporklet](#)
- “those girls”, [Pithead Chapel](#)
- Pillow Talk, [Parentheses Journal](#)
- There Are Other Ways To Say ‘I Love You’, [Air Talk](#) — a collaborative project between No, Dear Magazine and Wendy’s Subway featuring poetry from poets writing during the pandemic.
- An Abecedarian to Mother’s Tongue, [Los Angeles Review](#)
- Dear Amma / Mai / Ma / Aayi / The Tune of my Breath in Anguish, [Hobart Pulp](#)
- The Other, Winner of La Lengua Multilingual Writers Contest, [Lumina Web](#)
- Things I Do Extraordinarily: For The Immigration Overlords Who Demand a Proof of Excellence, [Glass Poetry](#)
- A Citizenship Sonnet, [Glass Poetry](#)
- Mother’s Tongue, Anomaly, *Newtown Literary Vol. 12 (Print)*
- I Buy Mangoes to Lunch, *Lumina Spring 2019 Issue (Print)*

Fiction

- Aliza, [Epiphany Magazine](#)
- Rainwater Candy, [Catapult Magazine](#)
- Mourning Period, [Cosmonauts Avenue](#) (Forthcoming)

Nonfiction

- On Anger and Becoming my Father's Daughter, [Peach Magazine](#)
- What Diane Nguyen Taught Me About Finding Healing Through Failure, [Catapult Magazine](#)

Design

- Co-designed the first print issue of *The Canopy Review*.
- Shot the cover page of the novel *Lost Libido and Other Gulp Fiction* by Salil Desai
- Designed all the posters and other promotional material for An Angry Reading Series.