

Media Release

Tuesday 11 June

The Wheeler Centre and *Liminal* announce new festival, featuring Jessica Au, Brian Castro, Mykaela Saunders, Jenny Zhang and more

In partnership with *Liminal*, The Wheeler Centre presents a series of in-person and digital events across the weekend of **2-4 August**, featuring some of the most talented writers at home and abroad.

Liminal is delighted to announce the inaugural **Liminal Festival** for writers and readers. After eight years of conversations, *Liminal* is moving beyond print and screen for three thrilling days at The Wheeler Centre and beyond.

Audiences can catch some of the nation's most talented writers, artists and thinkers as they contemplate the ways language has dictated and transformed the culture around us. Developed by editor **Leah Jing McIntosh** and creative producer **Hasib Hourani**, the Liminal Festival is both a celebration and interrogation of where we are now, and where we might be headed.

About *Liminal*

Founded by Leah Jing McIntosh in late 2016, *Liminal* is an anti-racist literary project that aims to support talented writers and artists, with a focus on the Asian Australian experience.

Based in Naarm, *Liminal* publishes art, writing, criticism and conversations, and runs literary events, mentorships, fellowships and national literary prizes for First Nations writers and writers of colour, working to create new spaces and opportunities for community.

Upcoming Events

- Evelyn Araluen, Hasib Hourani and Mykaela Saunders discuss the intricacies of speaking and writing the colony's language. Join these three brilliant Indigenous writers as they discuss how language is co-opted to serve colonisation, and how we might, in turn, make it our own.
- Hosted by *Sydney Review of Books* editor James Jiang, poets Bella Li and Lucy Van think through histories, poetics and how to wield language on one's own terms.
- Thirty years after Brian Castro considered the 'new novel', three of Australia's most talented contemporary novelists Jessica Au, Brian Castro and André Dao discuss the future of the form.
- Critics Eda Gunaydin, Michael Sun and Cher Tan examine the present state and potential futures of literary criticism and the roles and responsibilities of the critic. Together they will attempt to propose a future for reviews that takes into account not only writers and editors, but readers and culture as a whole.



- Poets Andrew Brooks and Elena Gomez consider writing and reading as collaborative experiments. In this session, they consider writing about friendship and futurity, comradesly love and joyous passion as they move between poetry reading and conversation.
- Jenny Zhang and Panda Wong discuss the poetics of disgust, of abjection, and of grief. Poems can be glorious repositories for the goey, the disgusting, the visceral, the scatological. Jenny and Panda seek to answer the question, what can we read into such abject textures?
- Friends Jillian Tamaki and Lee Lai draw on their years-long artistic practices to think through the pleasures, pains and processes of comics making. Whether you impatiently page through panels or fall headfirst into the gutter, comics are a literary form that invite the reader in like no other.
- In poetry, each detail matters tenfold and weighs a tonne, but still floats easy, steam off hot coffee. In this conversation, Yanyi and Danny Silva Soberano examine the poetic form as a tool for knowing one's self and our surrounds.

The full list of events and dates are listed below. For more information, please visit wheelercentre.com/events .

Opening Night: Susie Anderson, Manisha Anjali, Evelyn Araluen, Brian Castro, Bella Li, Jennifer Nguyen, Mykaela Saunders, Michael Sun
Friday 02 August, 6PM, The Wheeler Centre

Language Under Occupation: Evelyn Araluen, Hasib Hourani and Mykaela Saunders
Saturday 3 August, 10AM, The Wheeler Centre

Visions & Revisions: James Jiang, Bella Li and Lucy Van
Saturday 3 August, 11:30AM, The Wheeler Centre

The Novel: Jessica Au, Brian Castro, André Dao and Lynda Ng
Saturday 3 August, 2PM, The Wheeler Centre

Critical Limit: Eda Gunaydin, Michael Sun and Cher Tan
Saturday 03 August, 3.30PM, The Wheeler Centre

Writing Utopia: Andrew Brooks and Elena Gomez
Saturday 3 August, 5PM, The Wheeler Centre

Yesterday's Goo: Jenny Zhang and Panda Wong
Sunday 4 August, Digital

Linework: Jillian Tamaki and Lee Lai
Sunday 4 August, Digital

Little Fates: Yanyi and Danny Soberano



The Wheeler Centre
Books Writing Ideas

176 Little Lonsdale Street
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Sunday 4 August, Digital

- ENDS -

Media centre:

Author images available [here](#)

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The Wheeler Centre is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks, and exists to support writers, readers and thinkers. Through live and digital conversations, debates, readings, performances and discussions, it deepens public engagement with the most pressing topics of the day. It is dedicated to creative collaboration, community engagement, diversity, and innovation.

wheelercentre.com

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