

NICOLE J. GEORGES
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Nicole J. Georges is an award-winning illustrator, graphic novelist, podcaster & professor from Portland, OR and Los Angeles, CA.

She is the author of the visual memoirs *Calling Dr. Laura*, and *Fetch: How a Bad Dog Brought Me Home*. Her podcast with Oregon Public Broadcasting, *Relative Fiction*, won an Edward R. Murrow Award.

Nicole has been publishing autobiographical comics about her queer vegan life for the past 25 years, evolving from teen zinester to graphic novelist. Her work explores themes including identity, family secrets, queer community, animals, self-help, and the inner workings of a queer, punk feminist from a Syrian-American home.

Nicole was the director and lead artist in a 10-year-long, weekly zine & comics project with senior citizens at the Marie Smith Center in Portland, Oregon. Along with her collaborators, Nicole worked with elders with dementia and physical disabilities to translate their histories and lives into comics and prose, publishing these works as a series of zines and a book called *Tell It Like It Tiz*.

Nicole has been leading comics-based self-care and grief workshops worldwide since 2020. She has been commissioned to lead these workshops with the Shubbak Festival of Arab Culture, the Sequential Arts Workshop for cartoonists, and with groups of therapists and medical professionals from Oregon Health and Science University.

Nicole is the author of the long-running emotional support animal illustration series, *Anonymous Fuzzball*, which has been published as a yearly calendar and is currently being developed as a book project for Andrews McMeel.

CURRENT POSITION

Senior Adjunct Professor, Graduate Comics Program, California College of the Arts July 2014-Present

Jennifer Jahrling Forese Writer in Residence, Colby College Feb-May 2024

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Edward R. Murrow Award- Podcast	2022
Award for Graphic Literature, Oregon Book Awards	2018
Readers Choice Award, Oregon Book Award	2018
Lambda Literary Award Finalist	2018
Official Selection, Angouleme International Comics Festival	2016
“Outstanding Graphic Novel” Lambda Literary Award	2014
RACC Professional Development Grant	2014
Fellowship, Center for Cartoon Studies	2014
RACC Project Grant	2013-14
Sunburst Teaching Artist of the Year award	2013
RADAR Writing Retreat	2010, 2012
“Writers to Watch Out For” Lambda Literary Foundation	2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

California College of the Arts (San Francisco, CA) 2014-Present
Lecturer, MFA in Comics

Graduate Comics Workshop I: Visual Storytelling (Comics-6100-1)

Graduate Comics Workshop I offered cartoonists the opportunity to explore the comics medium through the act of making. Students completed a set of directed comics exercises which were collectively critiqued by the instructor and fellow classmates. The goal of these critiques was to identify strengths in the work and collaborate on strategies to improve the overall storytelling in each comic. In addition to the exercises, the course featured discussions of published comics and graphic novels, story generation advice, as well as guest speaker visits from across the comics publishing industry.

Mentored Comics Studio (Comics-6250-2)

This class was focused on the principles of story generation, visual narrative construction, and collaboration. Students demonstrated these principles through responses to readings, online discussion/feedback, and the creation of original work through writing exercises and guided cartooning assignments. Students created, edited and completed short-form comic assignments in order to practice the principles of storytelling and the effect of tools and page design on the narrative. They assembled a small publication by the end of class, and began to work and receive guidance on their thesis projects.

College of William and Mary
Donaldson Writer in Residence

2016

Autobiographical Comics, Reading and Creation (CRWR 476)

In this master class, students learned the techniques, tools, and theory behind successful graphic narrative, and compared the merits of autobiography with the emotional truth in fiction. We did close readings of graphic narratives from Ivan Brunetti, Lynda Barry and Craig Thompson, and created and workshopped original work through writing exercises and guided cartooning assignments.

Portland State University

2015

Visiting Assistant Professor, English Department and Comics Studies Program

Autobiographical Comics (ENG410)

An exploration of autobiographical comics and the art of visual storytelling. Students learned the techniques, tools, and theory behind successful graphic narrative. Lessons reinforced through readings, discussion, and guided practice.

Center for Cartoon Studies (White River Junction, VT)

2013-14

Visiting Faculty, MFA in Cartooning

Senior Thesis Workshop

A workshop in cartooning for experienced students, with a focus on developing storytelling skills for their long-form thesis projects. Close readings of graphic fiction and prose, paired with assignments for students to practice elements of craft and structure.

First-year Final Project Mentor

I met regularly with a small group of first-year MFA students to shape, workshop, and refine the storytelling and clarity of their final projects. Managed group projects and saw two large projects to completion. Participated in day-long sessions of grading and review.

Independent Publishing Resource Center (Portland, OR)

2008-2014

Comics Certificate Program Instructor, Outreach Coordinator

Fundamentals in Comics 2008-2012

An introductory workshop-style class on image creation, story-structure and graphic literature. This class discussed tools, layout and design, story structure, character, and clarity in visual writing. Students engaged in workshop and classroom discussion around reading and individual assignments.

Professional Practices 2008-2012

A seminar-style class of lectures in professional practices for the cartoonist. Included discussions of printing and presenting work, dealing with publishers and the public, and making a living as an artist post-graduation.

Outreach Coordinator 2000-2008

I oversaw the instruction and development of self-publishing workshops for the greater Portland community. I hired and trained volunteers, and partnered with local organizations to create literacy programs for teens, homeless youth, senior citizens and low-income adults. I worked as Interim Executive Director, sat on the hiring committee for the new ED, and co-founded our year-long Comics Certificate Program.

Literary Arts (Portland, OR)
Writer In Residence, Writers In the Schools program

2007-2011

I taught graphic literature in public high school classrooms across a broad range of age groups and socioeconomic backgrounds in fifteen-week terms, through a program run by Literary Arts. Created curriculum of in-class exercises, readings, and take-home comics assignments, culminating in a final writing portfolio and completed short story or nonfiction project. Helped coordinate public reading of students' work. Conducted individual and small-group mentorships for exceptional and motivated students.

Young Audiences
Teaching Artist

2006- 2016

Young Audiences is an arts in education non-profit serving school-aged children in the greater Portland area. I developed, piloted, trained and taught curriculum with this organization, and served over 8,000 students in classrooms for numerous 6-week residencies. Courses taught include Creative Nonfiction Comics, The Hero's Journey, Collage, and Zines 101.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Dog's Breakfast (Phase 8, 2023)

This 492-page anthology includes more than 10-year's worth of rare and never-before-seen diary comics. The fully-illustrated pages include personal stories of queer love, loss, dog death, and a glimpse into the behind-the-scenes process of drawing two graphic novels.

Fetch: How a Bad Dog Brought Me Home (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017)

This fully illustrated, 335 page coming-of-age graphic memoir details my relationship with a challenging rescue dog named Beija. This book investigates the concepts of home, family, and life as a queer artist. Winner of two Oregon Book Awards.

Calling Dr. Laura (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013)

Five years in the making, this fully illustrated, Lambda-award-winning graphic memoir begins with a palm reader uncovering a 22-year family secret and leads me to call the Dr. Laura Show, question my identity, the meaning of family, and the definition of truth.

Response Comic: Queer Family (The Nib, Futures Issue, 2023)

This one-page, limited color-palette comic explored my journey of letting go of the idea of queer parenthood.

The Beauty is in the Details (New York Times, March 2020) This full page, full-color comic was adapted from an interview with MacArthur Genius Award winner Lynda Barry

Interview: Alison Bechdel (The Nib, 2019) I published a fully-illustrated interview with author Alison Bechdel (Fun Home) about writing, family, and why we choose memoir as an art form.

Grab Back Comics! (Grab Back Press, 2018) I published a full color, fully illustrated autobiographical story about sexual assault for this Me Too-themed anthology. The Seattle Examiner said: "Georges' smart cartooning is absolutely disarming, and upends the reader's expectations."

Steal This Country: A Handbook for Resistance, Persistence, and Fixing Almost Everything (Penguin, 2018) I contributed a full-page comic about coming out, queerness, and honesty for this young adult anthology.

The Vanport Flood (Oregon History Comics, 2012)

I was the sole illustrator of this historical comic about the 1948 Vanport Flood in Portland, OR, written by Sarah Mirk and based on the account of a flood survivor, Ed Washington.

Tell It Like It Tiz: The Marie Smith Center Zine (publication ongoing, 2006-present)

This project blends comics, illustrations and writing to tell the stories of senior citizens and intergenerational friendship at the Marie Smith Center, an adult day facility in North Portland. All content is generated by weekly zine workshops facilitated by me and select volunteers through conversations with and art contributed by senior citizens.

Sister Spit: Writing, Rants, and Reminiscence from the Road (City Lights, 2012), ed. Michelle Tea

I contributed an 8-page fully illustrated tour diary from my experience on the 2010 Sister Spit literary tour to this anthology of the long-running counterculture institution.

Baby, Remember My Name: New Queer Girl Writings (Carroll & Graf, 2007), ed. Michelle Tea

I contributed a three-page autobiographical graphic-novel style comic regarding my defeated arrival home after a summer at Farm Sanctuary to this anthology of up and coming queer writers.

Food & Booze: Tin House Magazine's Best Food & Drink Writing (Tin House, 2006),

ed. Michelle Wildgen

As sole illustrator of *Food & Booze*, I created a cover and contributed 10 full-page and 20 spot illustrations to this book which collects the best of *Tin House* magazine's food and drink writing.

Invincible Summer: Volume II (Microcosm, 2006)

This is a 175-page anthology of autobiographical comics and prose, collected from my individual zine issues of the same name. Queerness, veganism, feminism, dogs, and heartbreak.

Invincible Summer: Volume I (Tugboat Press, Microcosm Publishing, 2002)

This is a 175-page anthology of autobiographical comics and prose, collected from my individual zine issues of the same name. Moving to Portland, coming out, veganism, dogs, coffee and heartbreak.

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

Relative Fiction: A Graphic Memoir

Relative Fiction picks up where my first graphic novel *Calling Dr. Laura* left off, exploring family secrets, my Syrian American identity, and what combination of biology and narrative make us who we are.

The Ballad of X-Ray and Koko (Holiday House, 2025)

The Ballad of X-Ray and Koko is a 200 page, fully illustrated graphic novel about X-Ray, a Syrian-American 7th grader who fakes her own death at the beach to escape an abusive family. In the course of her running, she (and her pet chicken) are discovered by Koko, a feral, nonbinary forest-child. This book is part love story, part adventure tale, and all about taming the parts of us that grow thorns to keep us safe.

PUBLISHED PODCASTS

Relative Fiction, Oregon Public Broadcasting

This Edward R. Murrow Award-winning, 6-part series investigated the secrets of my family, my history, and the intersections of identity and trauma.

The Gaymazing Race, USC Gender Studies Department

An examination and discussion of television show *The Amazing Race*, from an LGBTQI point of view. I interviewed guests with co-host Professor Karen Tongson of USC.

Sagittarian Matters, iTunes

This queer art & food podcast has been active for over 5 years, with 240 episodes. I have interviewed guests like Hannah Gadsby, Dr. Susan Stryker, Carrie Brownstein, and more.

SELECTED PUBLIC READINGS, WORKSHOPS, TALKS & EXHIBITIONS

Excuse Me, I'm Talking, Autobiographical Women Comics Artist Exhibition, Centro Centro Madrid (ES), 2023

Queer and Feminist Comics and DIY Podcasting workshop , McGill University Feminist and Accessible Publishing and Communications Technologies Speaker Series (CA), 2022

Child Psych Humanities and Arts Lecturer, Oregon Health & Science University (OR), 2022

Interspecies Grief Friday Night Comics Workshop, Sequential Arts Workshop (FL), 2022

Drawing A Line: Graphic Memoir, 2 week-long workshops for the Fine Arts Work Center (MA), 2021,2022

Self Care Illustration Workshop, Dardishi and Shubbak Festival (UK), 2021

Creating the Graphic Novel- Inception to Publication, Literary Arts (OR), 2021

Surviving & Thriving As An Outsider Writer, AWP Conference 2019

Artist Talk, Tin House Summer Workshop (OR), 2019

Dykes & Dogs Art Exhibition, Junior High (CA), 2019

Graphic Memoir Panel, Nonfiction Now Conference (AZ), 2018

"Teaching Graphic Memoir," panel presentation, AWP Conference (Minneapolis, MN), April 9, 2015

The 2015 Braithwaite Lecture, College of William & Mary (Williamsburg, VA), guest lecturer along with graphic novelist A.K. Summers, February 24, 2015

Fetch Book Tour 2017-2019

I gave book talks at Vassar, Dartmouth, Wesleyan, Northeastern University, the University of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Institute of Art, Miami Book Fair, Brooklyn Book Festival, St. Marks Place NYC, Temple University, the Museum of Cartooning and Comic Arts and more.

Calling Dr. Laura Book Tour, 2013

On this two-month cross-country book tour, I performed readings and artist talks at colleges and

bookstores (including Powell's City of Books in Portland), spoke on panels at conventions (including Wordstock), and taught workshops on graphic literature at public libraries.

Sister Spit Tour, 2007 and 2010

Nationwide queer literary tour including emerging and established writers and artists, including Eileen Myles and "Transparent" writer Ali Liebegott. The tour traveled to 27-28 cities within 30 days, presenting at colleges, universities, libraries and venues. Hosts included William & Mary, Brandeis, Barnard, Mills, Bryn Mawr, Scripps, and Smith.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

California College of the Arts

Recruiting and Program Representative, AWP, 2015

Recruiting and Program Representative, Comic Arts LA 2019

Center for Cartoon Studies

Fellowship Appointment Committee, 2014

Slate Studio Prize Judge, 2013

Independent Publishing Resource Center

Outreach Coordinator Hiring Committee, 2008

Executive Director Hiring Committee, 2007

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Rock'n'Roll Camp for Girls, Volunteer, 2001- Present

Volunteers of America's Marie Smith Center, Volunteer Artist in Residence, 2006-2019

Portland Zine Symposium, Co-Founder, Organizer, 2000-2006