

OPEN CALL



Am I Evil? Peggy Guggenheim Collection Edition Decolonial erotic writing workshop

Curated by Simone Basani with Ubah Cristina Ali Farah

Can erotic writing become a site for decolonial and feminist exploration?

How can we use the tools of erotic writing to uncover the power dynamics implicated in processes of colonisation, discrimination, nanoracism, marginalization, exoticization, abuse, and seduction?

These questions form the basis of *Am I Evil?*, a workshop open to writers of all sorts, aged 18 or above. During the workshop, participants will be in constant dialogue with each other through a peer-to-peer editing methodology which is not limited to “mere” editing, but is also an intimate way of communicating through re-writing.

Am I evil? is curated and conducted by Simone Basani together with, for the first part of the workshop, Lucio Guarinoni, who will support the process with their dramaturgical insight.

Ubah Cristina Ali Farah joins the second part of the process by contributing references and tools from her research, and by acting as a writing mentor to provide the group with professional feedback.

Am I Evil? Peggy Guggenheim Edition begins with an introductory lecture by Simone Basani about the legacy of Jeanne Walschot, the first known white female dealer and collector of African art, active in Brussels from the 1920s. The figure of Mrs. Walschot and the research of Gloria Wekker and Audre Lorde among others, will help the participants to read/see how whiteness is constructed (culturally, socially, historically) through looking and the touching the “other.”

Am I Evil? is part of *JEANNE. Or the Western Touch*, a collection of performative and participatory artworks curated by Simone Basani and Alice Ciresola. The collection functions as a research - and production - frame through which the curators invite artists, art practitioners, and researchers to create works inspired by the life of Jeanne Walschot. As the title of the collection suggests, these works focus, from different perspectives, on the way European or Western culture looks, touches, and relates to the Other.

The workshop takes its title from a semi-fictional lecture performance by artist Roger Fähndrich about the (sexual) life of African art dealer Jeanne Walschot.

IMPORTANT TO KNOW IF YOU WANT TO APPLY:

- Participants do not need to have previous professional experience in writing. However, they must be interested in experimenting with (erotic) writing. Participants must also have an active interest in what decolonisation means today and might mean tomorrow and be willing and open to question themselves and be challenged.
- The workshop is conducted in Italian. However, each participant can write in the language they prefer.

- Participants must guarantee their availability to join every stage of the workshop indicated at the end of the document in person. Should this not be possible, please let us know in your motivation letter.
- Please get in touch with Simone Basani at amievil.workshop@gmail.com if you have any other doubts relating to the workshop process: privacy, accessibility, conditions for participating etc.
- While we recognise that different types of discrimination are deeply embedded in the fabric of European culture, no intentionally discriminatory view will be accepted during the workshop. *Am I Evil?* is intended primarily as a space to challenge problematic patterns, not to empower them.

HOW TO APPLY

In order to apply, please send us a motivation letter (max 2000 characters) detailing:

- why you would like to join the workshop
- an erotic scene from a book, a film, or a song where according to you a character discovers something about the way they relate to the Other, and therefore about themselves. In other words, a scene where the erotic becomes a place for self-investigation about power dynamics, abuse, racism, and other discrimination dynamics.

Please use the language you are most comfortable with among Italian, English, Somali, Dutch, and French. Please let us know the language you intend to write in during the workshop.

Please send your letter by May 24, 2024, to Simone Basani and Ubah Cristina Ali Farah at this email address: amievil.workshop@gmail.com

Those selected will be contacted via email by the end of May.

CALENDAR

June 3, 5 pm: lecture-introduction (Open to everyone)

June 4–5, 10 am–4:30pm: workshop (first part) @ Peggy Guggenheim Collection

June 21, time tbc: online meeting with first feedback

June 24 and 26, 10 am–4:30pm: workshop (second part) @ Peggy Guggenheim Collection

June 27: public sharing moment @ Peggy Guggenheim Collection

CREDITS

Am I Evil? Concept and curatorship: Simone Basani and Alice Ciresola

Am I Evil? writing mentor for the Peggy Guggenheim edition: Ubah Cristina Ali Farah

Dramaturgical assistance for the Peggy Guggenheim edition: Lucio Guarinoni

Co-produced by Peggy Guggenheim Collection and radical_hope

Special thanks to Edoardo Lazzari

BIO

Simone Basani is a curator, dramaturg, and artist. His research focuses on participatory strategies and remembrance processes that have been or could be activated from a decolonial perspective. The main outputs of this research are curatorial, often context-specific formats, through which he invites other practitioners to collaborate.

<https://bureau-basani-ciresola.com>

Cristina Ubah Ali Farah is a writer and poet. She was born in Verona to a Somalian father and an Italian mother. She grew up in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, and emigrated with her family due to the civil war in 1991. She lived several years in Hungary, before moving to Rome, Italy. Her first novel, *Interamente*, was published in 2003 in "El Ghibli," a journal and important discussion platform dedicated to diaspora and migration literature. Ali Farah collaborates with various newspapers, including *Internazionale*, *la Repubblica*, and *Giudizio Universale*. Her debut novel, *Madre piccola*, (2007), developed from a short story that won the *Lingua madre* competition at the Turin International Salon, won the Elio Vittorini prize in 2008.