**Aurora Levins Morales**

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**writer • artist • historian • activist**

**Writer**

Author of poetry, prose poetry, creative non-fiction, essays and fiction published in books, journals, on the internet and performed onstage and on the radio. (See publications list.) Writings have appeared in dozens of collections, been translated into seven languages, been quoted in posters and bumper stickers, and have been honored to appear as graffiti on the walls of higher education institution bathrooms. Blogs on politics and culture at www.auroralevinsmorales.com

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Major projects include:

* *Cosecha and Other Stories* (Palabrera Press, 2014) A mother-daughter collection of stories, factual and fictional, with Rosario Morales.
* *Kindling: Writings On the Body* (Palabrera Press, 2013) A collection of essays, poetry and creative prose that explores the body as a site of pleasure, pain and political struggle. A strong new contribution to the disability justice movement, linking the intimately personal and the global, epilepsy and pesticides, the social control of dark skinned women's sexuality and the erotics of chronic fatigue, epigenetics and healing justice, community based science and what it's like to get health care in Cuba.
* Following 9/11, anti-war poem *Shema* was broadcast on Pacifica Radio network, performed at vigils and demonstrations nationwide, and circulated on the internet to widespread acclaim, followed by three years (2003 through 2005) as "Poet on Assignment" for Pacifica Radio's Flashpoints news magazine. writing twice weekly poetry commentaries on the news. Pre-recorded poems continue to air nationally on the Pacifica network.
* *Remedios: Stories of Earth and Iron from the History of Puertorriqueñas,* (Beacon Press, 1998) is a prose poetry retelling of the history of Puerto Rican women as part of a global network of related cultures and histories, from prehistoric times to 1954. Anthropologist Ruth Behar wrote: "There is no other book like Remedios. It is history, anthropology, poetry and myth; it is a song and a prayer."
* *Medicine Stories*, (South End Press, 1998) is a collection of essays on history, collective trauma, and “cultural activism.” The essay “The Historian As Curandera” is widely taught as an introduction to thinking critically about history.
* *Getting Home Alive* (Firebrand Books, 1986) Co-author of *Getting Home Alive*, a mother-daughter collection of poetry and prose about being Puerto Rican women in the United States. Critic Efraín Barradas called it "a landmark in Puerto Rican literature" and "the most important book to come out of the diaspora in a generation"
* Contributor to the landmark anthology *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color* in 1981, which helped to launch an outpouring of writing by US women of color, and *Cuentos: Stories by Latinas* in 1983, published by Kitchen Table Women of Color Press.

**Current Work in Progress**

*Filigree: A Norma Morales Mystery* Historical mystery set in Puerto Rico in 1897.

*Poet On Assignment: Radio Poems* Collected poetry from Pacifica Radio work.

*Cartas Abiertas/Open Letters* A bilingual collection of essays in the form of letters.

**Collaborative Artist**

Instigated and have taken part in many collaborative projects and performances, including blends of poetry, music and visual images, multi-genre radio productions, and collaborations with individual artists, including visual artists Lisa Kokin and Ricardo Levins Morales, musicians Luis Juliá and Rafael Manriquez, dancers Sola Sarmiento and Antoine Hunter, and a multitude of writers. As a historian, worked with a variety of people to convert archival documents, historical photographs and oral histories into performance pieces, radio documentaries, poetry, fiction and visual art in order to make history accessible.

Major projects include:

* Sins Invalid Annual Performances, 2009 and 2011. Commissioned collaborations with artistic director Patty Berne, John Benson, and Antoine Hunter. Sins Invalid is a performance project on disability and sexuality that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centering people of color and queer and gender-variant performers. Works include five text-dance collaborations, a poetry soundscape, a short video, and choreography and performance of a dance piece.
* California Puerto Rican Historical Society. (1998-2002.) Collaborated with photographer B.S. Kleider to document the history of Bay Area Puerto Ricans, mounted the multi-media exhibit *California Century: Puerto Ricans in the San Francisco Bay Area*, *1900-2000.*
* Latina Feminist Group. (1993-2000) Took part in a seven year process of mutual interviewing and discussion with eighteen Latina feminist scholars, resulting in the collectively written and edited book *Telling to Live: Latina Feminist Testimonios* (Duke University Press, 2001).
* Reclaiming Collective, 1992. Co-created large multicultural public ritual involving installations, performance and guided ritual activities.
* La Peña Cultural Productions Group, 1979-1981. Scriptwriter, performer and core group member. Collaborated with singers, musicians, actors, dancers and photographers to create a series of four lavish multimedia productions on themes in Latin American culture and politics. Casts included up to seventy-five participants in small ensembles.
* Third World News Bureau, KPFA. 1976-1977. Co-produced radio programming that blended news, poetry, music, spoken word and soundscapes for broadcast on Pacifica Radio.

**Multimedia Artist**

Emerging visual artist working in fabric, mask-making, photography, digital storytelling, collage/assemblage, scratchboard and soft sculpture.

**Historian**

Independent scholar with wide ranging interests, and an emphasis on community and public history projects. Have conducted several oral history projects, created performances, poster series, radio documentaries and web sites on historical themes, and researched and curated an important historical exhibition on California Puerto Ricans.

* *California Puerto Rican History Project*, an interactive website, including elements of the *California Century* exhibit, photographs, oral history excerpts, a blog and community forum, and opportunities to contribute images, recordings and text to the *CaliRican Community Archive*. (2012)
* *La memoria es*, a series of historical posters in collaboration with Ricardo Levins Morales, distributed free in the Puerto Rican mountain municipality of Maricao, with the series theme “La memoria es un recurso natural de Maricao.” (“Memory is a natural resource of Maricao.”) (2000-present)
* *California Century: Puerto Ricans in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1900-2000*, (2002-2006) a traveling exhibition of photography, text and sound recordings, produced in conjunction with the Hayward Area Historical Society of Hayward, California and the Western Region Puerto Rican Council. The exhibit drew audiences from all over Northern California and was also shown in New Haven, CT, Amherst, MA, New York, NY and at the Día de San Juan Festival in San José, CA.
* Lead historian for the *Latino Community History Project* of the Oakland Museum of California. Directed historical research and trained youth researchers for acclaimed model history project, a collaborative between the Museum and two Latino community organizations. Collected photographs and posters for the Museum’s permanent collection. Contributed to Education Department exhibit design, and to case study and teacher handbook.

**Education**

1997 Ph.D. Women's Studies and History, The Union Institute, Cincinnati, OH

1989-90 Undergraduate studies in Creative Writing/Ethnic Studies, Mills College, Oakland, CA

1975 A.A. Franconia College, Franconia, NH

**Literary and Academic Honors**

Gustavus Meyers Award for *Telling to Live,* 2002

President's Circle of Scholars Award, The Union Institute, Cincinnati, OH, 1997

Oakland Arts Council, Featured Artist in showcase exhibit and performance series, 1996

Fiction Writing Grant, Money for Women/Barbara Demming Memorial Fund, 1991.

Fiction Fellowship, Oakland Arts Council, 1989.

**Arts Residencies:**

Voices of Our Nations, CA 2011

Voices of Our Nations, CA 2010

A Studio in the Woods, LA 2005

New York Mills, MN 2002

Norcroft Women’s Writing Retreat, MN 2001

Hedgebrook,WA 2000

Women’s Voices, CA 1985

Women’s Voices, CA 1983