

NICOLE MORRIS

WRITER

Galway, Ireland x Los Angeles, USA

ARTIST STATEMENT

Nicole Morris is a Black working-class poet and essayist. After a decades-long career in the service industry as a waitress, she began writing professionally in 2023 while on the postgraduate Creative Writing course at the University of Galway, Ireland, under the mentorship of Elaine Feeney and Mike McCormack. Nicole is a recipient of the 2025 Irish Arts Council Literature Bursary Award, the 2026 Cúirt New Writing Prize, and is a Tin House Workshop alum. Her writing has been featured in numerous Irish and North American literary journals. She writes story-driven personal narratives drawing from her lived experience as a mother, a once-wife, an educator, and a descendant of generations of outcasts, survivors, deadbeats, dreamers, addicts, and the mentally ill. Her writing interrogates topics of identity, power hierarchies, harm/repair, intention/impact, and attempts to answer essential questions about who deserves to be forgiven, forsaken, or forgotten. Originally from Los Angeles, she lives in the west of Ireland, where she never tires of the wind or rain.

EDUCATION

Master of Arts, Creative Writing, 2024, First-Class Honours, University of Galway, *Ireland*

Master of Arts, Education, 2019, Prescott College, *Arizona, USA*

Bachelor of Science, Leadership, 2011, Union Institute & University, *Ohio, USA*

PUBLICATIONS

The Pig's Back, Issue 7, Winter 2026, Essay, "Hide and Seek"

The Book of Rage, Hajar Press, Autumn 2025, Poetry Anthology, "May Day"

Roxane Gay's *The Audacity*, Spring 2025, Online, Essay, "To Tell You the Truth"

The Stinging Fly, Issue 51, Winter 2025, Essay, "How To Get Rid of a Ghost"

Poetry Ireland Review, #144, 2025, Poetry, "I Dreamed About Dogs Again Last Night"

Blood Orange Review, 16.2, 2025, Online, Creative Nonfiction, "Take Care."

Indiana Review, Issue 46.2, Winter 2024/25, Essay, "Gravida Two, Para One"

Crannóg Magazine, Issue 61, Winter 2024, Poetry, "Brine"

Banshee Press, Issue 17, Spring/Summer 2024, Poetry, "Math"

Land, Language, and Belonging: Poetic Inquiries, Anthology, Vernon Press, 2022

The Breath in Our Bones: Poetic Inquiry in Search of Air, Co-editor, Journal of the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies, Special Issue, Vol. 19 No. 2: 2022

Inside Relationships: Critical Case Studies in Relational Communication, Contributor, second ed., Chapter 4: "The Social Self: Class, Race, and Social Context," Routledge, 2021

Glass Poetry: Poets Resist, Online, June 05, 2020

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Residency, The Cill Rialaig Project, County Kerry, Ireland, October - November 2027
- Residency, Arteles Creative Center, Haukijärvi, Finland, October - November 2026
- International Literary Festival Dublin, winner of the "Date with an Agent" pitch competition, May 2026
- Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Guest Reader, New Writing Showcase, Galway, Ireland, April 2026
- Cúirt New Writing Prize, Essay Category, judged by Molly Hennigan, April 2026
- Working Writers of Galway, Guest Reader, Quarterly reading series for works in progress, March 2026

- 2025 Award Recipient, Irish Arts Council Literature Bursary Round 2, Funding amount: €20,000
- *The Stinging Fly Podcast*, author interview and guest reader with Nicole Flattery, Dublin, 2025
- *Poetry Ireland Review*, Issue 144 Launch, Guest Reader, Dublin, 2025
- Cúirt International Festival of Literature, Guest Reader, University of Galway, MA Writing Showcase, Galway, 2024
- Tin House Autumn Workshop Alum, Portland, Oregon, USA 2024
- Disquiet International Literary Program, Lisbon, Portugal, 2024
- Roots.Wounds.Words Retreat for Storytellers of Color, Asheville, North Carolina, USA, September 2024
- Finalist, Disquiet Nonfiction Writing Prize, 2024
- Finalist, Indiana Review Nonfiction Prize, 2024
- Founder and Director, Sista Circle Summer Poetry Program for Girls of Color, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA 2021-2024
 - Designed and implemented two-week-long poetry intensives for youth ages 13-19
 - Each two-week session offers the youth trauma-informed, healing-centered arts education, rotating through poetry, photography, and clay.
- New Mexico Writer's Grant, 2022
- Guest speaker, 7th International Symposium on Poetic Inquiry, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2019

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- *The Braided Essay*, Lilly Dancyger, March 2026
- *Identifying Your Memoir's Essential Question*, Jane Friedman and Lisa Ellis Cooper, February 2026
- *Don't You Know Who I Am: The Art of Telling Your Own Story*, Alice Kinsella, Doolin Writer's Weekend, January 2026
- *Exploring the Self as Character*, Gina Frangello, Memoir Nation, January 2026
- *The Cohesive Power of Theme*, Carvell Wallace, Memoir Nation, December 2025
- *Death Poetics*, Rae Diamond, Corporeal Writing Lab, November 2025
- *Writing Through the Senses*, Janet Finch, Memoir Nation, November 2025
- *Memoir for the Apocalypse*, Melissa Febos, Memoir Workshop, Corporeal Writing Lab, October 2025
- *Experiments in Memoir*, Grace Loh Prasad, Tin House, September 2025
- *The Narrative Braid*, Lidia Yuknavitch, Corporeal Writing, September 2025
- *Microchimerism, Mythological Creatures, and Corporeal Histories*, Amra Brooks, Corporeal Writing Lab, August 2025
- *Writing from the Heart: Where Grief Becomes Art*, Eileen Vorbach Collins and Melanie Brooks, July 2025
- *Writing and Shame*, Susannah Dickey, Stinging Fly Online Seminar, February 2025
- *The Art of Navel Gazing in Memoir*, Melissa Febos, Boston Fine Arts Works Seminar, January 2025

CURRENT PROJECTS

Debut Essay Collection

Working title: *How to Get Rid of a Ghost: A Memoir in Essays*

30,000 of the projected 80,000 words are complete

Area of focus: Forgiveness

Four essays in the collection have been published, three in Ireland and one in North America

Memoir in Verse

Working title: *Here is the Magpie, There is the Sky*

Autobiographical examination and reckoning of motherhood, shame, and longing