

It is an honor to submit for your consideration the translation into English by Robin Myers of my latest book, *Nombrar el cuerpo* (Editorial Egales/Spain; El BeiSmAn PrESs/Chicago; 2022), named among the best Queer Lit of the year in Spain.

Naming the Body: A Queer Woman's Restorative Mapping of the Self is an attempt to celebrate and reclaim a queer woman's uprooted, mothering, ailing body and an erased identity through memory and language. This collection of sixteen units of text is written with unequivocal honesty, complete disregard to form or expectations, and only one goal in mind: to give voice to a silenced body. The result is literary patchwork, storytelling under the stars, a cry, a riddle, a manifesto, even a road map for the future!

With *Naming the Body* you would champion contemporary hybrid memoir in translation with a book that places the body at the center of so many realities through a unique, interrogative, and entertaining reading experience.

I am a journalist, translator and writer born in Spain and residing in the San Francisco Bay Area for the past twenty-five years. Besides *Nombrar el cuerpo*, I am the author of the novel *Patricia sigue aquí* (Editorial Egales, 2018), winner of an International Latino Book Award. My stories and essays in Spanish and English have been anthologized in a forthcoming title pending queer writing anthology in Spanish from the US (Ars Communis, 2024), *Antología II FIL Ciudad de Nueva York* (artepoética press, 2022), *Enviado Especial* (SEd, 2022), *Asintomática* (Hypermedia, 2021), *Los otros exilios* (Editorial Salta Pa'trás, 2021), *Locas y perversas* (Editorial Egales, 2020), *El cuento, por favor* (Ediciones Fuentetaja, 2007), and in the journals *Sinister Wisdom* (forthcoming), *El BeiSmAn*, *Revista Hostosiana*, *riverSedge*, and *Rio Grande Review*. I am also the editor of the LetrasUSA section of *El BeiSmAn*, a Spanish-language journal in the US, and

co-editor of the anthology of fiction written by women in Spanish in the US, *#NiLocasNiSolas* (El BeiSmAn PrESs, 2023). I delve into my identity as an immigrant, queer woman, mother, and Spanish-language writer in the US to explore subjects such as memory (digital, familial, and historical); motherhood; language; the body; and everyday life and strength as experienced on the margins. I am part of what has been coined *The New Latino Boom*: a 21st century movement of writers, editors, publishers, and other literary professionals that, aided by all things digital, are doing the work in Spanish and in the United States. I work as Director of Operations at feminist press Aunt Lute Books in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I live with my partner and our two young adult children.

[Here is my Linktree for your reference](#)

ABOUT THE SPANISH EDITION

Naming the Body was written originally in Spanish pushing the boundaries of gender and language, as it was written and published – kudos to my publishers – using inclusive language in defiance with the Real Academia de la Lengua Española rules in this regard. It was simultaneously published by Editorial Egales/Spain (the first and largest LGBTQ+ publishing house in the Spanish speaking world), and El BeiSmAn PrESs/Chicago. *Nombrar el cuerpo* was named among the best Queer Lit of the year 2022 in Spain by Qué Leer magazine, was recently featured in Newsweek magazine in its Spanish Latin American edition, and has been well received in Spain, the United States, and Mexico. It is being included in Spanish college writing courses in the USA and will be presented at the Miami International Book Fair as part of their Spanish Lit Program this coming November.

BLURBS FOR *NOMBRAR EL CUERPO*

Nombrar el cuerpo is located squarely at the forefront of a feminist canon that includes the classic *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, by the Boston Women's Health collective (1970), but also *The Vagina Monologues* by Eve Ensler (1997): literature that deeply and explicitly engages with the bodies of women living in a world of men. – Anjanette Delgado, *Home in Florida*

The author probes, investigates, remembers, and plays with discursive forms, recovering stories that lead her to reflect on the construction of the self. In *Nombrar el cuerpo*, María Mínguez Arias shares with us – through personal essays, poems, or blank space that's never blank – the memory of a pulsing body. This is its resistance. – Sylvia Aguilar Zéleny, *Trash*

Rarely do we have the chance to witness the birth of writing as honest and generous as *Nombrar el cuerpo*. I consider it a privilege. I'm certain that you, dear readers, will enjoy it as much as I have, and will want, as I do, to run over and embrace María and her world. – Sandra Lorenzano, *El día que no fue*

María brings her words all the way to your heart and leaves them there, drawing blood. But she also leads you inexorably to a smile – and often to a peal of laughter. Her ability to convey and generate emotion shines forth on these pages, masterfully brought forth from every cell in her body. Brava! – Mila Martínez, *Despierta*

Writing in a wise, untethered, and elegant voice, María Mínguez Arias presents us with a range of hybrid textualities. Every piece – poem, essay, meditation, or opinion – moves and touches the deepest, least tangible part of our being. Written against the patriarchy – or, better put, written as a critique of the patriarchy and its oppressive systems – *Nombrar el cuerpo* sparks both smiles and rage. Mínguez Arias’s writing “is located at that center of gravity where [her] identities converge: besides [her] identity as a migrant, [her] identities as a queer woman, a mother, and the occupant of a body in pain.” Her voice and her words don’t only bring them together, but celebrate them with defiance and ferocious honesty. – Norma Elia Cantú, *Cabañuelas*

PRAISE FOR *NOMBAR EL CUERPO*

- Among the year’s best in Queer Lit. *Qué Leer* (Spain)
- A panoramic view of the collective experience of womanhood. Reading this book is a surprising and beautiful journey. *Newsweek* (Mexico)
- Emigration as grief. A must-read for anyone trying to make sense of their bicultural identity. The essay “You Keep Leaving” pierced us to the core. *Ciudad H Podcast* (US)
- The body has always been forgotten by history. *Nombrar el cuerpo* offers us an incisive perspective. I’m floored. *Xochipilli Podcast* (US)
- An incredible book. It converses with Ana María Puga’s *Diario del dolor* [Diary of Pain], and it’s part of a long conversation about “other” bodies: those living on the margins. *Hablemos* (Mexico)
- Purposeful, creative, and sublime. *Maya Piña, editor at El BeiSmAn PrESs* (US)

- The author draws on the figure of the nahual, or indigenous totem, in identifying with a she-wolf in the style of Clarissa Pinkola Estés’s *Women Who Run with the Wolves*—a book with a clear influence on this masterful compendium of experiences and literary genres. *Imelda Martín Junquera, University of León, La agenda feminista* (Spain)
- It is very difficult to be a woman. I know it, we all know it. Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz said it, Virginia Woolf said it. Now it is María Mínguez Arias turn to say it, and it is critical that she does; through her own deconstruction... a deconstruction carried out through language. *Naida Saavedra, El BeiSmAn* (US)
- An intimate and collective text about what it means to be a queer woman and a migrant today. *Mili Hernández, Connie Dagas, and Helle Braun, editors at Editorial Egales* (Spain)
- Thrilling, frank, and lucid. *Claudina Domingo, writer* (Mexico)
- Expands our expectations of what we can find in a book of essays about intimacy. *Leonor Sánchez, writer and creative writing instructor* (Spain)
- We enjoyed it enormously, and it provided our students with a model of how to map the geographies of their own bodies. *Estela González, writer and creative writing professor* (US)

PRAISE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

- *Nombrar el cuerpo* helps you reconcile with life.
- I’m in a phase of developing and nourishing my feminism, reading, listening, taking notes, debating... Reading your book has been one of those experiences for me. Thank you.
- As a queer emigrant mother, your book spoke to me. Thank you.
- Engaging, entertaining, real. I enjoyed it so much.

- Reading your book made me feel hope, strength, and empathy, but most of all I felt like everything was going to be all right. Your voice also invokes my “village.” A village of immigrant women who can accompany each other in language, in writing, no matter where we are.
- I realized that I don’t understand anything about women’s bodies. I underlined lots of paragraphs and will have to reread it.
- I don’t think I knew the half of it. I have a lot to learn about women’s bodies!
- I wish all women would read this book! At least all lesbians, women with illnesses, women with disabilities, mothers, women writers...
- It’s a journey, an adventure in someone else’s skin that you come to feel in your own. It’s so wonderful to have a conversation like this with your own body!
- An important feminist book for our times.
- I can’t stop getting more copies to give away. All women should read this book.
- It shook me. All migrant women writers should read this book.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

María Mínguez Arias