



The Wheeler Centre  
Books Writing Ideas

176 Little Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000 Australia  
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## Media Release Thursday 20 June

### Roxane Gay to share her *Opinions* at Melbourne Town Hall

Ten years after *Bad Feminist* introduced her incisive cultural criticism to readers around the world, American academic and bestselling author **Roxane Gay** returns to Australia to reflect on a decade's worth of opinions. Presented in partnership by The Wheeler Centre and Now or Never, Gay will appear live and in person at Melbourne Town Hall for one night only on **Tuesday 27 August**.

**Erin Vincent, CEO, Wheeler Centre:** 'The Wheeler Centre is thrilled to present Roxane Gay in Melbourne and celebrate this incredible compilation of her work. Roxane communicates complex ideas with honesty and power, and this is a rare opportunity to hear her in conversation.'

Unapologetic, sometimes controversial, and always unflinchingly honest, Roxane Gay has built a remarkable career using her powerful voice to articulate the nuances of our most pervasive issues. Body image, civil rights, feminism, popular culture, social etiquette – you name it, Gay has written about it.

Gay's latest collection, *Opinions: A Decade of Arguments, Criticism, and Minding Other People's Business*, brings together a selection of her best nonfiction from the past ten years, a period she spent writing for the likes of *The Guardian*, *New York Times* and *Harper's Bazaar*, among other prestigious titles.

Roxane's return to Australia also coincides with the tenth anniversary of the publication of her first essay collection, *Bad Feminist*. The global bestseller swiftly became a cultural touchstone for Gay's exceptional ability to connect with readers across the personal and political.

For her only event in Melbourne, Gay will be joined by host Jan Fran for a conversation that considers the fundamental importance of holding complicated views in our complicated times.

Discussing her most strongly held views on the culture and politics of the past decade, Gay will reflect on her extensive writing career, her role as a public intellectual and social commentator and a life spent sharing herself and her opinions online.

Also presented by The Wheeler Centre in partnership with Now or Never and RMIT Culture is author, cultural critic and rave aficionado **McKenzie Wark**. The Australian-born, New York-based scholar is known for her numerous groundbreaking works of theory and personal autofiction traversing topics such as digital media, gaming, Marxism, and her relationship with the late novelist and playwright Kathy Acker.

In an intimate and expansive conversation at The Wheeler Centre on **Thursday 29 August**, Wark and host Sophie Cunningham will survey her life as a counterculture rebel, her vision for a world less beholden to the restrictive confines of gender and her own experience since coming out as trans.

[wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

Trading as Centre for Books, Writing and Ideas  
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Roxane Gay is presented in Melbourne by The Wheeler Centre and Now or Never. She is presented in Sydney by Festival of Dangerous Ideas.

McKenzie Wark is presented by The Wheeler Centre in partnership with RMIT Culture and Now or Never.

Tickets to both events are on sale now via The Wheeler Centre website: [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)

– ENDS –

#### Media contact

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#### Media centre

Images available [here](#)

#### NOTES TO EDITOR

- Roxane Gay will be in conversation with Jan Fran at Melbourne Town Hall on Tuesday 27 August
- McKenzie Wark will be in conversation with Sophie Cunningham at The Wheeler Centre on Thursday 29 August
- Tickets are on sale from 11am on Thursday 20 June via [wheelercentre.com](http://wheelercentre.com)
- This is Roxane Gay's only Melbourne event and is presented by The Wheeler Centre and Now or Never
- McKenzie Wark is presented by The Wheeler Centre in partnership with RMIT Culture and Now or Never

#### ROXANE GAY BIO

Roxane Gay is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling essay collection *Bad Feminist*; the novel *An Untamed State*, a finalist for the Dayton Peace Prize; the *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Hunger*; and the short story collections *Difficult Women* and *Ayiti*. A contributing opinion writer to the *New York Times*, for which she also writes the "Work Friend" column, she has written for *Time*, *McSweeney's*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Tin House* and *Oxford American*, among many other publications. Her work has also been selected for numerous Best anthologies, including *Best American Nonrequired Reading 2018* and *Best American Mystery Stories 2014*. She is also the author of *World of Wakanda* for Marvel. In 2018 she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and holds the Gloria Steinem Endowed Chair in Media, Culture and Feminist Studies at Rutgers University's Institute for Women's Leadership.

#### MCKENZIE WARK BIO

Born in Newcastle NSW, McKenzie Wark has lived in New York City for the last twenty years. She is the author, among other things, of *Love and Money*, *Sex and Death*, *Raving* and *Reverse Cowgirl*.

*The Wheeler Centre is Melbourne's home for smart, passionate and entertaining public talks, and exists to support writers, readers and thinkers. Through live and digital conversations, debates, readings, performances and discussions, it deepens public engagement with the most pressing topics*

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*of the day. It is dedicated to creative collaboration, community engagement, diversity, and innovation.*

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