

## Unique partnership creates *After Australia*, a bold anthology of speculative fiction by diverse writers imagining an alternative Australia

Independent publisher Affirm Press has partnered with [Diversity Arts Australia](#) and the Western Sydney literacy movement [Sweatshop](#) to publish ***After Australia***, an anthology of speculative fiction created by writers from Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds imagining an Australia after colonisation, after white supremacy and after climate change.

Edited by Sweatshop founder and author of *The Lebs*, Dr Michael Mohammed Ahmad, ***After Australia*** will be published on 9 June 2020 and features writing from emerging talents alongside established voices such as Claire G. Coleman, Omar Sakr and Michelle Law. The project is supported by a major partnership between Diversity Arts Australia and Sweatshop and by funding from an [Australia Council for the Arts](#) grant awarded to Diversity Arts in 2018.

This unflinching collection provides a glimpse of an alternative Australia from the perspectives of twelve of the country's most daring writers. Climate catastrophe, police brutality, white genocide, totalitarian rule and the erasure of black history provide a backdrop for stories of love, courage and hope.

***After Australia*** features writing from Ambelin Kwaymullina, Claire G. Coleman, Omar Sakr, Future D. Fidel, Karen Wyld, Khalid Warsame, Kaya Lattimore, Sarah Ross, Zoya Patel, Michelle Law and Hannah Donnelly, a Wiradjuri woman who provides a context for the entire collection with a prologue, interlude and epilogue.

Affirm Press publishing director Martin Hughes said:

'This a bold and provocative collection should be required reading for anyone who is interested in the direction Australia is heading, and in seeing our past, present and future from perspectives outside the mainstream. ***After Australia*** is another great project edited by Michael Mohammed Ahmad, who continues to impress with a singular, uncompromising vision and focus, and Affirm Press is proud and privileged to be involved in this important book.'

Dr Ahmad said:

'***After Australia*** is a testament to our country's greatest writers – who speak from the margins and shoot from the hip. The writers featured in this collection have come together to offer Australia an unflinching glimpse into our future. We hope that our book challenges Australians to confront the world we are handing down to our children and inspires our citizens to strive for a better tomorrow.'

Diversity Arts Australia said:

'***After Australia*** brings together some of Australia's best writers, thought-leaders and provocateurs. The works put forth by these immensely talented writers could not come at a better time – the urgency of their message is needed now more than ever.'

***After Australia*** follows on from a collaboration between Affirm Press and Sweatshop, who [joined forces in 2018](#) to establish a mentorship for Western Sydney writers from culturally diverse backgrounds to develop their debut novels. The first two recipients, Sydney authors Shirley Le and Sara Saleh, are currently developing their manuscripts with the support of the Affirm Press editorial team.

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For more information or to arrange an interview with the editor please contact:

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