



## MIU MIU LITERARY CLUB - "POLITICS OF DESIRE" PROGRAMMING

**DAY 1**  
**22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2026**

12:00 pm

**CONVERSATION - A GIRL'S STORY BY ANNIE ERNAUX**

READING by **Dianna Agron**

In Annie Ernaux's *A Girl's Story* (2016), the author returns to the summer of 1958 to explore the visceral sexual awakening of eighteen-year-old Annie Duchesne. As the narrative digs into the past, it reflects on the jarring collision between the protagonist's early encounters and the crushing weight of social expectations, providing a poignant lens through which to examine the complex intersections of desire and consent.

In what ways do social expectations shape the way we navigate our personal desires? How does the transition from adolescence to adulthood alter our perception of boundaries and agency? By confronting the "girl of '58," Ernaux navigates the paralysis of shame to find a new, shared understanding of the female experience. This conversation aims to shed light on the transformative power of memory, turning a private struggle into a universal testament to self-ownership and resilience.

PANELISTS: **Annabelle Hirsch, Lea Melandri, and Megan Nolan**

MODERATOR: **Lou Stoppard**

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1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

**DJ SET by AWESOME TAPES FROM AFRICA**

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

**SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE by IDER**

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**DJ SET by AWESOME TAPES FROM AFRICA**

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4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**LECTURE - DESIRE AFTER AI**

In her book *Ideal Subjects, The Abstract People of AI*, cultural theorist Olga Goriunova argues that today desire gets oriented towards abstractions. Not only do abstract ideas and norms interweave with desire, but new figures--results of data evaluation and prediction--stimulate and direct desire, articulating the world-to-want in relation to their operational repertoire. This condition poses new dangers: while we know how to resist older norms and categories, the new ideal subjects of AI seem personalised and prolific, requiring a new politics of desire.

SPEAKER: **Olga Goriunova**

MODERATOR: **Jennifer Guerra**

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4:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**COCKTAIL WITH MUSICAL PROGRAMMING**

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm: **DJ SET by RAREGEMS**

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm: **LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE by Private Joy**

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm: **LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE by BINA**

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm: **HEADLINER LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: **DJ SET by Haseeb Iqbal**



## DAY 2

23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2026

12:00 pm

**CONVERSATION - CHANGES: A LOVE STORY BY AMA ATA AIDOO**

READING by **Emma Corrin**

Esi is a career-driven woman who – after leaving a husband who failed to respect her autonomy – chooses to enter a polygamous marriage with the illusion of preserving her independence. In Ama Ata Aidoo's *Changes: A Love Story* (1991), recipient of the Commonwealth Prize in 1992, this choice becomes a poignant lens through which to examine the complex intersections of modernity, tradition, and female agency. As a prominent feminist voice in African literature who profoundly influenced writers like Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Aidoo reflects on the jarring collision between Esi's desire for freedom and the crushing weight of patriarchal structures that regulate romantic life and the complexities of the heart.

In what ways do social expectations and cultural traditions still shape the way we navigate our independence? To what extent modern women are ready to compromise their personal ambitions in a relationship? By confronting the reality of her choices, Aidoo navigates the nuances of power to find a new, shared understanding of the female experience. In this conversation our guest speakers explore the transformative power of self-determination and the challenges of modern love.

PANELISTS: **Francesca Marciano, Wayétu Moore and Gloria Wekker**

MODERATOR: **Nadia Beard**

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1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

**DJ SET by RAREGEMS**

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

**SPOKEN WORD PERFORMANCE by Jess Cole**

3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**DJ SET by RAREGEMS**

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4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**LECTURE – HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT CONSENT?**

In the name of consent and empowerment, women are urged to proclaim their desires clearly and confidently. Yet sex researchers suggest that women's desire can be slow to emerge. And meanwhile, sexual violence abounds. How can women, in this environment, possibly know what they want? And should we expect them to? Women are often urged to proclaim their desires clearly and confidently, even though the conditions for sexual desire in a world full of constraint and unease are not always favorable to eroticism.

In this talk, the author of *Tomorrow Sex Will Be Good Again* will explore the quandaries surrounding women's desire, sharing some writing from her forthcoming book, *Poor Freud*

SPEAKER: **Katherine Angels**

MODERATOR: **Elisa Cuter**

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4:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**COCKTAIL WITH MUSICAL PROGRAMMING**

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm: **DJ SET by Haseeb Iqbal**

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm: **LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE by IDER**

6:00 pm - 6:30 pm: **LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE by Tora-i**

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm: **LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE by Anaiis**

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm: **DJ SET by Private Joy**



## **DAY 3**

**24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026**

11:30 am to 7:00 pm

### **MIU MIU LITERARY CLUB, A SPACE FOR CULTURE**

Open to the public, the Circolo Filologico will be transformed into a reading room where visitors can pass by and read or explore the selection of books from the “Curated Library” by Rosi Braidotti. Designed to enrich cultural dialogue and a sense of community, this final, less structured moment aims to encourage discourse and enhance and cement the power of the written word.

During these three days, A Girl’s Story and Aidoo’s Changes: A Love Story books’ will be gifted to the public.

### **REGISTRATION ON-SITE**