



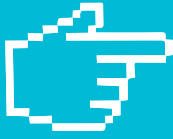
1
2020

NGC
Bocas
Lit Fes

18-20 
SEP 2020

ONLINE
www.bocaslitfest.com

CARIBBEAN'S
BIGGEST FESTIVAL
OF WORDS, STORIES
AND IDEAS



www.bocaslitfest.com



Shaping our destiny

This year, NGC proudly commemorates 45 years in the natural gas business. Through foresight and driven by tenacity we revolutionised our nation's energy sector, creating a framework for natural gas-based development that has earned us global admiration.

Now, we look to the future, ready to leverage myriad opportunities for growth. Guided by strong leadership, our imperative is to evolve as a truly integrated energy company, embracing green technologies, defining a new era of achievement and sustainability for NGC, one that will endure for decades to come.



MEMBERS OF THE NGC GROUP OF COMPANIES

This 10th annual literary festival is an unimagined reality. As the Bocas Lit Fest team approached 2020, our excitement grew, imagining how we could make the entire year memorable and suitably special after ten consecutive years.

I remember childhood stories that warned of being careful what you asked for, because you just might get it. We never thought we would have the opportunity to bring you something beyond our wildest dreams. We have had to acquire many new skills quickly and reinvent a lot of what we thought we had down pat. It has been a huge test, and I hope you will appreciate what our creative efforts have produced for our very first wholly virtual festival.

All year, we have been hosting literary events online, streaming on Facebook and sometimes via our website, occasionally

as many as three or four per week, most regularly two – but this year's highlight is the programme in our three-day online festival.

We retained as many elements as possible from our usual festival: readings, book launches, commissioned new writing, panel discussions, Stand and Deliver, the Extempo debate, children's events, and prizegivings. Sadly, we won't all be meeting up in person as we wander through the arcades and passageways of our beautiful National Library and Old Fire Station, where the spirit of Derek Walcott lingers.

We will miss the chat over the booksellers' stalls and the lunch tables, but you will be cheered on, I hope, by the richness of the literary offerings you can enjoy while on the move with your phone or tucked up on your sofa with your laptop. It is going to be an

indulgent weekend of pure, first-class, Caribbean stories and exchange of ideas. This extraordinary year is also a bumper year for our writers, many of them being published for the first time and others winning prizes for their debut and newer work. You can catch them virtually at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest 2020.

At this landmark juncture, I wish to thank all the writers, readers, partners, sponsors, children, supporters, hand-holders, collaborators, booksellers, and publishers with whom we have journeyed for the last 10 years. But most of all I wish to thank the Bocas Lit Fest team and board of directors, without whom none of it would have been possible. You have been remarkable.

Marina Salandy-Brown
Festival Founder and
Director





^ St. Helena Community Library v

Mt. Hope/Mt. Lambert Community Library

Beetham Community Library

Barataria Community Library



The world is changing faster than we can process, in ways we have yet to fully understand.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a watershed event in global history. The world is changing faster than we can process, in ways we have yet to fully understand. However, there is one certainty amid all the change — our new normal will be built on technology, and we must evolve accordingly.

Around the world, in this age of social distancing, people are finding innovative ways to serve others. We at The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

(NGC) are pleased to see our partners at the NGC Bocas Lit Fest doing the same — releasing “Survival Kits” to keep readers engaged during lockdown, and now, leveraging technology to bring the festival to audiences.

Throughout the ages, people have sought escape and refuge in the words and imaginations of writers. Literature taught us how to connect virtually with others before virtual connection was possible. Today, literature is one of the few diversions

in which people can engage without risk. For all these reasons, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest is a pertinent and valuable addition to our national calendar.

As the festival gets set to roll out digitally, we are proud to stand with the Bocas team once more as title sponsor. This may be a new chapter for the festival, but the narrative remains the same — we are committed to creating opportunities, grooming talent, and growing the love of literature in Trinidad and Tobago.

In January 2019, NALIS opened its first community library at a co-located space. This marked the start of the collaboration between NALIS and key stakeholders, aimed at reaching underserved persons and putting libraries at the heart of communities. A total of 4 well-designed, community-centric spaces have been created. These add to NALIS' network of libraries across the country.



Contact a NALIS library to find out more

www.nalis.gov.tt | nalis@nalis.gov.tt
624-4466 ext 2323/2324



NLCB

Now Let's Create Benefits

NATIONAL LOTTERIES CONTROL BOARD

www.nlcb.co.tt

Players must be 18 years and older

Make more time for the things you love.

Pre-order food, household items, clothing, books, plants, and more on Unqueue.

Download from your favourite app store.



unqueue.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

CURBSIDE • IN-STORE • DELIVERY

TITLE SPONSOR



THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED

LEAD SPONSOR



First Citizens

MAIN SPONSORS



ONE CARIBBEAN MEDIA LIMITED



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

SPONSORS



MASSY FOUNDATION



SPONSORS IN KIND

FLOW



PROGRAMME PARTNERS



PEEPAL TREE



Caribbean Futures Institute

MEDIA PARTNERS



ki·ne·sis studios

...ONSWA... SAATCHI & SAATCHI

CaribbeanBeat



FESTIVAL BASICS



How to join our first-ever virtual festival

Tune in to the 2020 NGC Bocas Lit Fest on any of the following platforms:

www.bocaslitfest.com/2020/live

 facebook.com/bocaslitfest.com

 youtube.com/bocaslitfest.com



Automatic closed captioning of virtual events available on YouTube and Facebook

Dates and times
Friday 18 September
4.30 to 8.45 pm
Saturday 19 August
12 to 9 pm
Sunday 20 August
10.30 to 8.30 pm

HOME OF THE PHYSICAL FESTIVAL

The National Library of Trinidad and Tobago and Old Fire Station



Books

Books by participating authors and others are on sale from our official bookseller, Paper Based Bookshop, Trinidad and Tobago's Caribbean-speciality independent bookseller.

Reserve & Pre-Order Your Copies!

Call 625-3197 or email queries to paperbasedbookshop@gmail.com

Local Delivery Available via TTPOST

www.paperbased.org

Our popular t-shirts and bags are also available from Paper Based bookshop



Hashtag
Tweeting, blogging, or posting about the Festival online?
Our 2020 hashtag is **#bocas2020**

Friends of Bocas

In January 2021 we will be launching "Friends of Bocas." We invite you to join us and reap the benefits of being a part of the Bocas Lit Fest family. Register by 30 September and earn some early bird concessions:

bocaslitfest.com/friends-of-bocas

OUR 10-YEAR COMMEMORATIVE POSTER

100 numbered, signed copies of this collectible 2020 festival poster are available

Cost: US\$42 or TT\$300
Designed by Melanie Archer
Printers: Scrip-J

Marking 10 years of the Bocas Lit Fest, our anniversary poster depicts Jackie Hinkson's specially commissioned drawing of the iconic Old Fire Station in downtown Port of Spain, buttressed by the National Library, the home of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest.

About the artist

Donald "Jackie" Hinkson is a highly revered artist from Trinidad and Tobago. Focused at first on plein air watercolours and drawing, Hinkson has since expanded his expression to include oils, acrylics, wood sculpture and iPad art, producing from small to mural-size work. His style has remained mostly realistic and figurative, but often with a strong sense of the abstract, and his subjects range from landscape to architecture, the human figure in all aspects of national life, and social commentary. The artist has exhibited locally, regionally and internationally with a major retrospective in 2012.

He has produced four books on his life and art. His over 100 sketch pads have been inscribed by UNESCO into Trinidad and Tobago's Memory of the World

NGC Bocas Lit Fest
18-20 September 2020
A virtual festival
bocaslitfest.com



Register in 2010. In 2011 the University of the West Indies conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate. In 2019 the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago conferred on him the Chaconia Medal Gold.

About the Old Fire Station

Originally built in 1896/1897 and refurbished and renovated in 1999/2000, the Old Fire Station is an excellent example of the preservation of a historic building which has been elegantly blended with the modern architectural landscape of the city. The building itself is the first reinforced concrete structure in Port of Spain and is a fine combination of old and new construction technology, with well-articulated quoins and traditional stone markings. The building is well proportioned and functional

in design, a central tower providing a lookout over Port of Spain. There is a beautiful rhythm to the fenestration and fire engine doors. The design is tropical, allowing good cross ventilation, and can perhaps be described as being a transition from traditional to modern Trinidad and Tobago architecture. (Source: nationaltrust.tt)

For 10 years (1989 to 1999), it was the home of the Trinidad Theatre Workshop, founded and directed by St Lucian poet and Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott. It was eventually incorporated into the National Library Complex and remains a historic gem in the city of Port of Spain.



GET YOUR FESTIVAL BOOKS AT PAPER BASED BOOKSHOP!

Proud Bookselling Partner of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest

Reserve and Pre-Order Your Copies!

625-3197

paperbasedbookshop@gmail.com

www.paperbased.org

7% Off The 2020 OCM Bocas Prize Winners



EPIPHANEIA



EVERYTHING INSIDE



SHAME ON ME

Paper.Based.Bookshop

paperbasedbooks

paperbasedbookshop

7% SPECIALS MUST BE CLAIMED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 23RD

NATIONWIDE DELIVERY AVAILABLE VIA TTPOST

Reserve and Pre-Order Your Copies! Call, Email, or DM Via Social Media!

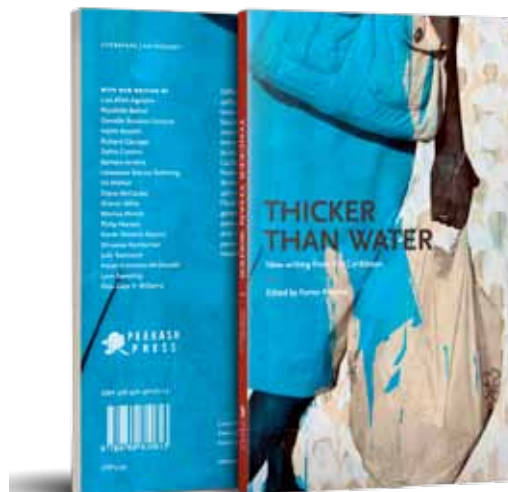
The Market at The Normandie, 10 Nook Avenue, St. Ann's, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

THE LATEST FROM PEEKASH PRESS



ISBN 978-976-96106-3-7 | Paperback

In the century since the abolition of indentured labour in the British empire, the memories of indenture's descendants have loomed more luminous. The poems, short fictions, and essays in *We Mark Your Memory* delve into family histories and fierce envisionings, sharing hidden passions, success stories, and survivors' anecdotes, from Trinidad to Guyana, Mauritius to South Africa, Sri Lanka to Fiji.



ISBN 978-976-96106-1-3 | Paperback

Thicker Than Water shows us how a new generation of Caribbean authors address perennial questions of love, betrayal, and memory in small places where personal and collective histories are often troublingly intertwined. With new writing by nineteen finalists for the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers Prize, a groundbreaking award administered from 2013 to 2015 by the Bocas Lit Fest.



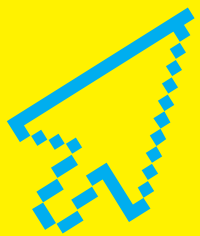
Available at bookshops across the Caribbean and at peekashpress.com

HOW DO WE IMAGINE THE FUTURE?

In this special – and timely – lineup of events, we consider how writers from Trinidad and Tobago and across the Caribbean imagine possible futures for our region and the world. **Future Friday** is guest curated by **Karen Lord**

FUTURE FRIDAY PROGRAMME

FRI 18 SEPT 2020



4.30–5.30 pm

STAND AND DELIVER, FUTURE FRIDAY VIRTUAL EDITION

Our signature open mic event returns, in virtual form! Writers share their stories, poems, and musings, imagining how the Caribbean could evolve after the events of 2020.

Hosted by **Jayron Remy**



6–7 pm

CIRCA 2120

A century from now, what might Caribbean history look like? What do our present concerns and opportunities suggest about the way ahead? Featuring readings by **Brandon O'Brien**, **Shivane Ramlochan**, and **Hadassah K. Williams**. Presented in partnership with the *Caribbean Futures Institute*.



7.30–8.30 pm

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Four of the Caribbean's best speculative fiction writers discuss how the genre helps us imagine alternatives for the future. Featuring **Karen Lord**, **Tobias S. Buckell**, **Nalo Hopkinson**, and **Malka Older**.

Presented in partnership with the *Caribbean Futures Institute*



FRIDAY AUTHORS



Tobias S. Buckell is a *New York Times* Bestselling writer and World Fantasy Award winner born in the Caribbean. He grew up in Grenada and spent time in the British and US Virgin Islands, and the islands he lived on influence much of his work. His Xenoworld series begins with *Crystal Rain*. Along with other stand-alone novels and his almost one hundred stories, his works have been translated into nineteen different languages. He has been nominated for awards like the Hugo, Nebula, World Fantasy, and the Astounding Award for Best New Science Fiction Author.



Nalo Hopkinson was born in Jamaica. She lived in Jamaica, Guyana, the US and Trinidad before moving to Canada as a teenager. She has published six novels and numerous short stories. Her first novel, *Brown Girl in the Ring*, won the Warner Aspect First Novel contest. She has also received the Campbell and Locus Awards, the World Fantasy Award, and the Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic. She currently lives in California, USA, where she is a professor of Creative Writing and a member of a faculty research cluster in science fiction.



Karen Lord is a Barbadian author, editor and research consultant. Her debut novel *Redemption in Indigo* won several awards and was nominated for the 2011 World Fantasy Award for Best Novel. Her other works include the science fiction novels *The Best of All Possible Worlds* and *The Galaxy Game*, and the crime-fantasy novel *Unraveling*. She edited the anthology *New Worlds, Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean*.



Malka Older is a writer, aid worker, and sociologist. Her science-fiction political thriller *Infomocracy* was named one of the best books of 2016 by Kirkus, Book Riot, and the *Washington Post*. The Centenal Cycle trilogy, which also includes *Null States* (2017) and *State Tectonics* (2018), is a finalist for the Hugo Best Series Award of 2018. Named Senior Fellow for Technology and Risk at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs for 2015, she has more than a decade of field experience in humanitarian aid and development. Her doctoral work on the sociology of organizations at Sciences Po Paris explores the dynamics of post-disaster improvisation in governments.



Brandon O'Brien is a performance poet, teaching artist, and speculative fiction writer whose work has been shortlisted for the 2014 Alice Yard Prize for Art Writing and the 2014 and 2015 *Small Axe* Literary Competitions, and is published in *Uncanny Magazine*, *Arsenika*, *Strange Horizons*, *Reckoning*, *Sunvault*, and *New Worlds, Old Ways: Speculative Tales from the Caribbean*, among others. He is also the poetry editor of *FIYAH: A Magazine of Black Speculative Fiction*.



Shivane Ramlochan is a Trinidadian poet, critic, and book blogger. Her first book of poems, *Everyone Knows I Am a Haunting*, was a finalist for the 2018 People's Choice T&T Book of the Year, and was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Forward Prize for Best First Collection. Shivane was shortlisted for the 2018 Bridport Prize for Poetry. "The Red Thread Cycle", from her debut collection, won a *Small Axe* Literary Competition Prize for Poetry (second-place), and is on audiovisual display at the National Art Gallery of the Bahamas.



Hadassah K. Williams is a writer from Trinidad and Tobago, and the winner of the first BCLF Elizabeth Nunez Award for Writers in the Caribbean. She is currently working on her first novel and her work can be found in *Moko Magazine* for Caribbean Arts and Letters and *Interviewing the Caribbean Magazine*. Her story "Cascadura" was published in Peekash Press' *Speculative Fiction* anthology: *New Worlds Old Ways*, edited by Karen Lord, in 2016. In 2019 she was awarded a scholarship to attend the Faber and Faber Academy.



12-1 pm

New Talent Showcase

Nadja Nabbe, Stacy Lela, Vanessa Salazar, Rakhee Kissoon, and Faith Jafferli, all recent students of the creative writing MFA programme at UWI, St. Augustine, share their work in progress, introduced by **Muli Amaye**

1.30-2.30 pm

Stand and Deliver, virtual edition

Another edition of our signature open mic event! Writers of all kinds and genres share their work in progress in this virtual session. Hosted by **Jayron Remy**



3-4.30 pm

The legacies of 1970

Fifty years after the Black Power Revolution shook the social foundations of Trinidad and Tobago, what are the legacies and lessons of this momentous event? A panel of activists and writers use 1970 as a point of departure in looking forward to urgent present-day issues of race and class. With **Chike Pilgrim, Amílcar Sanatan, and Attillah Springer**, chaired by **Sunity Maharaj**

4.30-5.30 pm

Revolution time

The year of the 50th anniversary of the Black Power Revolution in T&T also brought global protests against racism and social injustice. Four contemporary writers read new stories and poems that reflect upon 1970, 2020, and the links between. Featuring **Lisa Allen-Agostini, Vahni Capildeo, Amílcar Sanatan, and Desirée Seebaran**

6-7 pm

The personal is always political

Katherine Agyemaa Agard (*of colour*), **Andre Bagoo** (*The Undiscovered Country*), and 2020 OCM Bocas Prize non-fiction winner **Tessa McWatt** (*Shame on Me*) read from and discuss their new books in which deeply personal stories become prisms for examining bigger political histories. Chaired by **Grace Aneiza Ali**. Followed by a live Q&A from 7 to 7.15 pm

7.45-8 pm

Celebrating our 2020 prizewinners!

See OCM Bocas Prize winners **Richard Georges, Edwidge Danticat, and Tessa McWatt** and Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize winner **Amanda Choo Quan** receive their awards

8-9 pm

The strength of islands

In difficult times, how does literature help us come to terms with adversity, and turn surviving into thriving? 2020 OCM Bocas prize overall winner **Richard Georges** of the British Virgin Islands (*Epiphaneia*), **Celia Sorhaindo** of Dominica (*Guabancex*), and **Lasana Sekou** of St Martin (*Hurricane Protocol*) share their poems and join a conversation led by **Naila Folami Imoja** of Barbados

Katherine Agyemaa Agard is a Trinidadian writer currently based in San Francisco. Her first book *of colour* is an auto-ethnography of the desire to, and subsequent refusal of, telling the story of oneself in binary terms to North American audiences.

Lisa Allen-Agostini is a writer and editor from Trinidad and Tobago. She is the author of *Home Home* (Papillote Press, 2018; Delacourte Press, 2020), *The Chalice Project* (Macmillan Caribbean, 2008), the collection of poems *Swallowing the Sky* (Cane Arrow Press, 2015) and co-editor *Trinidad Noir* (Akashic Books, 2008). She has been awarded as a journalist, fiction writer and poet and her work is widely published.

Grace Aneiza Ali is an Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow in the Department of Art & Public Policy at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. A curator and editor, she is the founder and editorial director of OF NOTE Magazine.

Andre Bagoo, Trinidadian poet and journalist, has authored four collections of poems. His latest book is a collection of essays called *The Undiscovered Country*.

Vahni Capildeo's books include *No Traveller Returns* (2003), *Person Animal Figure*

(2005), *Undraining Sea* (2009, shortlisted for the Guyana Prize for Literature Caribbean Award), *Dark & Unaccustomed Words* (2012, longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize), *Utter* (2013), *Simple Complex Shapes* (2015), *Measures of Expatriation* (2016, winner of the Forward Prize and shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize), *Venus as a Bear* (2018, shortlisted for the Forward Prize), and *Skin Can Hold* (2019).

Amanda Choo Quan is a Trinidadian/Jamaican writer and poet. She is the winner for the 2020 Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize for Non-Fiction. A graduate of CalArts' MFA in Creative Writing, she's been a VSC, Truman Capote, Callaloo, Juniper, and Cropper Foundation fellow.

Edwidge Danticat is the Haitian-American author of numerous award-winning books, including *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, an Oprah Book Club selection; *Krik? Krak!*, a National Book Award finalist; *The Farming of Bones*; *The Dew Breaker*; *Create Dangerously*, inaugural winner of the OCM Bocas Prize for Non-Fiction in 2011; *Claire of the Sea Light*; and *Everything Inside*, winner of the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize for Fiction. Her memoir, *Brother, I'm Dying*, was a 2007 finalist for the National Book Award and a 2008 winner of

the National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography. She is a 2009 MacArthur fellow and the winner of the 2018 Neustadt International Prize and the 2019 St. Louis Literary Award.

Richard Georges is the founding editor of *Moko Magazine*. His poetry collection *Epiphaneia* is the overall winner of the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize. In 2016 he won the Marvin Williams Literary Prize from The Caribbean Writer and has since been shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry. Richard was born in Trinidad and raised in the British Virgin Islands, where he lives and works today.

Nailah Folami Imoja is a Barbadian/British writer, performer and educator. As an award-winning poet, novelist and journalist, she has contributed significantly to the Barbadian litscape including as coordinator of Writers' Clinic, a series of monthly workshops produced by the National Cultural Foundation (Barbados), for 15 years. Nailah is co-editor of *So Many Islands: Stories from the Caribbean, Mediterranean, Indian and Pacific Oceans* published in 2018, and her work appears in numerous anthologies.

Tessa McWatt is the author of six novels and two books

for young people. She is one of the winners of the Eccles British Library Award 2018 for her first non-fiction book, *Shame On Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging*, which is also the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize Non-fiction winner. Her fiction has been nominated for the Governor General's Award, the City of Toronto Book Awards, and the OCM Bocas Prize. She is also Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia.

Sunity Maharaj runs her own multi-media production and consulting company. She is the Managing Director of the Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies and is a senior career journalist.

Chike Pilgrim is an Oxford-educated archaeologist, and a writer and historian from Trinidad and Tobago. His creative work has been published in *Kwani*, one of Africa's most prominent literary magazines, as well as in *Moko*

and *The Caribbean Writer*.

Amílcar Peter Sanatan is a PhD. candidate in Cultural Studies at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. His poetry has appeared in *Caribbean* and international literary magazines, and he was shortlisted for the 2020 Johnson and Amoy Achong Prize for *Caribbean Writers*. For over a decade he has performed spoken word poetry and coordinated open mics in Trinidad and Tobago.

Desirée Seebaran see bio on page 20.

Lasana M. Sekou is a poet, journalist, author, publisher from St. Martin. He has authored over 20 books of poetry, short stories, monologues, and essays and he is the founder of House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP), where he secured the publication of authors such as George Lamming, Kamau Brathwaite, Amiri Baraka, Chiqui Vicioso,

Nidaa Khoury, and Tishani Doshi. Sekou is the co-founder of the annual St. Martin Book Fair. Hurricane Protocol is his newest book of poems.

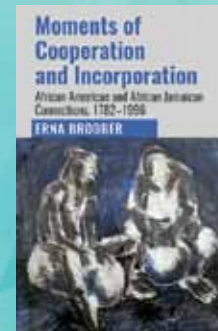
Atillah Springer is a Trinidadian writer and activist. She writes on culture and memory and has presented papers and written commissioned work on traditional mas, social justice and African spirituality. She is a Director of Idakeda Group, a collective of women in her family creating cultural interventions for social change especially among women and youth in Trinidad and Tobago.

Celia A. Sorhaindo's first poetry collection, a hurricane Maria themed chapbook *Guabancex*, was published by Papillote Press in February 2020. Her poems have also been published in *Anomaly*, *The Caribbean Writer*, *Moko Magazine*, *Interviewing The Caribbean Journal*, *Susumba's Book Bag*, *The New Daughters*



The University of the West Indies Press

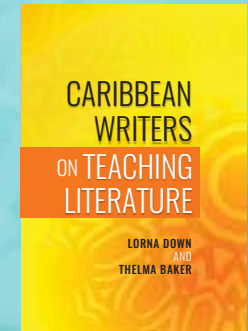
THE PREMIER SCHOLARLY BOOK PUBLISHER IN THE CARIBBEAN



Moments of Cooperation and Incorporation
African American and African Jamaican Connections, 1782-1996
ERNA BRODBER
2019
ISBN 9789766407087
200 pp 6 x 9
US\$50.00 (s) Paper



Una Marson
LISA TOMLINSON
2019
ISBN 978-976-640-696-7
96pp 5 x 8
US\$25.00 (t) Cloth



Caribbean Writers on Teaching Literature
LORNA DOWN AND THELMA BAKER
2020
ISBN 978-976-640-738-4
240pp 6 x 9
US\$45.00 (s) Paper



Show Us as We Are
Place, Nation and Identity in Jamaican Film
RACHEL MOSELEY-WOOD
2019
ISBN 978-976-640-717-9
268pp 6 x 9
US\$55.00 (s) Paper



Bite Yu Finga!
Innovating Belizean Cuisine
LYRA H. SPANG
2019
ISBN 978-976-640-714-8
290pp 6 x 9
US\$55.00 (s) Paper



The Caribbean Biography Series Boxed Set
BY FUNSO AIYEJINA, EDWARD BAUGH, RUPERT LEWIS, JUDY RAYMOND AND LISA TOMLINSON
2019
ISBN 978-976-640-769-8
558pp
US\$115.00 (t) Cloth

LAUNCHING

friends of

BOCAS

Be part of the closely knit Bocas Lit Fest family. Register now to enjoy discounts on books, workshops, festival memorabilia, preferential access to events, customised information and much more.

10 **Bocas Lit Fes** **2020**

Go to: bocaslitfest.com/friends-of-bocas

7A Gibraltar Hall Road, Mona Campus, Kingston 7, Jamaica, West Indies
Telephone: (876) 977-2659 | Fax: (876) 977-2660
Website: www.uwipress.com | Digital platform: www.libraries.sta.uwi.edu/uwipress |
Facebook: www.facebook.com/uwipress | Twitter: twitter.com/uwipress |
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/uwipress | YouTube: www.youtube.com/uwipress



10.30 am-12 pm

A question of leadership

From the COVID-19 pandemic to the effects of climate change, the Caribbean region faces a time of crisis. Decades into Independence, what have our present political leaders learned from the past to navigate their citizens into the future? This high-level conversation brings together former Jamaican prime minister **P.J. Patterson** (*My Political Journey*), former attorney general of Belize **Godfrey Smith** (*The Assassination of Maurice Bishop*), and Canada-based Guyanese scholar **Alissa Trotz**, chaired by scholar **Andy Knight**.

12-12.30 pm

Extempo debate

Master calypsonians **Black Sage** and **Brian London** debate political leadership in T&T and around the world.

12.30-1:30 pm

Crick Crack Monkey at 50

We celebrate the half-century anniversary of **Merle Hodge's** beloved classic novel with a virtual dramatised reading,

adapted and directed by **elisha efua bartels** and featuring actors **Isoke Edwards**, **Mandisa Granderson**, and **Conrad Parris**

1.30-2.30

Family matters

T&T debut authors Caroline Mackenzie (*One Year of Ugly*) and **Ingrid Persaud** (*Love After Love*) share their new novels about family, love, secrets and secret crimes. Chaired by writer and journalist **Ira Mathur**

3-4 pm

Infinite islands

St. Lucian writers **John Robert Lee** (*Pierrot*) and **Canisia Lubrin** (*The Dyzgraphxst*) read from their ambitious new books of poems, rooted in St. Lucia and ranging globally, and discuss their ideas and influences with **Vladimir Lucien**

4.30-5.30 pm

Home and away

Jamaican-Canadian **Zalika Reid-Benta** (*Frying Plantain*) and Trinidadian **Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw** (*Stick No Bills*) read from their new short story collections, exploring the lives of contemporary women

in T&T, Canada, and Jamaica. Chaired by **Desirée Seebaran**

6-7 pm

Tales of the islands

Award-winning writers **Monique Roffey** (*The Mermaid of Black Conch*) and **Jacob Ross** (*Black Rain Falling*) explain how their new novels, both set on imaginary Caribbean islands, explore questions of history, race, love and violence. Chaired by **Ayanna Gillian Lloyd**

7.30-8.30 pm

Launch of *The Sea Needs No Ornament*/*El Mar No Necesita Ornamento*

This groundbreaking new bilingual anthology of poems by Caribbean women, translated and edited by **Loretta Collins Klobah** and **Maria Grau Perejoan**, assembles powerful voices from across the region. Both translators talk to **Nicole Roberts** about the current surge of new Caribbean poetic talent and the need to share stories and ideas across language barriers. Plus readings in both English and Spanish by **Legna Rodríguez Iglesias**, **Gloriann Sacha Antonetty-Lebrón**, **Ann-Margaret Lim**, and **Danielle Boodoo-Fortuné**.

elisha efua bartels is a writer, performer, teacher, director and stage-manager, and a founding member of Metamorphosis Dance Company. She spent time in Washington D.C. acquiring her degree in the Performing Arts, performing and stage-managing with companies from Bowen Macaulay Dance to the Washington Shakespeare Company and Folger Shakespeare Library, and freelancing as an associate producer/writer for The Kojo Nnamdi Show on WAMU, 88.5fm. Her writing has been published in Akashic's *Trinidad Noir* and their online *Mondays Are Murder*. She hosted *The Black Power Hour* for Wajang Diskotheque and *Writing a New Caribbean* for BBC Radio4, and wrote a BBC Radio3 play, *Water More Than Flour*. She currently works with 3canal, griot productions, continuum dance project, the Astor Johnson Repertory Dance Theatre and Lilliput Theatre.

Loretta Collins Klobah's first book *The Twelve Foot Neon Woman* (Peepal Tree Press, 2011) received the 2011 OCM Bocas Prize for Poetry and was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize in the Forward Prize series. Her second book *Ricantations* (Peepal Tree Press, 2018) was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation and a National Poetry Day selection. She has been awarded the Pushcart Prize,

the Earl Lyons Award from The Academy of American Poets, and the Pam Wallace Award for an Aspiring Woman Writer. Her poems have been widely published in journals and anthologies. She lives in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where she is a professor of Caribbean literature and creative writing at the University of Puerto Rico.

Isoke Edwards is a graduate of Howard University with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Acting. Isoke spent many years between D.C. and NYC working every aspect of the stage. She has produced plays like Earl Lovelace's *Jestina's Calypso* and Nina Mercer's *Gutta Beautiful* under her production company "Griot Productions" with partner elisha efua bartels.

Mandisa Granderson is an actor. Performing from young, she studied with Lilliput Theatre and continued acting while studying at Colgate University. She has performed with 3Canal, Griot Productions and First Instinct Productions. While theatre is her first love, she has expanded into film, being featured in the local productions *Home Again*, *This Love*, *Salty Dog* and *The Lies We Tell*. Most recently, she played the female lead in the BBC3 Radio production of *Water More Than Flour*, written by elisha efua bartels.

Maria Grau Perejoan holds a doctoral degree in Cultural Studies with an emphasis on Caribbean Literature and Literary Translation from the University of Barcelona, and an MPhil in Cultural Studies from the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago. She was visiting lecturer at The UWI, St Augustine Campus for three academic years, she then moved on to lecture courses in Translation and Caribbean Literature at the University of Barcelona, and since 2020 she is a Lecturer at the Department of Spanish, Modern and Classical Languages at the University of the Balearic Islands.

Andy Knight is former Director of the Institute of International Relations at UWI, St. Augustine in Trinidad and past Chair of the Department of Political Science of the University of Alberta. He is currently Professor of International Relations in the Political Science Department at the UA and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC). He has written and edited several books on Global Politics, the United Nations, Terrorism, Building Sustainable Peace and Regional integration movements.

SHHH
I'M
WRITING

John Robert Lee is a critically acclaimed St. Lucian writer who has published several collections of poetry, including *Elemental* (2008), *Collected Poems, 1975–2015* (2017), and *Pierrot* (2020). His poetry appears in numerous magazines and anthologies, including the Penguin Book of Caribbean Verse. His reviews and columns appear widely, and he produced and presented radio and television programmes in St. Lucia for over thirty years.

Brian London, born in San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago, is the reigning National Extempo Monarch. He started his calypso career in the Junior Calypso competition, and has several social and political commentary wins under his belt.

Ayanna Gillian Lloyd is a writer from Trinidad and Tobago. She is a graduate of the MA Creative Writing Prose Fiction at UEA and is currently pursuing the PhD in Creative-Critical Writing, also at UEA. She was shortlisted for the Wasafiri New Writing Prize and received the second-place prize in the Small Axe Literary Competition.

Canisia Lubrin is a writer, editor, teacher and critic. Frequently anthologized, her work has been translated into Spanish and Italian. She is the author of the awards-nominated poetry collection *Voodoo Hypothesis*, and her latest book is *The Dyzgraphxst*.

Lubrin holds an MFA from University of Guelph, teaches College English, and Creative Writing at the University of Toronto.

Caroline Mackenzie is a Trinidadian writer whose short fiction has appeared in publications around the world. In 2017 she was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, and she won first prize for fiction in the 2019 Small Axe Literary Competition. Her debut novel is *One Year of Ugly* (2020).

Ira Mathur is an Indian born multimedia freelance journalist and T&T *Sunday Guardian* columnist with nine regional awards for excellence in journalism. She was shortlisted for the 2013 and 2014 Hollick Arvon Prize. An excerpt from her novel to be published in 2022 is anthologised in *Thicker Than Water*, Peekash Press, 2018.

Philip Murray aka “Black Sage” is a calypsonian renowned master of Extempo singing, and three-time national Extempo champion

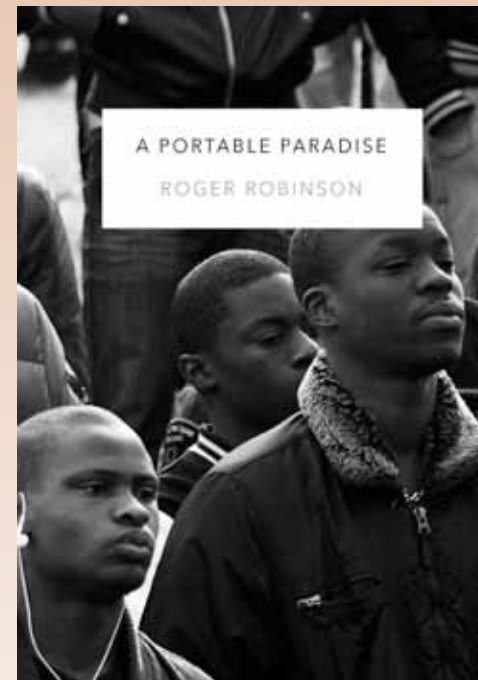
Conrad Parris is an actor, voice talent and media personality with over 20 years experience.

P.J. Patterson, ON, OCC, PC, QC, was Jamaica’s sixth and longest-serving prime minister from 1992 to 2006. In addition to his lifelong political service, he has had an equally distinguished legal career and is the recipient of numerous

academic and international honours. On his retirement from politics, he founded HeisConsults, an international consulting firm, and has remained active in public life in the national, regional and international arenas. His autobiography *My Political Journey: Jamaica’s Sixth Prime Minister* was published by UWI Press in 2018 and won a Next Generation Indie Book Award in the “Memoirs (Career)” category for 2020.

Ingrid Persaud is a Trinidad and Tobago-born award-winning writer, artist, and academic, who now lives between Barbados and the United Kingdom. She won the BBC National Short Story Award in 2018, and the Commonwealth Short Story Prize in 2017, with her debut effort “*The Sweet Sop*”. Her latest novel is *Love After Love* (One World, 2020).

Zalika Reid-Benta is a Toronto-based writer whose debut short story collection, *Frying Plantain*, was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize. She is the winner of the ByBlacks People’s Choice Award for Best Author, was the June 2019 Writer in Residence for Open Book, and was named a CBC Writer to Watch. She received an M.F.A. in fiction from Columbia University, was a John Gardner Fiction Fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers’ Conference, and is an alumnus of the Banff Centre Writing Studio. Zalika is currently working on a young-

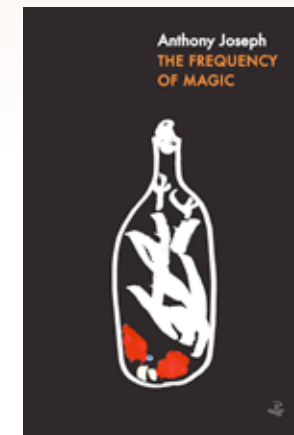


Peepal Tree Press

Home of the best in
Caribbean and Black
British Writing

Peepal Tree brings you the very best of international writing from the Caribbean, its diasporas and the UK.

Visit us at www.peepaltreepress.com, facebook, twitter and instagram @peepaltreepress to discover more.



adult fantasy novel drawing inspiration from Jamaican folklore.

Monique Roffey is an academic and award-winning, Trinidadian-born British writer of novels, essays, a memoir and literary journalism. Her latest novel is *The Mermaid of Black Conch* (2020). Her novels have been translated into five languages and shortlisted for several major awards and, in 2013, *Archipelago* won the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. Her essays have appeared in *The New York Review of Books*, *Boundless magazine*, *The Independent*, *Wasafiri*, and *Caribbean Quarterly*.

Jacob Ross is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the author of three acclaimed collections of short stories, *A Way to Catch the Dust*, *Song for Simone* and *Tell No-One About This*, longlisted for the 2018 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature. His first novel, *Pynter Bender*, was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers Regional Prize, and his debut crime novel, *The Bone Readers* won the inaugural Jhalak Prize in 2017. His latest novel, *Black Rain Falling* (March 2020) is published by Sphere/Hachette.

Desirée Seebaran is a Trinidadian writer and editor. She is an alum of the Cropper Foundation Residential Workshop for Writers (2010) and the inaugural *Moko Magazine* Poetry Masterclass

(2018). Her work has been shortlisted for the 2014 *Small Axe* Literary Competition (poetry) and the 2017 Frontier Poetry Award for New Poets Contest, and she won the poetry category of the Queen Mary *Wasafiri* New Writing Prize 2019.

Godfrey P. Smith, Belizean attorney and politician, is the author of *The Biography of Michael Manley* and *George Price: A Life Revealed*, winner of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Non-Fiction.

Alissa Trotz is Professor of Caribbean Studies at New College and Director of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto. She is also affiliate faculty at the Dame Nita Barrow Institute of Gender and Development Studies at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados. She is editor of the anthology *The Point Is to Change the World: Selected Writings* by Andaiye (Pluto Press Black Critique Series, 2020) and co-editor with Arif Bulkan of *Unmasking the State: Politics, Society and Economy in Guyana 1992–2015* (Ian Randle Publishers, 2019).

Elizabeth Walcott-Hackshaw is a Trinidadian fiction writer and Professor of French Caribbean Literature at The UWI, St. Augustine. Her debut novel *Mrs. B* was shortlisted for the Guyana Prize for Literature in 2014. Her latest book is the collection of stories *Stick No Bills*.

Metropolitan Book Suppliers Limited

'Proud of our Past, Looking after the future'
Est 1974

A Member of the Book Industry Organization of Trinidad and Tobago

Specialist in:

West Indian Publications
Religious and Theological Books
Health and Medical
Business and Management
Engineering and Mechanical Professional / Enthusiast
Educational, Motivational and Inspirational
Children Books Classics / Educational

Other special services:

Book ordering services
Conference and Events displays
Gift Vouchers

Ground level Capital Plaza,
Frederick Street,
Port of Spain, Trinidad W.I.

1-868-623-3462 | 1-868-467-9947
metropolitanbooksuppliersltd@gmail.com

 @metrobooksuppliers



PRECIOUS PAINTINGS 2020

16 September - 3 October 2020

Investment quality artworks for sale by:

CAZABON, ATTECK, HOLDER, CHANG, GREENIDGE, KIMME ET AL

At The Art Society Of Trinidad and Tobago
3 - 7 St. Vincent Avenue, Federation Park

101
Art Gallery

101ArtGallery.com

@101ArtGalleryTT

fb.com/101art

628-4081

marknpereira@gmail.com

OCM BOCAS PRIZE FOR CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

2020 is the tenth year of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, sponsored by One Caribbean Media, the largest media house in the Caribbean. Awarded annually, the OCM Bocas Prize is the region's leading literary award.

Books published in 2019 by authors of Caribbean birth or citizenship were eligible for the 2020 Prize, in three genre categories: poetry, fiction, and literary non-fiction. The Prize has two stages. First, judging panels select the best

book in each of the three genre categories. Next, the respective chairs of the poetry, fiction, and non-fiction panels form a jury to select the final winner from among the three genre winners, joined by the overall Prize chair. In 2020 the OCM Bocas Prize was chaired by the celebrated writer Earl Lovelace.

The overall winner of the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize, *Epiphaneia* by Richard Georges, was announced on Saturday 2 May, and received US\$10,000, with a cash award of US\$3,000 for

the other genre winners.

The previous winners of the OCM Bocas Prize were *White Egrets*, by Derek Walcott (2011); *Is Just a Movie*, by Earl Lovelace (2012); *Archipelago*, by Monique Roffey (2013); *As Flies to Whatless Boys*, by Robert Antoni (2014); *Sounding Ground*, by Vladimir Lucien (2015); *The Pain Tree*, by Olive Senior (2016); *Augustown*, by Kei Miller (2017); *Curfew Chronicles*, by Jennifer Rahim (2018), and *High Mas*, by Kevin Adonis Browne (2019).

The 2020 OCM Bocas Prize Longlist

POETRY

Honeyfish, by Lauren K. Alleyne (Peepal Tree Press)
Skin Can Hold, by Vahni Capildeo (Carcanet Press)
Epiphaneia, by Richard Georges (Out-spoken Press)

FICTION

The Confessions of Frannie Langton, by Sara Collins (Viking UK)
Everything Inside, by Edwidge Danticat (Knopf)
A Tall History of Sugar, by Curdella Forbes (Akashic)

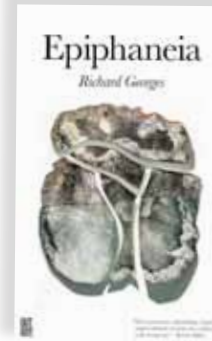
NON-FICTION

Moments of Cooperation and Incorporation: African American and African Jamaican Connections, 1782-1996, by Erna Brodber (University of the West Indies Press)
Beyond Coloniality: Citizenship and Freedom in the Caribbean Intellectual Tradition, by Aaron Kamugisha (Indiana University Press)
Shame on Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging, by Tessa McWatt (Scribe)

OVERALL CHAIR

Earl Lovelace is an award-winning Trinidadian novelist, journalist, playwright, and short story writer. His books include the Caribbean classic *The Dragon Can't Dance* and *Salt*, winner of the 1997 Commonwealth Writers' Prize. His novel *Is Just a Movie* won the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature and the Grand Prize for Caribbean Literature from the Regional Council of Guadeloupe.

WINNER, POETRY & OVERALL



Epiphaneia, the third collection by Richard Georges of the British Virgin Islands, is the overall and poetry winner. The judges write: "In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, *Epiphaneia* takes a deep breath and presents us with poems that outlast the storm, but sound the depths of survival and resilience, rather than being content to take refuge in them. Here we are enabled to comprehend disaster with an alertness to complexity that carries us beyond the usual triad of narrative, lamentation, and outrage. Everywhere there is sinuous rhythmic and semantic syncopation . . . in service of a poetic with urgent and palpable stakes."

In his remarks, head judge **Earl Lovelace** commented: "Responses to catastrophe frequently take in evasion or cynicism: despair or glib resolution. Often they confine themselves in the familiar shapes of narrative, lamentation, or outrage. These poems take no such predictable shapes. It is as if each verse-form were a different lens for viewing the storm and the life in its aftermath. What makes these offerings so poignant is that many of them are lit with the brilliant light of the day-after. That epiphanic light of discovery is Richard Georges's gift to us. We are delighted to acknowledge this accomplishment by one of the region's phenomenal generation of younger poets."

Publisher: Out-Spoken Press (United Kingdom)



Richard Georges is a writer of essays, fiction, and three collections of poetry. His most recent book, *Epiphaneia* (2019), won the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, and his first book, *Make Us All Islands* (2017), was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. His second book, *Giant* (2018), was highly commended by the Forward Prizes and longlisted for the OCM Bocas Prize. He is a recipient of a Fellowship from the Stellenbosch Institute of Advanced Study and has been listed or nominated for several other prizes, including the Hollick Arvon Caribbean Writers

Prize, the Wasafiri New Writing Prize, and a Pushcart Prize. In addition to writing, Richard works in higher education and lives in the British Virgin Islands.

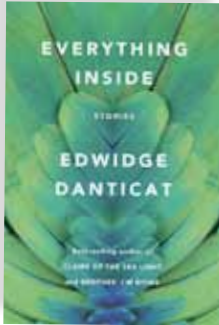
POETRY JUDGES

Laurence Breiner is Professor of English and African-American Studies at Boston University. He has been a Visiting Professor in American Studies at Tokyo University, a Rockefeller Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, an NEH Research Fellow, and an ACLS/SSRC Fellow at UWI, Mona. He is the author of *An Introduction to West Indian Poetry* and *Black Yeats: Eric Roach and the Politics of Caribbean Poetry* as well as numerous articles and reviews on Anglophone Caribbean poetry and drama.

Rajiv Mohabir is the author of *The Cowherd's Son* (2017) winner of the Kundiman Prize and *The Taxidermist's Cut* (2016) winner of the Intro Prize in Poetry Four Way Books.

Sandeep Parmar is Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool where she co-directs Liverpool's Centre for New and International Writing. She holds a PhD from University College London and an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. Her books include *Reading Mina Loy's Autobiographies: Myth of the Modern*, an edition of the *Collected Poems of Hope Mirrlees* (Carcanet, 2011), and two books of her own poetry published by Shearsman: *The Marble Orchard* and *Eidolon*, winner of the Ledbury Forte Prize for Best Second Collection. She also edited the *Selected Poems of Nancy Cunard* (Carcanet, 2016). Her essays and reviews have appeared in the *Guardian*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The New Statesman*, the *Financial Times* and the *Times Literary Supplement*. She is a BBC New Generation Thinker and co-founder of the Ledbury Emerging Poetry Critics scheme for BAME reviewers.

WINNER, FICTION



Everything Inside is a collection of short fiction by the celebrated Haitian-American writer Edwidge Danticat. The judges commend these “profoundly resonant short stories about characters caught between two worlds, their painful pasts all the more moving for being subtly delivered, so the full weight of their experience gathers in the reader’s consciousness after putting down the book. The fluidity of Danticat’s prose and her delicate blend of passion and compassion sweep the reader along and lift us through the essential humanity and resilience of her central characters.”

Publisher: Penguin Random House (USA)



Edwidge Danticat is the Haitian-American author of numerous award-winning books, including *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, an Oprah Book Club selection; *Krik? Krak!*, a National Book Award finalist; *The Farming of Bones*; *The Dew Breaker*; *Create Dangerously*, inaugural winner of the OCM Bocas Prize for Non-Fiction in 2011; *Claire of the Sea Light*; and *Everything Inside*, winner of the 2020 OCM Bocas Prize for Fiction. She is a 2009 MacArthur fellow, a 2018 Ford Foundation “The Art of Change” fellow, and the winner of the 2018 Neustadt International Prize and the 2019 St. Louis Literary Award.

FICTION JUDGES

Barbara Lalla, Professor Emerita of language and literature at The UWI, St. Augustine, is the author of many academic publications and the novels *Cascade*, *Arch of Fire*, *Uncle Brother*, and most recently *Grounds for Tenure*.

Sharon Leach is a Jamaican writer whose fiction has appeared in several publications, including *Kunapiipi*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*; *Iron Balloons: Fiction from Jamaica’s Calabash Writer’s Workshop*; and *Blue Latitudes: An Anthology of Caribbean Women Fiction Writers*, the *Jamaica Journal*, *Caribbean Writing Today*, *Calabash: A Journal of Arts and Letters*, *AfroBeat journal*, *Susumba’s Book Bag*, *Pepperpot: Best New Stories From the Caribbean*, and the *Peepal Tree Book of Contemporary Caribbean Short Stories*. Her essays have also appeared in the *Jamaica Observer*, *Air Jamaica’s Skywritings* magazine and *The Caribbean Voice* newspaper. A 2011 Bronze Musgrave medallist for excellence in literature, she has published two short-story collections, *What You Can’t Tell Him* (Star Apple Publishers, Trinidad, 2006) and *Love It When You Come, Hate It When You Go* (Peepal Tree Press, UK, 2014), which was shortlisted for the Grand Prix littéraire as well as the Guyana Prize for Caribbean Literature. A third collection of stories, *Girls in Trouble*, the manuscript for which was shortlisted for the Una Marson Award in 2017, is forthcoming.

Candida Lacey is Publishing Director of Myriad Editions. She has a PhD from the University of Sussex and worked as a commissioning editor at Routledge, Pandora Press, HarperCollins and Jonathan Cape before joining Myriad where she launched a new publishing programme designed to showcase emerging authors. Now an imprint of New internationalist Publications, Myriad publishes award-winning fiction, narrative and feminist nonfiction, and graphic novels, and organises two regular competitions designed to uncover new talent: First Drafts and the First Graphic Novel Competition. She is very proud to have commissioned both of Margaret Busby’s landmark anthologies: *Daughters of Africa* (Cape, 1992) and *New Daughters of Africa* (Myriad, 2019).

WINNER, NON-FICTION

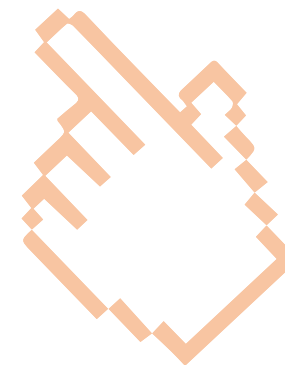


The winner of the non-fiction category is **Shame on Me**, by Guyana-born, Canada-bred, UK-based Tessa McWatt. “This book is a meditation on race, belonging, identity, family, and migration,” write the judges, “organised with chapters (including family photographs) on nose, lips, eyes, hair, ass, bones, skin, and blood. The mixed-race author reflects on what it means to be ‘mixed’, to have many ‘racial’ identities, to have no clear ‘place’ to belong to. This is a beautifully written, profoundly moving and deeply reflective book.”

Publisher: Scribe Publications (United Kingdom)



Tessa McWatt is the author of six novels and two books for young people. Her fiction has been nominated for the Governor General’s Award, the City of Toronto Book Awards, and the OCM Bocas Prize. She is one of the winners of the Eccles British Library Award 2018 for her first non-fiction book, *Shame On Me: An Anatomy of Race and Belonging*, published in the UK in 2019, and Canada and the US in 2020. She co-edited, with Dionne Brand and Rabindranath Maharaj, *Luminous Ink: Writers on Writing in Canada*. She is also a librettist, Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, and is on the Board of Trustees at Wasafiri.



NON-FICTION JUDGES

Bridget Brereton is Professor Emerita of history at UWI, St. Augustine, and author of *Race Relations in Colonial Trinidad* and *A History of Modern Trinidad*, among other books.

Grace Aneiza Ali is an Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow in the Department of Art & Public Policy at the Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. She is a Curator and Editor. She is the founder and editorial director of OF NOTE Magazine — an award-winning non-profit arts journalism initiative reporting on the intersection of art and politics and global arts activism. Her curatorial research practice and exhibitions center on socially engaged art practices as well as contemporary art of the Caribbean and its diaspora, with a specialization on her homeland Guyana.

Ursula Owen has been an influential figure in the worlds of literature and free expression since the 1970s. She was a founder director of Virago Press, was for two years Cultural Policy Advisor to the Labour Party, and, as Editor and Chief Executive, revitalised Index on Censorship. From 2003 to 2009 Ursula was Project Director for the Free Word Centre, taking it through from an idea to a concrete reality with premises in London. She is now Founder Patron of Free Word, a Trustee of English Touring Opera, Carcanet Press and Ledbury Poetry Festival. She published her memoir, *Single Journey Only*, this year.



The winner of the 2020 JAAWP for Non-Fiction, announced in May, is **Amanda Choo Quan**.

Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize

The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize is an annual award, which allows an emerging Caribbean writer living and working in the Anglophone Caribbean to devote time to advancing or finishing a literary work, with support from an established writer as mentor. The prize is offered across three literary genres: fiction in 2019, non-fiction in 2020, and poetry in 2021.

The Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize is sponsored by philanthropist Dr. Kongsheik Achong Low and administered by The Bocas Lit Fest and Arvon. This prize is named after Johnson and Amoy

Achong, and commemorates their lives as hardworking citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. Dr. Achong Low is a medical practitioner and Chairman of Medcorp Limited.

The Prize consists of a cash award of US\$3,000, a year's mentoring by an established writer, travel to the United Kingdom to attend a one-week intensive Arvon creative writing course at one of Arvon's internationally renowned writing houses, and three days in London to network with editors and publishers, hosted by Arvon, in association with the Free Word Centre and a leading London literary agency.

2020 Shortlist

- Amanda Choo Quan** for "It Starts with a Shatter" (extract from "An Emotional History of the West Indies")
- Melissa Doughty** for "The Road I've Walked: The Story of Joan Jackson"
- Amílcar Sanatan** for "Disappearing Boys" (extract from "For Small Men and Big Boys")

The 2020 longlist also included **Ruel Johnson** (Guyana), **Otancia Noel** (T&T), and **Kim Robinson-Walcott** (Jamaica).

The 2021 prize, currently open for entries, closes on 30 September, 2020.



We asked our Bocas Lit Fest followers: what makes an **unforgettable** Caribbean read?

100+ CARIBBEAN BOOKS THAT MADE US FROM 20+ TERRITORIES

USA BELIZE COLOMBIA UK GHANA INDIA

#MyCaribbeanLibrary #bocasat10

WE'RE INTERNATIONAL

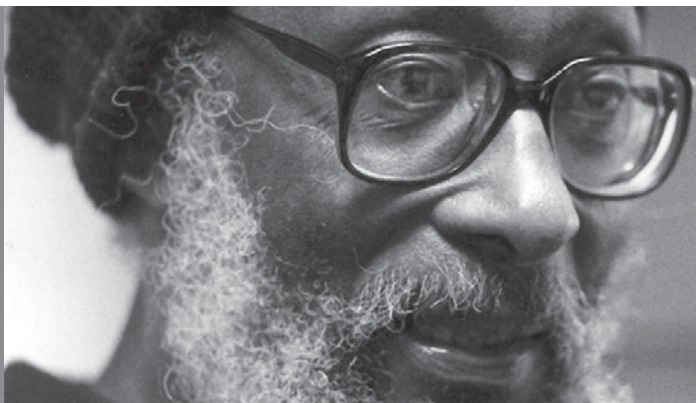
Authors of The 100+ Caribbean Books That Made Us come from all around the globe!

Inspired by the BBC's 100 Books That Shaped Our World, published in 2019, we used our social media channels to crowd-source a list of 100 Caribbean books that have meant the most to you (and our region). At the end of the campaign in May 2020, more than 300 beloved Caribbean books were named — the stories that hold pride of place on your bookshelves and in your hearts, and a testament to the astounding expanse of literary greatness that is Caribbean literature.

Throughout the coming months, we'll share details about all of the books mentioned during the campaign. Find out more here:

www.bocaslitfest.com/2020/celebrating-10-years/cbn-books-that-made-us

BOCAS HENRY SWANZY AWARD 2020



The 2020 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award was presented to Barbadian writer, scholar and editor Kamau Brathwaite. He agreed to accept the award just days before he passed away on 4 February.

The formal award presentation was made to a representative of the Brathwaite family at the annual Kamau Brathwaite Lecture on Thursday 5 March, 2020, hosted by the Cultural Studies Programme at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus. To celebrate his life, work, and legacy, and to mark Brathwaite's 90th birthday on 11 May, 2020, the NGC Bocas Lit Fest brought together thirteen writers to read the poem "Wake", from *The Arrivants*.

The Bocas Henry Swanzy Award for Distinguished Service to Caribbean Letters is named for the late BBC World Service radio producer (1915–2004). His work as an editor and producer on *Caribbean Voices*, first produced by Una Marston of Jamaica, provided a landmark platform for Caribbean writing in the 1940s and 50s, broadcasting fiction and poems by West Indian writers across the region.

Since 2013, the Bocas Lit Fest has honoured Swanzy's memory and recognised the achievements of editors, broadcasters, critics, and others via the annual Bocas Henry Swanzy Award. Awardees are chosen by the Bocas Lit Fest. In previous years, the Bocas Henry Swanzy Award was presented to:

- **Ian Randle**, publishing pioneer, founder and chairman of Ian Randle Publishers Ltd (2019)
- **Anne Walmsley**, writer, researcher, former publisher of Longman Caribbean (2018)
- **Joan Dayal**, proprietor of Paper Based Books (2017)
- **Jeremy Poynting**, founder of Peepal Tree Press (2016)
- Publisher, editor and broadcaster **Margaret Busby** OBE (2015)
- Literary critics and academics **Kenneth Ramchand** and **Gordon Rohlehr** (2014)
- Publishers **John La Rose** and **Sarah White** of New Beacon Books (2013)

About Kamau Brathwaite

Barbadian writer, scholar, and editor Kamau Brathwaite, who passed away on February 4th at the age of 89, was a towering figure in Caribbean letters and culture for half a century. Dozens of contemporary Caribbean writers — of both poetry and prose — acknowledge him as an influence and a mentor.

The 2020 Bocas Henry Swanzy Award pays tribute to Brathwaite's landmark work as a critic — the author of many seminal essays on Caribbean literature and culture — literary activist, and editor, and was also intended to honour him in the year of what would have been his ninetieth birthday.

Parallel to his career as a poet, Brathwaite published a broad-ranging corpus of essays on topics in Caribbean history, cultural studies, and literary criticism. In the 1960s, he was one of the founders of the Caribbean Artists Movement, which brought together dozens of Caribbean and Black British writers, artists, critics, musicians, and others. In 1970, he co-founded the groundbreaking intellectual journal *Savacou*, which fuelled intense debates about the nature and purpose of Caribbean literature.



First Citizens

NATIONAL POETRY SLAM 2020

Open to all ages, the First Citizens National Poetry Slam is T&T's national spoken word competition, sponsored by First Citizens.

In 2020, the semi-finals have been broadcast on national television, in a collaboration between the Bocas Lit Fest and TV6. Participants go through a three-round process: auditions, semi-finals, and finals. Every year, over one hundred poets compete for a grand prize of **\$50,000** — the largest spoken word prize offered in the region — plus a second prize of **\$20,000** and third prize of **\$10,000**.

The 2020 finals will be broadcast on **Sunday 27 September on TV6 at 7.30 pm** and streamed on the TV6 website. www.tv6tnt.com

2020 finalists

Reigning Champion **Alexandra Stewart** will defend her 2019 win against 12 challengers:

- Ahmad Abdullah-Muhammad**
- Gary Acosta**
- Kevin Soyer**
- Nia Thompson**
- Renaldo "Red" Frederick**
- Ronald Forde**
- Seth Sylvester**
- Shimiah Lewis**
- Shineque Saunders**
- Sophia Cooper**
- Tineka Francois**
- Zakiya Gill**





NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fes



After nine years of taking the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan to communities across Trinidad and Tobago, in 2020 the Children's Festival moved its programme online and onto national television for the first time – because, well, the pandemic! Through the generous support of our longstanding media partner TV6, Dragonzilla's Storytime became a weekly feature of the station's morning show. This video series features leading local storytellers reading from the nine published collections of stories created by children participating in the annual Storytelling Caravan. The videos are available on the Bocas Lit Fest YouTube page.

In the absence of the 2020 edition of the Storytelling Caravan, and the invaluable

interaction associated with children's group activities, we're launching the first ever Dragonzilla's Short Story Writing Challenge this September, in collaboration with our "day one" partners at NALIS, for children across Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative will provide an opportunity for children to create original tales so they discover the joy of writing, and gain confidence in their literary skills, especially while they remain apart from their schoolmates and friends. And what an honour it is to involve the charming four-year-old Coryn Clarke, author of *The Chronicles of Coryn*, as the face of the Challenge. For us, Coryn embodies the ideals of this Challenge, which aims to:

- Instill the importance of reading and writing among children, while exploring the country's

culture, history, environment, community responsibility, and national pride, all against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Inform children of the structure of a story and the writing process.
- Reward children for writing their own stories
- Give children the opportunity to read their own stories.

To learn more about how to take part, and all the great gifts and prizes on offer, check bocaslitfest.com/2020/children.

Also premiering this September is our motion comics series, based on the stories of the Children's Storytelling Caravan Colouring Book series, created by the Forward Ever Foundation, with voiceovers from our beloved storytellers. Look out for new releases on our social media channels!

We've been celebrating our 10th birthday with events all year round, and we continue to host events and projects to promote writers and serve readers during the period of social distancing.

Survival Kit

As the weeks of COVID-19 anxiety turn into months of uncertainty, we need the intellectual and creative vital supplies of literature, art, and music more than ever. So we curated three "Survival Kits"—drawing from new and recent books, online archives, and projects by past and present NGC Bocas Lit Fest writers, performers, and artists. Here you'll find doses of humour and beauty, stories of resilience and wonder, to stimulate you, console you, and even provoke you. Feed your imagination at www.bocaslitfest.com/2020/survival-kit

Bios and Bookmarks

A weekly online series featuring live readings by, and conversations with, Caribbean authors. Launched in the midst of the coronavirus "lockdown" period back in April, Bios & Bookmarks was conceived as a way of bringing the Caribbean's favourite writers of new and award-winning books closer to their local, regional and international audiences. In two seasons, we've chatted to over a dozen authors, with many more to come. Find out more at www.bocaslitfest.com/bios-bookmarks-an-online-reading-series

Bring Your Own Book & Bottle (BYOBB)

Our monthly virtual hangout where you can share excerpts from your favourite books and discuss what you're reading. It's a chance to connect readers of all genres in a relaxed environment and build community around books and book conversation. This event is in collaboration with Caribbean book clubs and reading groups from around the region, all part of our growing Bocas Book Network.

The 100 Books Caribbean Books That Made Us

We asked our Bocas Lit Fest followers: what makes an unforgettable Caribbean read? Inspired by the BBC's 100 Books That Shaped Our World, published in 2019, we used our social media channels to crowd-source a list of 100 Caribbean books that have meant the most to you (and our region). At the end of the campaign in May 2020, more than 300 beloved Caribbean books were named – the stories that hold pride of place on your bookshelves and in your hearts, and a testament to the astounding expanse of literary greatness that is Caribbean literature.

You can find the list of the 24 most-mentioned books at www.bocaslitfest.com/2020/celebrating-10-years/cbn-books-that-made-us

Dragonzilla's Storytime Online

At every NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Storytelling Caravan venue, storytellers guide and encourage children in creating their own story. All the stories

from the different sessions are recorded and published in a book with the children credited as the authors and each child receives a copy of the book. The Storytelling Caravan isn't on the road in 2020, but children can still experience the magic of storytelling at home with Dragonzilla's Storytime videos where storytellers read the imaginative and entertaining stories crafted by children in our past caravan sessions, including *The Lagahoo in the Lagoon*, *The First Trini on Mars*, *A Blue Crab Visits New York*, and *The Mermaid of Grand Riviere*.

You can download the stories to read along with the video and colour the illustrations, making this a full activity for children at home. Go to bocaslitfest.com/2020/children/stories.

Workshops Online

We've launched our online writer development programme, with a range of free and paid opportunities for writers at all levels and based anywhere in the world. www.bocaslitfest.com/writerscentre/workshops



Meet the members of the 2020 NGC Bocas Lit fest team.

Marina Salandy-Brown is the founder and Vice President of the Bocas Lit Fest, Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest, and a *Newsday* columnist. She is a former editor and prizewinning BBC programme maker with a publishing background and member of the Arts Council of London's Literary Panel. In 2005, she received the degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt), *Honoris Causa*, from the University of Westminster (UK), and in 2013 from the University of the West Indies. She is a current member of the British Council's Arts Advisory Committee and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. Her writing has appeared in international magazines and literary anthologies, including *New Daughters of Africa* (2019).

Funso Aiyejina is the Deputy Festival Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest and a member of the board of directors of the Bocas Lit Fest. He is the former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine and now Professor Emeritus. He is also

a prizewinning poet and short story writer. He won the 2000 Commonwealth Writers' Prize (Africa). Born in Nigeria, he has been based in Trinidad and Tobago since 1989. He is a widely published critic of African and Caribbean literature and a specialist on the work of Earl Lovelace. Since 2000 he has co-run the Cropper Foundation Writers Workshop, for Caribbean writers. His third poetry collection, *The Errors of the Rendering*, was published by Peepal Tree Press this year.

Nicholas Laughlin is the Programme Director of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest. He is also the editor of the arts and travel magazine Caribbean Beat and co-director of the contemporary art space and network Alice Yard. He has published two books of poems, *The Strange Years of My Life* and *Enemy Luck*.

Danielle Delon is Director of the NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest. She is the publisher and editor of several historical publications, including *The Letters of Margaret Mann*, *Bridges of Trinidad & Tobago*, *Ice Age Trinidad* (for children) and *A Handbook of Trinidad Cookery*.

The Festival Team

- Anna Lucie-Smith**, Festival Operations and Publishing Manager
- Marielle Forbes**, General and Hospitality Manager
- Ardene Sirjoo**, Marketing and Media Coordinator
- Justin Ramoo**, NGC Children's Bocas Lit Fest Coordinator
- Shivane Ramlochan**, Social Media Manager
- Alana-Marie Gopaul**, Social Media Assistant
- Patrice Matthews**, Management Projects Coordinator
- Junnel Lewis**, Festival Accountant
- Elise Rostant**, First Citizens National Poetry Slam Coordinator
- Richard Rawlins**, Graphic Designer
- Marlon James**, Festival photographer
- Marcus Lee Fook**, Technical Director
- Elechi Todd**, Stand and Deliver Video Production
- Stepping Stones Productions** and **Dp. Studios**, Children's Storytelling Video Production
- Impact Media**, First Citizens National Poetry Slam Video Footage
- Chantal Esdelle**, Festival Signature Music Composer and Performer
- FEMCOM**, Writers and Performers, Festival Comedy Sketches
- Stefan Rampersad**, Festival Motion Graphics



Since March 2018, the Bocas Lit Fest has been headquartered at 14 Alcazar Street in Port of Spain's St. Clair neighbourhood. This historic bungalow with its breezy verandah and high ceilings includes a dedicated event space where we host readings, book launches, workshops, and other events year-round.

The event space is also available for hire, for meetings, workshops, and other functions. 14 Alcazar Street also offers hot-desking and co-working spaces, for rent by professionals needing a temporary workspace with full office facilities.

To keep on top of our programme of year-round events outside the Festival season, visit our website at www.bocaslitfest.com, join our mailing list, or follow us on social media.



CREDITS & THANKS

The Bocas Lit Fest is a non-profit company incorporated and registered in Trinidad and Tobago in 2010.

Board of Directors

Rani Lakhani-Narace
Marina Salandy-Brown
Funso Aiyejina
Courtenay Williams
Lucy Hannah
Dax Driver
Marsha Ramnanan

The organisers of the NGC Bocas Lit Fest wish to thank everyone who has made this Festival possible in 2020, and from the very beginning.

Not everyone can be mentioned here, or has been able to contribute this year because of the virtual nature of the festival, but special thanks must go to Lisa Burkett and her team at NGC, Ken Attale and staff of Lonsdale Saatchi & Saatchi, and everyone in the OCM group for your most valuable support over the last 10 years, and also to the board of The Massy Foundation, a faithful founding sponsor.

Huge thanks to the Express editor, features and advertising departments for your partnership. Also to Flow and the marketing team for generously promoting our work during our first decade and also for facilitating the live stream every year.

We are very grateful to the former Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts Dr Nyan Gadsby Dolly for sustained backing over the last few years and to the National Lotteries Control Board for coming on board as a valuable sponsor in 2020, and the marketing team at First Citizens, sponsors for the last 8 years.

The University of the West Indies and NALIS have also been inaugural partners and sponsors and we greatly look forward to our continued collaboration.

Copyright © 2020 Bocas Lit Fest. All rights reserved.

The Bocas Lit Fest

Office address:
The Writers Centre
14 Alcazar Street
St. Clair, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

Registered address:
38 Coblenz Avenue
Cascade, Trinidad and Tobago

Telephone: (868) 222 7099
Children's festival: (868) 712 6227
Email: info@bocaslitfest.com
Website: www.bocaslitfest.com
Twitter: @bocaslitfest
Facebook: www.facebook.com/bocaslitfest
Hashtag: #bocas2020



ONE CARIBBEAN MEDIA LIMITED

Celebrates
WITH **you!**

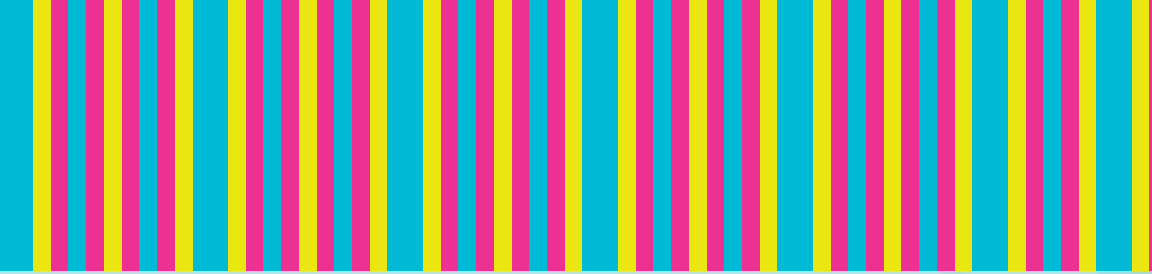
10 Years
NGC Bocas Lit Fest



Trinidad Express Newspapers



The Nation Publishing Co. Limited



BOCAS Lit Fest

Trinidad and Tobago Literary Festival
a festival of words and ideas

www.bocaslitfest.com

