



A book fair for the entire family ...



# RECITALS BOOK PARTIES GENERAL SESSIONS BOOK FAIR WORKSHOPS





WELCOME | 16TH ANNUAL ST. MARTIN BOOK FAIR

# Purpose and Objectives of the St. Martin Book Fair

## VISION

To be the dynamic platform for books and information on and about St. Martin; establishing an eventful meeting place for the national literature of St. Martin and the literary cultures of the Caribbean; networking with literary cultures from around the world.

## MISSION STATEMENT

- To develop a marketplace for the multifaceted and multimedia exhibition and promotion of books, periodicals and publishing technologies and to facilitate St. Martin, Caribbean, and international exchange in these.
- To provide a meeting place for the exchange of ideas and information for all stakeholders in the literary industry through, workshops, seminars, reading, and cultural manifestations.

## OBJECTIVES

- To support the right of the people of St. Martin to have full access to books, which are culturally and materially relevant to their reading needs.
- To support the right to freedom of expression and the fullest possible exchange of ideas and information through books and other reading and knowledge-based materials.
- To promote total customer satisfaction through personalized quality service to all St. Martin Book Fair participants and guest—in keeping with the “Friendly St. Martin” tradition and “Charismatically Caribbean” experience.



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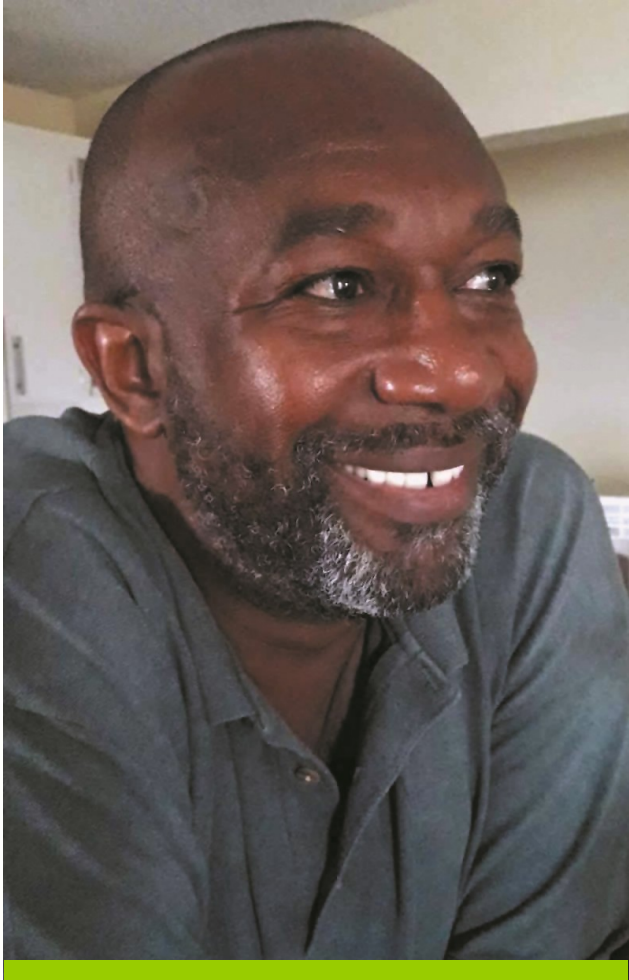
The 16th Annual St. Martin Book Fair  
is organized by Conscious Lyrics Foundation  
in collaboration with St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports,  
LCF Foundation, Nagico, Motorworld, University of St. Martin, and SOS radio.







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### Address of Shujah Reiph, on occasion of the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Martin Book Fair

When two school children – Timothy, a first-grader and his baby brother, Joshua - break their piggy banks (with the blessing of their mother) because they want to make sure that this Book Fair is held, after

hearing about all the financial challenges we were facing especially in the aftermath of the storms of last September, then we know throwing in the towel is not an option.

The youth of St. Martin believe in the Book Fair as much as we believe in them. The gesture of the two brothers is not only heart-warming, but also an indication that this journey that we started 16 years ago now will most likely continue for another 16 and more.

A wise person once said that too much of anything is bad. Definitely, he or she could not have meant reading, for we strongly believe that one can never read too much. How can too much of Baraka, Brathwaite, Lamming, Walcott ... be a bad thing? All of them have honored us by participating in this Book Fair that is now celebrating its sweet 16.

And sweet it will be, even though hurricanes Irma and Maria have forced us to condense our activities to two intense days. This year, we welcome all our guest writers with a special smile because we know that where Earl Lovelace or Edwidge Danticat are together in the company of fellow wordsmiths, the word will be sweeter than candy.



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This is indeed a Book Fair for the whole family. And family is where all our creolite resides. That is what we are by definition: a creole people; a creole culture and creole languages. We chose “Creole” as our theme this year for that reason. That one word packs a lot of meaning. Our life, our essence, our very being is what makes up the core of creole. It all begins right there with the family.

And talking of family, we all know that the St. Martin family is still reeling from the devastating effects of the monster storms of last year. It must be by divine intervention that we are opening this 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Fair on exactly the same date that the Atlantic Hurricane Season officially starts: June 1<sup>st</sup>.

We understand the anxiety and nervousness of the hurricane-weary people of this island. We extend our sympathies to all those who lost relatives and loved ones in Irma and Maria or in the aftermath of these tragic storms and express our solidarity with those who have lost their jobs and those who are still trying to get a roof back over their heads.

But, as Timothy and Joshua are teaching us, no hurricane should be granted power over our minds, over the word, over our celebration of the book. For out of the

mouth of babes comes strength, comes truth, comes wisdom. That is what the legendary resilience of our people is all about.

We are immensely grateful to all our partners - the University of St. Martin, the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, the St. Martin Tourist Office, the LCF Foundation, Motorworld and Emilio’s Restaurant. We are very much encouraged and strengthened by your confidence in this venture.

Thank you to the people of St. Martin for your continued support. This one is for you!



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### Word of welcome from the President of USM

My recent appointment as President of USM has been accompanied by a warm welcome from many of the island's residents, as well as a strong sense of pride expressed by my colleagues in neighbouring countries. I hope that my introduction to this plurinational metropolis we call Soualiga will be fed by an exchange of - and appreciation for- the narratives flourishing in the Caribbean, its Afro-descendancy and diaspora. For the last 16 years, the St. Martin Book Fair has proven to be the natural forum for the much-needed dialogue that will lead our peoples forward. I congratulate the organisers, guests and participants for maintaining this splendid tradition of celebrating written, spoken and otherwise manifested word, even and especially after the hurricanes of 2017.

Sincerely,  
Antonio Carmona Báez, PhD





The 16th Annual St. Martin Book Fair is organized by Conscious Lyrics Foundation in collaboration with St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, LCF Foundation, Nagico, Motorworld, University of St. Martin, and SOS radio.

**St. Martin Book Fair ☞ June 1 – 2, 2018**

## Pre-Book Fair Activity

**Thursday, May 31, 2018**

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

**“Creole – A Way of Life”**

Live round-table on SOS Radio 95.9 FM

In-depth views and discussion by leading and dynamic authors Rhoda Arrindell (St. Martin), Ruel Johnson (Guyana), Earl Lovelace (Trinidad and Tobago), Sonia Williams (Barbados)

Moderator: Shujah Reiph

7:30 pm

**New Book Presentation**

***Autopsie politique du massacre de mai 1967***

by Julien Mérimon (Guadeloupe)

Place: Chamber of Commerce Building, Spring Concordia, Marigot



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## St. Martin Book Fair Program

### Friday, June 1, 2018

8:30 am – 10:30 am

#### **Workshop I (Incorporating Creative Arts in the Classroom)**

University of St. Martin, Room 202

**Sonia Williams**, author, performance artist, theater director (Barbados)

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

#### **Workshop II (Promoting Literacy Within the School and Classroom)**

University of St. Martin, Room 202

**Dr. Rene Baly**, educator (St. Martin/USA)

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

#### **General Session I**

University of St. Martin, Room 202

#### **Lyrics in Music**

A frank discussion between new generation authors/artists and St. Martin teenagers and high school students about the words or lyrics in today's popular music and expectations about the future.

**Kenyo Baly**, award-winning Soca artist (St. Martin)

**Steve Fola Gadet**, author, hip-hop artist, professor (Guadeloupe/Martinique)

**Lililita Johnson**, singer, musician (St. Martin/USA)

**Dornel York**, musician (St. Martin)

8:00 pm

#### **Opening Ceremony**

Venue

**Motorworld Showroom**

**20 Welfare Road**

**Cole Bay, St. Martin**

Mistress of Ceremony

**Dr. Rhoda Arrindell**

#### **Words of Welcome**

**Mr. Tariq Amjad**

*Representative of Motorworld*





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**Mr. Shujah Reiph**

*President, Conscious Lyrics Foundation*

**Dr. Antonio Carmona Baez**

*President, University of St. Martin*

**Hon. Daniel Gibbs**

*President of the Collectivity of St. Martin*

**Hon. Leona Romeo Marlin**

*Prime Minister of St. Maarten*

**Recital and Literary Readings**

**Guitar Recital**

**Lililita Johnson**, recording artist  
(St. Martin/USA)

**Literary reading**

**Doris Dumabin**, novelist (Guadeloupe)

**Literary reading**

**Earl Lovelace**, award-winning novelist;  
journalist; playwright; short story writer  
(Trinidad and Tobago)

**Keynote Address**

**Edwidge Danticat**

*Award-winning novelist and short story  
writer, human rights advocate.*  
(Haiti/USA)

**New Book Launch**

***Fantasies – Love-making Poems***

by Fabian Adekunle Badejo (St. Martin)  
House of Nehesi Publishers

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

Winners of the “Letter and Essay Writing  
Competition” organized by Don’t Break  
the Comb

The 16th Annual St. Martin Book Fair 2018  
is declared open

**Saturday, June 2, 2018**

8:30 am – 4:00 pm

**Book Fair exhibition, book sales, book  
signings, workshops open to the public**

*Authors present for book signings*

**Free admission**

**University of St. Martin (USM),  
Philipsburg**

9:00 am – 12 noon

**I – In the Children’s Room**

**USM, Room 105**

Storytelling, games, songs and more.

Ages: 4 -12. Storytelling may be in various  
languages.

Special guest appearances, **Papa Mpho**,  
storyteller (St. Martin).

Coordinated by **Clarintje Kopra**  
(St. Martin)



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9:00 am – 10:30 am

**II – Workshop “How to Promote Arts and Culture,” Room 103**

The award-winning advertising agent will bring her expertise relative to the classroom; and provide skillful information about marketing your cultural and artistic products.

by **Valerie Graves**, author, advertising professional (USA)

**III – Workshop “Elements of Musical Theater,” Room 104**

The award-winning artist will introduce you to some of the key elements needed to produce a good musical theater piece.

by **Lililita Johnson**, singer, songwriter (St. Martin/USA)

**IV – Workshop “Writing Sensual Poetry,” Room 102**

The author will take you on a sensual odyssey as he shares the real story behind his new book *Fantasies - Love-making Poems* (House of Nehesi Publishers).

by **Fabian Adekunle Badejo**, author, poet, theater director, literary critic, journalist (St. Martin)

**V – Workshop “Airbrushing,” Room 201/202**

Practical information about airbrushing, including the process of getting started as an airbrush artist. Bring your white T-shirt and airbrush your own design.

by **Rene Violenus**, airbrush graphic artist (St. Martin)

10:35 am – 10:50 am

**University of St. Martin (USM)**

*Coffee, tea, and pastries break*

11:00 am – 12:30 noon

**University of St. Martin (USM), Philipsburg**

**VI – Book Launch and Workshop, Room 102**

***Schoolboy in Wartime – Memories of My Early Years***

by **Gerard van Veen**, author, historian (St. Martin)  
(House of Nehesi Publishers)

The book launch will include a writing workshop by Gerard van Veen that will show how adults (including senior citizens) can write books about their own dramatic or traumatic childhood experiences such as hurricane, war, major accidents, immigration.

**VII – Book Presentation, Room 104**

Round-table with new and senior authors, discussing their journeys and adventures in writing novels, biographies, plays, and poetry.

**Nerissa Golden**, author, media specialist (Montserrat)



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**Collette Jones-Chin**, author (Guyana)  
**Dr. Oluwakemi M. Linda Banks**, poet, educator (Anguilla)

### VIII – Workshop “The Kaiso,” Room 103

Calypso or Kaiso. We can never get enough of its history, role in society, how to judge a kaiso, and what are good lyrics, melody, and presentation. This timely session, which includes an overview of the history of St. Martin kaiso, is not only for kaisonians and song competition and pageant judges but for anyone interested in this enduring Caribbean art form.  
by **Fernando Clark**, humorist, leading kaiso expert (St. Martin)

### IX – Workshop “Poetry Writing,” Room 201

The poetry workshop will address the power of close observation, the use of the slightly-unexpected image, word-sound, and a drop of “marvelous mercy” in poetry by the socially-committed writer in the Caribbean context. Both beginning and experienced writers are welcome to participate. Please bring a pen, paper, and your imagination.  
by **Ruel Johnson**, author, poet (Guyana)

### X – Débat en créole francophone, Room 202

L’espace créole : incubateur pour un monde de demain?

Invités :

**Tarsa Blaize**, author (St. Lucia)  
**Nicole Cage**, author, poet (Martinique)  
**Steve Fola Gadet**, author, poet, hip-hop artist, professor (Guadeloupe/Martinique)  
**Lenny Mussington**, educator (St. Martin)  
**Max Rippon**, author (Marie Galante)

### Lunch break

12:30 am – 1:55 am

### Open Mic Poetry

Under the gazebo, USM campus grounds  
Coordinated by **Tamara Groeneveldt**, poet, BFC senior member

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

### Presidents Forum, Room 202

#### *Creole, language, and literature.*

The presenters will discuss these three factors as they relate to their work and to Caribbean life in general.

### Introduction

#### **Dr. Antonio Carmona Baez**

President, University of St. Martin  
*Rapporteur/moderator*  
Fabian Adekunle Badejo

### Panel:

**Dr. Rhoda Arrindell**, author, linguist, educator (St. Martin)

**Edwidge Danticat**, award-winning novelist, human rights advocate (Haiti/USA)





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**Earl Lovelace**, award-winning novelist,  
journalist (Trinidad and Tobago)

**Edwidge Danticat**, novelist, human rights  
advocate (USA/Haiti)

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

**Book Fair Closing Ceremony**

At Emilio's restaurant  
Sentry Hill Estate, L.B. Scott Road

**Welcome**

Mistress of Ceremony,  
Ms. Marie Richardson

Guitar Rendition by **Lililita Johnson**, re-  
cording artist (St. Martin/USA)

**Literary Evening Readings**

**Nicole Cage**, author, poet (Martinique)  
**Ruel Johnson**, author, poet (Guyana)  
**Tamara Groeneveldt**, poet (St. Martin)  
**Steve Fola Gadet**, author, poet, hip-hop  
artist, professor (Guadeloupe/Martinique)

**Guitar interlude**

**Lililita Johnson**, recording artist  
(St. Martin/USA)

**Max Rippon**, author, poet (Marie Galante)  
**Sonia Williams**, author, performance artist  
(Barbados)  
**Earl Lovelace**, novelist, journalist  
(Trinidad and Tobago)

**Presentation**  
**The Presidents Award**

**Word of Thanks**

**Shujah Reiph**  
Coordinator  
St. Martin Book Fair

Thank you for participating in the 16th  
Annual St. Martin Book Fair 2018

[www.houseofnehesipublish.com](http://www.houseofnehesipublish.com)



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## Guest Authors and Workshop Coordinators of St. Martin Book Fair 2018



**Rhoda Arrindell** is a leading St. Martin linguist and educator. The former Humanities Division head at the University of St. Martin (USM) has taught courses in English composition and reading; Caribbean literature; and world literature. Dr. Arrindell served as the first minister to hold the portfolios of Education, Culture, Sports, and Youth Affairs for the southern or Dutch-controlled part of St. Martin after the territory obtained its adjusted “autonomous status” in 2010. She co-authored chapters in *Agency in the Emergence of Creole Languages* (Dr. Nicholas Faraclas, Ed.), edited *Brother Rich ...*, *Creative Writing in St. Martin*; and presents papers on linguistics and literature at international conferences. On May 18, 2016, Dr. Arrindell appeared before the Central Committee of the Parliament of St. Maarten with fellow members of the Independence for St. Martin Foundation (ISMF). She presented the ISMF position to the parliamentarians on why the territory should be placed back on the United Nations decolonization. Dr. Arrindell is the author of *Language, Culture, and Identity in St. Martin* (HNP). [houseofnehesipublish.com](http://houseofnehesipublish.com)



**Fabian Adekunle Badejo** is the author of *Claude—A Portrait of Power and Salted Tongues—Modern Literature in St. Martin*. His essay “Negritude in the Forgotten Territories: Lasana Mwanza Sekou and Aimé Césaire” appears in *Negritude: Legacy and Present Relevance*, edited by Isabelle Constant and Kahiudi C. Mabana. In 1982, Badejo coordinated the groundbreaking St. Maarten Festival of Arts & Culture (SMAFESTAC). He has produced concerts by kai-



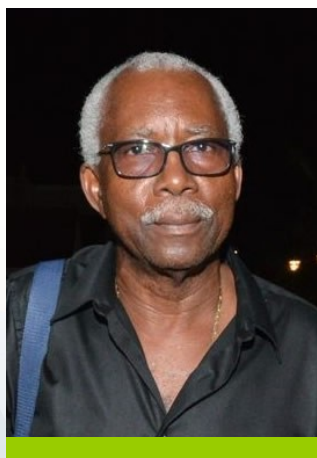


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sonian Mighty Dow and humorists Paul Keens Douglas and Fernando Clark. He has also directed plays and film documentaries and presented scholarly papers on St. Martin's literature and culture at regional and international conferences. Between 1989 and 2005, the former Nigerian diplomat was managing director/editor, publisher, and news director respectively of *The St. Maarten Guardian*, *St. Martin Business Week*, and *Today*. Badejo is the producer/host of the long-running weekly radio magazine *Culture Time* on PJD2. Badejo's *Fantasies – Love-making poems* (HNP) was launched in 2018 at the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the St. Martin Book Fair.



**Doris Dumabin** (Guadeloupe) is the author of four novels. The adult themes in her books have reportedly raised eyebrows in her homeland, especially for the way that she writes about male-female relationships, but she enjoys exploring new worlds in her fiction. The novelist attended the Caribbean Writers Congress 2015 in Guadeloupe and returns for a third consecutive year to the St. Martin Book Fair.



**Max Rippon** (Marie-Galante, Guadeloupe) is the author of eleven books of poems, essays on tourism, and narratives, including *Pawòl naïf*, *Agouba*, *Le Dernier Matin-Récit*, *Six virgule trios-Secousses à Terre-de-Bas*, and *Blues an tout lang* (2009), and *Marie Galante Regards* (2014). As a strong advocate of Kwéyòl as a popular and literary language, Rippon's books *Le Dernier Matin*, *Marie La Gracieuse*, and *Debris de Silences* are taught in schools in Guadeloupe and St. Martin. He is featured in the poetry collection *Hurricane, Shouts of Islanders (Hurricane, Cris d'Insulaires)* among such noted authors as Aimé Césaire, Derek Walcott, and Nabile Fares. He has participated in literary festivals in Guadeloupe, St. Martin, Nicaragua, USA, and France.



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**Steve Fola Gadet** (Guadeloupe/Martinique), poet, hip-hop artist, and cultural activist. He is an assistant professor at the University of the French West-Indies in Martinique. Gadet has also taught and lived in Jamaica, and has been a rapper since 1998. In 2013 he released his album *Undisguised*. For Gadet his first books, which dealt with hip-hop culture and the Rastafarian movement, were “academic” in nature. “I started writing fiction in 2009, when I was jobless,” said Gadet. His first short story collection, *Under the sun of dignity*, was followed by a second, *Man of clay* (2013). The rapping professor’s debut novel, *One day at a time*, appeared in January 2014. Gadet’s book *Make a difference*, about social activism, was introduced at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual St. Martin Book Fair. He returns to the literary festival in 2018 with his latest title, *LES CULTURES URBAINES DANS LA CARAÏBE*. All of his books are published in French.



**Nicole Cage** (Martinique), poet, novelist, journalist, Spanish teacher, psychotherapist, publisher. She speaks Creole, French, Spanish, and English. In 1996, Cage was awarded the prestigious *Casa de las Américas* prize for *Arc-en-ciel, l’espoir*, a collection of poems for children and young adults. Her novels and poetry books, which include *L’Espagnole*, *Aime comme musique ou comme mourir d’aimer*; *Palabras de paz por tiempos de Guerra*; *Dèyé pawol sé lanmou/Par-delà les mots, l’amour—Poèmes bilingue*, and *Vole avec elle*, have been published in Martinique, Venezuela, France, and the United Kingdom. Cage has performed her poetry, often accompanied by jazz, at literary festivals in Colombia, Romania, Mexico, Tunisia, El Salvador, Canada, and St. Martin. Her poems have been translated into Albanian, Arabic, Romanian, Macedonian, English, and Spanish. Awards include the OENEUMI Award (Macedonia), the Poetry Creativity Award (Lebanon), and the *Prix Gros Sel* for her novel *C’est vole que je vole*.





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**Papa Umpho** (Rodney Young) is a St. Martin high school teacher, poet, and storyteller. He has performed traditional and original folktales for the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, the HNP Creative Writing Program, the Children's Room of the St. Martin Book Fair, and other programs.



**Gerard van Veen** was born in Alkmaar, the Netherlands, in 1933. He came to the Caribbean in 1961, and worked in pastoral, social, educational, and cultural fields. In 1983, Gerard van Veen made St. Martin his home, after retiring from the priesthood in Aruba. He worked as a probation officer in St. Martin until 1993; and has taught sociology and Dutch language at the University of St. Martin. He has acted on stage under the direction of Ian Valz during the 1980s heyday of theater on the island. Gerard van Veen's articles on social issues have appeared in the *Newsday*, *Chronicle* and *The Daily Herald* newspapers. His column "Church News Bits" has appeared in the *Weekender* supplement of *The Daily Herald* for over 20 years. He is the author of *St. Theresa's San Nicolas; Savaneta, Antes y Awor; Religious Snapshots; Lambée & The Road that Couldn't be Built; and Hakuna Matata & Other Travel Stories*. Awards and honors include a Paul Harris Fellow and a Member in the Order of Oranje-Nassau. Van Veen's *Soualiga Catholica—St. Martin of Tours Parish (1841 – 2016)*, commemorated the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the St. Martin of Tours Parish in the South or Dutch part of St. Martin (the island is also called Soualiga, reputedly an Amerindian name which means "Land of Salt"). In 2018, HNP published Gerard van Veen's *Schoolboy in Wartime – Memories of My Early Years*. The autobiographical World War II book was launched at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual St. Martin Book Fair.





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**Collette Jones-Chin** is a graduate of the University of Guyana with a BA in Art Education and Painting. She obtained a diploma in Painting and Graphic Arts from the Burrows School of Art. The educator, writer, artist, dramatist, arts therapist, and set and costume designer has performed and mounted one-woman and group exhibitions in the Caribbean, South America, and North America. Jones-Chin is also an Educational Youth and Community Development expert with training in Human Resource and Operations Management. Jones-Chin was instrumental in establishing the National School of Theatre Arts and Drama in Guyana and served as its first director of studies; Design and Production Management lecturer, and Festival Director. She is the director and executive producer of SENJO Creations. Jones-Chin resides in Anguilla, where she founded “Stages Anguilla,” a community youth drama club. *Mahaica Belle Rings* is her first book, which highlights childhood experiences in the countryside of Guyana.



**Dr. Linda Oluwakemi Banks** obtained her Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State University. The Clinical Psychologist has her own practice in Anguilla, where she also teaches at the Anguilla Community College, and is an Associate Professor of Psychology at St. James Medical School. She is a Human Resource Development consultant, a radio and television communication specialist, a motivational speaker, Certified Court Mediator, an Assessor in the Juvenile Court, an Employee Assistance Counselor, an Anglican Lay Reader, Chalice Administrator, poet, composer, and an Afrocentric entrepreneur. Dr. Banks is the founder of the UNESCO-endorsed Omololu International School. She holds leadership positions in the Girl Guides Soroptimist International of Anguilla and the Caribbean Conference of Churches. Her poems can be found in the anthology *Where I See the Sun – Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla* (HNP) [houseofnehesipublish.com](http://houseofnehesipublish.com). *Starfish*, a collection of poems published in 2018, is the first book of poetry by Dr. Linda Oluwakemi Banks.



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**Tarsa Blaize** is a writer from St. Lucia. Self-described as “an avid reader” and “a sucker for a good suspense romance novel,” Blaize’s first novel, *Secret Wounds* (2017), depicts protagonists whose experiences are infused with St. Lucian/Caribbean culture. Blaize holds a BA in Insurance and Administration and has worked in the health industry of her country for the past ten years. She is a member of the Alzheimer’s Association and is passionate about care for the elderly. [Facebook.com/TarsaBlaize](https://www.facebook.com/TarsaBlaize).



**Edwidge Danticat** (Haiti/USA), is the author of several 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*, and *Claire of the Sea Light*. She is also the editor of *The Butterfly’s Way: Voices from the Haitian Diaspora in the United States*, *Best American Essays 2011*, *Haiti Noir* and *Haiti Noir 2*. She has written six books for children and young adults, *Anacaona*, *Behind the Mountains*, *Eight Days*, *The Last Mapou*, *Mama’s Nightingale*, *Untwine*, as well as a travel narrative, *After the Dance*. Her memoir, *Brother, I’m Dying*, was a 2007 finalist for the National Book Award and a 2008 winner of the USA’s National Book Critics Circle Award for autobiography. Danticat is a 2009 MacArthur fellow. [edwidedanticat.com](http://edwidedanticat.com)



**Lililita Johnson-Forbes** (St. Martin/USA), who is also known as “Lyrical Lynn,” holds a BS in Music Education from Florida A&M University. Lyrical Lynn’s singing career began in St. Martin at age 12, as a member of Jumelle, the musical duo that included her twin sister Ilismo. In 2008, Jumelle parted ways for the sisters “to explore their individual talents and musical passion separately.” Teaching is also a passion of Lyrical Lynn. Her theater studies have served her as a creative arts teacher for k-12 grade pupils; and more recently as a part-time music and theater teacher at Woodville Elementary and Middle School in the USA. Lyrical Lynn was the musical director and lyricist for the FAMU Essential Theatre





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production of *The Peanut Gallery* in 2005. She has served as a drama and musical director for the Christian Heritage Church holiday productions of *He is Risen*, *A Reason to Celebrate*. She also worked as the composer and musical director for *God's Unchanging Hands: The Musical*; and for Aceia Anderson's and the Tallahassee First SDA Church FNL productions *Invisible War*, *God in Me*, and *Amazing Love*. Lyrical Lynn's recordings, including her third album, *Created to Worship*, have won her three Caribbean Gospel Music Marlin Awards. She has developed the choir, praise team, and band courses for Music Man Dre Productions (for which her husband Andre Forbes is the CEO). In her spare time, Lyrical Lynn sings lead in her husband's band "Session" and travels with her sister for the occasional Jumelle performances.



**Nerissa Golden** is the editor of Montserrat's top digital travel and information platform *Discover Montserrat*. In 2017, Golden released the first two novels in her *Return to Love* series, romantic fictions set in her picturesque homeland. Golden is a certified facilitator for the Women's Innovation Network of the Caribbean Accelerated Program of the World Bank. The PitchIT Caribbean winner (2016) was named as one of the 31 Caribbean Women to Watch in 2016. The mother of four, heads Goldenmedia, a communications firm that develops multi-media solutions for clients of profit and non-profit corporations. Golden is also a mentor for young innovators in the technology, tourism and green energy spaces.



**Valerie Graves** (USA), winner of the 2017 African American Literary Award for her memoir, *Pressure Makes Diamonds: Becoming the Woman I Pretended to Be*, has more than 25 years of experience as a Creative Director of award-winning campaigns and events for African American, urban, female and general market audiences. Graves, a recipient of the ADCOLOR "LEGEND" AWARD (2007), sits on the steering committee of I'm PART, the diversity initiative





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of The Advertising Club of New York, where she served on the Board of Directors for 16 years. Graves is a creative consultant to The National Basketball Association and provides creative oversight to The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids. In addition, she serves on the Advisory Board of Pennoni Honors College of Drexel University. She has been a featured speaker at The 3% Conference, The IPG Summit on Black Women in Advertising and Marketing, The Advertising Club of New York 2017 Masterclass and the Omnicom Media International Women's Day, as well as appearing on panels at Advertising Week New York 2016 and 2017. From 2005-2010, Graves served as Chief Creative Officer of Vigilante, the New York urban subsidiary of Leo Burnett Advertising. Previously, Graves was Senior Vice President, Chief Creative Officer of UniWorld Group in New York. Her responsibilities included providing overall direction of the agencies' award-winning creative product for Fortune 500 corporations ranging from General Motors and Ford Motor Company to Bank of America, AT&T, Burger King, Pepsi and other blue chip brands. Awards include The Association of National Advertisers (2001, 2002, 2003), The Art Directors Club of New York, The Boston Ad Club, The Maine Ad Club, The Public Service Advertising Awards, and is a 15-time winner of the famed CEBA (Creative Excellence to Black Audiences) award. From 1995-1997, Graves was Senior Vice President, Corporate Creative Services at Motown Records. As a creative consultant, Graves served on the national advertising team of President Bill Clinton's campaign. Graves attended Wayne State University and studied screenwriting, directing and film production at New York University. Valerie Graves resides in Harlem, New York City with her husband, Alvin Bessent, a journalist who recently retired from the Editorial Board of *Newsday*.



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**Tamara Groeneveldt** was born in St. Martin in 1984. She grew up in the traditional fishing village of Grand Case as it was rapidly evolving into a virtual international “Culinary Capital of the Caribbean.” Groeneveldt started writing poetry as a St. Maarten Academy high school student. Her first public recital was with the Young Poets Society, which she joined as an undergraduate at the University of St. Martin. In 2010, Groeneveldt obtained a master’s degree in social work from Florida A&M University. In 2012, Groeneveldt participated in the Greenlight and Social Cracks slams and has served as the MC for readings at Axum Art Café. Her poem “After the Storm” is one two strongly descriptive poems publicized to date by new generation St. Martin poets about the devastation of Hurricane Irma in 2017 and the social and environmental consequences. Groeneveldt's poems have been published in the anthology *Where I See the Sun - Contemporary Poetry in St. Martin* (HNP)

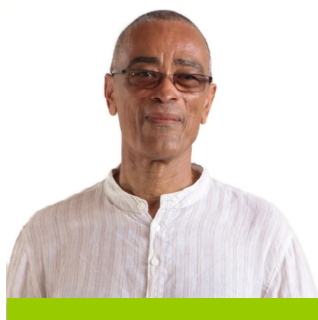


**Earl Lovelace**, novelist, playwright and short-story writer, was born in Toco, Trinidad in 1935 and grew up in Tobago. He worked for the *Trinidad Guardian*, then for the Department of Forestry and later as an agricultural assistant for the Department of Agriculture, gaining an intimate knowledge of rural Trinidad that has informed much of his fiction. Lovelace studied at Howard University (1966-7) and received his MA in English from Johns Hopkins University (1974). In 1980, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and spent that year at the University of Iowa. After teaching at other American universities, Lovelace returned to Trinidad in 1982, where he now lives and writes, teaching at the University of the West Indies. A collection of his plays, *Jestina’s Calypso and Other Plays*, was published in 1984. His first novel, *While Gods Are Falling*, was published in 1965 and won the British Petroleum Independence Literary Award. It was followed by *The Schoolmaster* (1968). His third novel, *The Dragon Can’t Dance* (1979), regarded by many



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critics as his best work, describes the rejuvenating effects of carnival on the inhabitants of a slum on the outskirts of Port-of-Spain. In *The Wine of Astonishment* (1982) he examines popular religion through the story of a member of the Baptist Church in a rural village. His novel, *Salt* (1996) won the Commonwealth Writers Prize (Overall Winner, Best Book) in 1997. Set in Trinidad, the book explores the legacy of colonialism and Slavery and the problems still faced by the country through the story of Alford George, a teacher turned politician. Lovelace's novel *Is Just a Movie* (2012) was the winner of the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.



**Julien Mérion**, Politologue. Julien Mérion a exercé les fonctions de directeur de cabinet à Grand-Bourg de Marie-Galante et enseigne à l'Université des Antilles. Homme de conviction, il porte un regard averti sur la vie politique guadeloupéenne. Son engagement avec l'association CO.RE.CA et son expertise sur les questions caribéennes en font un acteur reconnu dans le domaine de la coopération régionale.



**Dr. René E. Baly** (St. Martin/USA), obtained his doctorate in Educational Administration and Supervision from Barry University. He served as a teacher and principal in Miami-Dade County public schools for some 30 years before retiring in 2017. His expertise are in areas such as finance, business and personnel management, teacher evaluation systems, and early childhood initiatives. Dr. Baly was also a mentor principal, supervising aspiring principals.

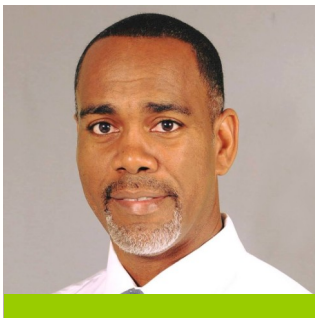
**Fernando Clark** is St. Martin's most prolific comedian. He is often called the Philosopher of Humor by fans and in the media. Clark is the leading expert on the St. Martin kaiso and has been the M.C.





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for the nation's major calypso competitions since 1979. Beginning in the early 1990s, Clark's one-man comedy shows have been sold-out events in St. Martin. In 2018, he is scheduled to star in the island's first father-son comedy show along with his son. Clark is profiled in the book *St. Martin Massive! A Snapshot of Popular Artists* (HNP) and has performed at the legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem USA.



**Rene Violenus** (St. Martin), is a poet, actor, and airbrush artist. Violenus is an Air Traffic Controller at SXM Airport.



**Sonia S. Williams** (Barbados), is a performance artist, theater director, and writer. In 1979, Williams migrated to New York City, where she attended Brooklyn Technical High School. She obtained her BA in Theater Arts and Women's Studies at Hamilton College and was a recipient of a Watson Fellowship to Nigeria in 1989. Williams returned to Barbados in 1990, and has been acting in her one-woman plays as a performance poet. She has also written and directed full-length plays, including *Amandala* and *The Ritual*. Awards include the Karen Williams Prize in Theatre, The Actress of the Year Barbados, 1990, The Governor General Award for Excellence in Drama in the professional category of the National Independence Festival of the Creative Arts, 1999. Williams has taught at the Edna Manley College for Visual and Performing Arts in Jamaica, Barbados Community College, and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. She is regarded as one of the most important of a younger generation of directors working in the Caribbean theatre today. *This To Will Pass* (2014), is a novel by Sonia S. Williams.



June 1-2, 2018

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for

# *Fantasies*

LOVE-MAKING POEMS

by **Fabian Adekunle Badejo**

AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 16TH ANNUAL ST. MARTIN BOOK FAIR

## **Motorworld Showroom**

20 Welfare Road, Cole Bay, St. Martin

FRIDAY, JUNE FIRST

**06.01.18**

TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN

EIGHT O'CLOCK

**8:00PM**

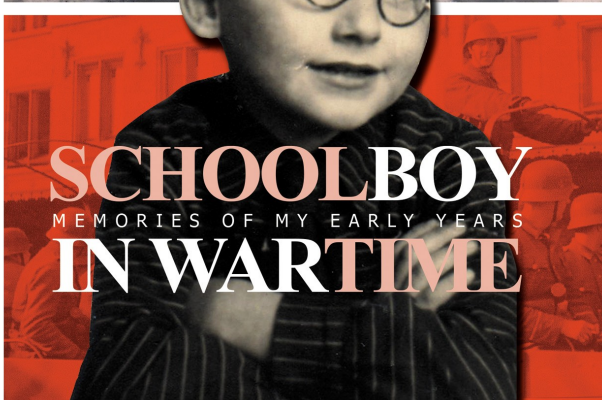
IN THE EVENING

RSVP: F: 721.523.1491 | E: [Nehesi@sintmaarten.net](mailto:Nehesi@sintmaarten.net)

(Fabian Adekunle Badejo is the guest poet at the Opening Ceremony of the St. Martin Book Fair for which award-winning author Edwidge Danticat is the featured guest speaker)

Refreshments will be served | Books will be available.

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# **SCHOOLBOY**

MEMORIES OF MY EARLY YEARS

# **IN WARTIME**

by **Gerard van Veen**

ST. MARTIN BOOK FAIR

## **University of St. Martin**

Room 102, Soualiga Blvd., Philipsburg, St. Martin

SATURDAY, JUNE SECOND

**06.02.18**

TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

**11:00AM**

UNTIL 12:30 NOON

RSVP: F: 721.554.7089 | E: [Nehesi@sintmaarten.net](mailto:Nehesi@sintmaarten.net)

(The book launch will include a book fair workshop by Gerard van Veen about how adults can write books about their own dramatic or traumatic childhood experiences such as hurricane, war, immigration.)

Refreshments will be served | Books will be available.

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