

13th annual St. Martin
Le Salon du Livre de St. Martin
BOOK FAIR
 The Word...

A book fair for the entire family ...



RECITALS
BOOK PARTIES
GENERAL SESSIONS
BOOK FAIR WORKSHOPS

In tribute to Kamau Brathwaite (85th birthday celebration), and Sen. Edward Brooke (1919-2015)







A book fair for the entire family ...

CONTENTS

04 Purpose and Objectives

VISION | MISSION STATEMENT | OBJECTIVES

05 Messages

SHUJAH REIPH | JACQUELINE SAMPLE
DR. FRANCO GUADELOUPE | HON. ALINE HANSON
HON. MARCEL GUMBS

10 Pre-Book Fair Activities

JUNE 2 - 3, 2015

11 Book Fair Program

JUNE 4 - 6, 2015

18 AUTHORS AND WORKSHOP PRESENTERS

The 13th Annual St. Martin Book Fair

Organized by Conscious Lyrics Foundation and House of Nehesi Publishers

in collaboration with St. Maarten Tourist Bureau, University of St. Martin

LCF Foundation, St. Martin Tourist Office, and

sponsors SOS radio, BK Martin Book Fund, SXM Airport.





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 professional ethics and conduct and fair practice in St. Martin and Caribbean book and related industries.
- To provide total customer satisfaction through personalized quality service to all St. Martin Book Fair participants and guests—in keeping with the “Friendly St. Martin” tradition and “Charismatically Caribbean” experience.



Shujah Reiph
Book Fair Coordinator

**Welcome, Welcome,
Welcome!**

Freedom, courage, and wisdom are words with significant meanings, words that are at the cornerstone of the liberation of nations and the building of civilizations. Words, packed with all the meanings that we can imagine, have power. How would we be able to create even one sentence without beginning with a single word? After the word, the sentence is launched, the paragraph is fashioned and picks up speed from the winds of ideas, packed into more words. And before you know it, the book is created. This brings us to the focal point of the 13th annual St. Martin Book Fair, a book fair for the entire family.

There are over 25 authors and workshop presenters participating in this book festival. They range from near and far: from the village of St. Martin's most fertile agricultural land, Colombier, to our geographically closest island-neighbor, Anguilla, to three nations that number among the five countries with the world's largest populations: India, the USA, and Brazil. With "the word," the book fair participants will use every genre of literature, and what Dr. Rhoda Arrindell would call "Orature," to tell us stories. For three days, new and famous writers will work to captivate us with "the word" on life of their worlds. Worlds of words from young nations that range from islands that are still colonies, to complex continental-size countries—but all of them, my good friend Lasana Sekou reminded me, "All of

them, Shujah, are ultimately descending from civilizations that are thousands of years old."

At the St. Martin Book Fair 2015, nearly 10 books of poetry, drama, romance fiction, short stories, essays, and children stories are being launched, or introduced outside of the author's country for the first time. I think this amount of books launched is a first for the St. Martin Book Fair. Three of the new books are published in St. Martin by House of Nehesi Publishers. One of those books includes the original text in English and the full translation in French, Spanish, and Italian. This is definitely a first in the history of the St. Martin Book Fair.

Welcome to our visiting and participating authors, to our visitors who booked their Caribbean vacation around the book fair dates, to our partners and supporters, to all of the St. Martin people. Enjoy the weekend in fine company and a positive environment. The Book Fair Committee, the book fair organizers, and I are all at your service.

Finally, this literary festival is dedicated to the memory of the late US Senator Edward Brooke (1919-2015), a true supporter of the St. Martin Book Fair; and to the indomitable Kamau Brathwaite on his 85th birthday.

Have a Happy St. Martin Book Fair.

Shujah Reiph
Coordinator
St. Martin Book Fair
President
Conscious Lyrics Foundation



A Word of Welcome

In the beginning was the word. And the word became literature. And one very special, gifted and iconic wordsmith, who has graced this

event with his luminous presence, sang almost in a mournful tone that “Words Need Love Too.” Well, Kamau Brathwaite, this 13th Annual St. Martin Book Fair is also for you, as a gift for your 85th birthday this year. Along with Kamau, the St. Martin Book Fair 2015 is also dedicated to one of our earliest book fair sponsors and a lover of fine letters and books, the late US Senator Edward Brooke III. May we know and love the word as both of these great gentlemen have known and loved it – faithfully, joyfully, truthfully, passionately, intelligently, and courageously.

The number 13 is filled with superstition. There are those who wished we had skipped it and moved on to the next number. But guess what? There is magic in number 13. If you doubt me, ask those who are chronically addicted to the numbers game: for some of them, 13 is a lucky number. However, an event like this is not a game of chance. As organizers, each year we fashion our luck. We seek to constantly improve on what we offer, guided by the original vision of the founders – Conscious Lyrics Foundation and House of Nehesi Publishers – which was to celebrate the book in all its essence and make it the rallying point of the family rather than a decorative part of our living room furniture. Hence, the St. Martin Book Fair is a book fair for the entire family. And what better way to begin its teenage years than to gather writers from all four corners of the globe to assemble on, Soualiga, this “Land of Salt” for

a huge book fête. (St. Martin is also known by another Amerindian name, Oualichi, “Land of strong, beautiful women.”)

Three new books will be baptized during these three exciting days. We thank their authors for choosing the St. Martin Book Fair as their place of birth and House of Nehesi Publishers as their midwife. From India to Panama, and Anguilla to Brazil; from Antigua to the UK, and from Guadeloupe to the USA; from Guyana to St. Martin, passing through St. Lucia and Haiti, we welcome all you wordsmiths to this gathering of the tribe. In this our global village called St. Martin, you will find love, you will find peace; you will make friends and above all, you will have the word. In the process, we hope you will also have fun and use your word as a sword for the freedom of all the peoples of the world, starting from right here.

Let me end by saying a word of thanks to our strategic partner, the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau; to the University of St. Martin, venue of the book fair workshops and panel discussions; to the St. Martin Tourist Office, for their continued collaboration; and to the L.C. Fleming Foundation, for demonstrating in grand style what a patron of the arts is all about.

The St. Martin Book Fair will not exist without the support and encouragement of the people of this nation. You are indeed the fairest part of this enthralling international event.

Thank you all.

Jacqueline A. Sample
President
House of Nehesi Publishers



Dr. Francio Guadeloupe
Dean of Academics
Interim President
University of St. Martin

There are two consistent and seemingly paradoxical claims that are synonymous with the House of Nehesi and the Conscious Lyrics Foundation, the architects of the annual St. Martin Book Fair. Their first contention is that anti-colonial aesthetics is politics and ethics by other means. Next to this there is an alternative reasoning which appreciates anti-colonial aesthetics as the intervention that comes before, in between, and after politics and ethics; a triad in other words. In this second assertion, anti-colonial aesthetics acts as the proverbial Holy Spirit, a radically immanent agent spreading the need for a revolution beyond the confines of political vanguards and ethical missionaries.

As a partner in this endeavor, the University of St. Martin (USM) welcomes the fact that both the House of Nehesi and the Conscious Lyrics Foundation have not sought to solve the paradox in

a definitive way, which, in our estimation, would be an anti-temporal gesture. In other words it speaks to their understanding of anti-colonial aesthetics, and good art in general, as always being open to the unforeseen.

We look forward to having this productive paradox illuminated and cultivated in the coming days.

Walk Light.



Présidente
Aline Hanson

Au regard du programme de cette nouvelle édition, de la variété des thèmes qui seront débattus lors des ateliers, et de la richesse des auteurs invités, il est incontestable que la Salon du livre sera cette année encore, un événement où la connaissance et l'émotion littéraire rencontrera son public.

Le pouvoir d'un livre est d'une grande importance, car il offre à chacun la possibilité de créer sa propre vision de la société, de la science et de la culture du monde. De pouvoir créer sa propre opinion est essentiel pour la démocratie, et de pouvoir lire et comprendre différents types d'informations de façon critique est essentiel pour la capacité des peuples à prendre leurs propres décisions et à s'instruire.

Lire c'est imaginer, c'est promouvoir l'imagination, la capacité même qui peut donner à notre jeunesse des idées sur comment changer le monde pour qu'il devienne un meilleur endroit de vie. Lire donne du pouvoir. Lire c'est le pouvoir. Lire rend fort et permet de décider de sa vie. Lire vous informe et vous donne la possibilité de comprendre d'autres peuples et d'autres cultures. La lecture ouvre l'esprit à l'empathie.

Je vous souhaite un excellent Salon du livre à toutes et à tous, et si comme l'avait déclaré Montesquieu, « Une heure de lecture est le souverain remède contre les dégoûts de la vie », lisez sans modération les proses de nos plumes caribéennes et vous trouverez le goût du bonheur !



WELCOME | 13TH ANNUAL ST.MARTIN BOOK FAIR



Welcome One and All

The annual St. Martin Book Fair has become a fixture of our island's cultural calendar, and rightfully so.

Books are vessels of dreams; they make us dream and carry dreams within their covers. Books are also

snapshots of aspects of culture and some say the cheapest way to travel the world without leaving home. Welcome to all the writers and participants who have had to leave their homes to come to St. Maarten/St. Martin for this 13th edition of our Book Fair. Sometimes, undertaking the physical journey is essential to further understanding the place and people described in the books, particularly those you may have read about St. Maarten/St. Martin.

I think you will soon find out in this weekend packed with Book Fair activities, that the real deal is even better than the dreamed or imagined one. In other words, the real St. Maarten/St. Martin, with people of flesh and blood from all over the world is as cosmopolitan as they get and as exciting as you can find anywhere. The word is that we are a free-spirited and friendly people, with a knack for languages and a propensity for fêteing. But don't take my word for it: discover for yourself what the whole of "Sweet St. Martin Land" means to the millions of visitors we welcome to our shores annually.

The theme of this year's Book Fair is "The Word." Not too long ago, one of the greatest Caribbean poets, Kamau Brathwaite, published a book he called: *Words Need Love Too*. The book was published right here on our island, by House of Nehesi Publishers, joint organizers of this Book Fair. Everybody needs love. And I believe, Mr. Brathwaite was referring to the fact that we should also handle words with love for it is words that writers use to conjure up magical places and characters; it is words they use to paint a picture of society, which is held up to each and every one of us as a mirror of the human condition. You are probably familiar with that saying which is very popular in the Caribbean: "Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Well, you know for sure that words often hurt more than sticks and stones because they leave an emotional scar that does not heal as quickly as the physical one. But we say it to let the other person know that their insults have no effect on us. Is that really so? You have the word.

Have a very successful St. Martin Book Fair, and as the organizers emphasize: it is a book fair for the whole family. And we consider all the participants in this book jamboree, family.

I thank you.

Hon. Marcel Gumbs
Prime Minister of Sint Maarten



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Pre-Book Fair Activities

Tuesday, June 2

8pm – 11pm

The Poets Lounge

Guest poets: **Rosabelle Illes** (Aruba), **Fola Gadet** (Guadeloupe). **Magueda Jackson** (St. Martin/Anguilla), reads her poetry from the new anthology *Where I See The Sun – Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla*

Place: Q Lounge

(Upstairs, McDonald's Restaurant)
Simpson Bay

Wednesday, June 3

6 pm – 7:30 pm

Economic Models in the Caribbean

Presentation/discussion with business and political leaders

Guest speaker: **Luiz Bernardo Pericás** (Brazil)

Historian, social critic, translator

Author of *Che Guevara e o debate econômico em Cuba*

(*Che Guevara and the economic debate in Cuba*)

Cambridge University Press

Place: Mr. K Cigar Lounge

Sucker Garden Road (at entrance to Guana Bay)

Mercredi 03 Juin 2015

Heure : 18 heures (6 pm – 7:30 pm)

Présentation du carnet de voyage

de **Steve Gadet** : **Dix jours au pays de la Négritude debout.**

CCISM à Concordia, Marigot



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Book Fair Program

Thursday, June 4

9 am – 12 noon

Meet the Writers I

New writers and leading authors visit primary schools and secondary schools throughout the island to discuss their work, experience with writing books, and the value of reading and literature with teachers and students.

8 pm – 10 pm

Opening Ceremony

Place: Territorial Media Tech center
[Médiathèque Territoriale]
Rue J.L. Hamlet, Spring Concordia, Marigot

Welcome

Master of Ceremony, Alex Richards

Words of Welcome

Mr. Shujah Reiph
President, Conscious Lyrics Foundation
Mrs. Jacqueline A. Sample
President, House of Nehesi Publishers

Dr. Francio Guadeloupe

*Dean of Academics/Interim President
University of St. Martin*

Hon. Aline Hanson

President of the Collectivity of St. Martin (North)

Hon. Marcel Gumbs

Prime Minister of St. Martin (South)

Guest Recital

Dr. Oluwakemi M Linda Bank, poet, psychologist,
educator
(Anguilla)

Gisèle Pineau, novelist
(Guadeloupe)

Keynote Address

Tishani Doshi

Poet, novelist, dancer, journalist, award-winning
author
(India)

New Books Launched

Featured book: *The Adulterous Citizen* – poems
stories essays
by Tishani Doshi (India)



Book Fair Program

Introducing: *Where I See The Sun – Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla*

A New Anthology Edited by Lasana M. Sekou (St. Martin)

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Ruby Bute, artist, poet, storyteller, author; and **Papa Umpho**, poet, storyteller

The 13th Annual St. Martin Book Fair 2015 is declared open.

- Book Fair exhibitions
- All authors present for book signings
- Reception. Refreshments served.

Friday, June 5

9 am – 12 noon

Meet the Writers II

New writers and leading authors visit primary schools and high schools throughout the island, and the House of Detention, to discuss their work, experience with writing books, and the value of reading and literature.

2 pm – 4 pm

General Session

Place: University of St. Martin, Rm 202

“Word Up!”

An exciting discussion between important new-generation authors and hip hop artists and St. Martin teenagers, high school students, and rappers about the lyrics and expressions of today's popular song, music, and dance.

Faizah Tabasamu, poet, blogger, literary critic, teacher (St. Martin)

Fola Gadet, poet, hip hop artist, author, university lecturer (Guadeloupe)

Nikky MC (Guillaume Delannay), rapper (St. Martin)

Rumari Rogers, Road March winner, St. Maarten Carnival 2015 (St. Martin)
Moderator.

8 pm – 10 pm

Literary Evening & Jazz

Canoa restaurant
(Overlooking Oyster Pond lagoon)
Emerald Merrit Road 14
Oyster Pond



Poetry & Prose Recital

An evening of literary readings by new and distinguished poets, novelists, and short story writers, from St. Martin and around the world. The poets/authors may recite in various languages.

Admission \$50

(Three course dinner and 1 drink)

Poets/Novelists/Authors

Tishani Doshi (India)
Faizah Tabasamu (Rochelle Ward) (St. Martin)
Gisèle Pineau (Guadeloupe)
Vladimir Lucien (St. Lucia)
Nicole Cage (Martinique)
Luiz Bernardo Pericás (Brazil)
Onya Kempadoo (Guyana/Grenada)
Fola Gadet (Guadeloupe)
Rosabelle Illes (Aruba)
Carlos Wynter Melo (Panama)
Vanessa Croft Thompson (Anguilla)
Terry Daniel (St. Martin)
Doris Dumabin (Guadeloupe)
Joanne Hillhouse (Antigua)
Sjorensly R.R. Valies (St. Martin)
Dory Sélèsprika (Guadeloupe)
Andre Fouad (Haiti/USA)
Max Rippon (Marie Galante)

Jazz Interlude

Connis Vanterpool, musician (St. Martin)

Saturday, June 6

8 am – 4 pm

Main Book Fair exhibition, book sales, book signings, workshops, panel discussions, all open to the public

Free admission

**Place: University of St. Martin (USM)
Souliga Boulevard 1, Philipsburg**

9 am – 12 noon

Storytelling, workshop, and book signings, open to the public

Free admission

Place: Territorial Media Tech [Médiathèque Territoriale]

Rue J.L. Hamlet, Spring Concordia, Marigot

9 am – 12:30 noon

I – In the Children's Room

University of St. Martin, **Rm 104 (Philipsburg)**

For Book Fair 2015, children's activities will include face painting by **La Rich** [9am-9:45am].

Thereafter the "Lil' chef" activities will take over In the Children's Room—centered around how children can prepare healthy snacks and gourmet bytes for themselves, their siblings, parents, and grandparents. Children can come dressed as little chefs for this unique activity, with **Chef Maranatha** of **Maranatha Cuisine** [10 am-12 noon].

There may also be storytelling in different languages. Ages: 4-12

Coordinator: **Nzinga Lake** (St. Martin)



9 am – 10:30 am

II – The Arrowroot Workshop

University of St. Martin, **Rm 102 (Philipsburg)**

The Nature Valley association members will show the arrowroot plant and rootstock and discuss its history, cultivators, and uses in St. Martin; the traditional pounding method and companion songs; how the starch is made from the Caribbean herbaceous plant; and “medicinal virtues” and cooking uses of the fine-grained starch that is made from arrowroot in St. Martin and throughout the region.

Presenter: **Association Nature Valley Colombier**
(Contact: **Vernicia Brooks**, St. Martin)

III – The Constant Blogger

University of St. Martin, **Rm 103**

How many times have you started something and stopped, or rather burned out because it became too overwhelming or time consuming, or you lacked inspiration? On one hand, you love writing and sharing your passion with people, but on the other, you have no clue where to begin or how to continue, or you may even find web design intimidating. This workshop will show you step-by-step how to set up your consistent blog and avoid burnout.

Presenter: **Faizah Tabasamu** (Rochelle Ward, St. Martin), poet, blogger, teacher

Panel Discussion I: The sexualization of minor girls and boys in pop media

University of St. Martin, **Rm 202**

Authors discuss the increasing images and expressions of the sexualization of especially minor girls, and also boys, in song, dance, music video, tv/

film, carnival, and fashion magazines, among other “media.” Is there an economic relationship between the sexualization of minors, “the entertainment industry,” and globalism as new form of “cultural imperialism?” How are the sexualization images and expressions imitated, tolerated, or combated in the homes, schools, places of worship, in the community, and by upcoming and major artists?

Panelists/authors: **Oonya Kempadoo** (Guyana/ Grenada); **Fola Gadef** (Guadeloupe); **Joanne Hillhouse** (Antigua); **Carlos Wynter Melo** (Panama).
Moderator: **Dr. Rhoda Arrindell**, linguist, educator, author (St. Martin)

IV – Health and Banking

University of St. Martin, **Rm 101**

An L.B. Scott Lecture forum with experts in the subject areas.

Coordinator: **Philipsburg Mutual Improvement Association (PMIA)**

V – The Graphic Arts of Book Covers and CD/DVD Jackets

University of St. Martin, **Rm 107**

D Workshop will conduct this introduction to graphic design, with an emphasis on print and digital book cover and CD/DVD jacket designs and typography. The importance of using the right font to convey the feel you’re looking for, along with the appropriate backdrop that will draw people to your message and product, and more will be discussed in this workshop.

Presenter: **Sjorensly Valies**, poet, graphic designer, owner of D Workshop



9 am – 11 am (De 9 heures à 11 heures)

VI – Teachers Telling Stories

Place: Territorial Media Tech [Médiathèque Territoriale]
(Spring Concordia, Marigot)

Writers/teachers will read to children, ages 5-10, from their children's publications, in French—using island features such as the Lady Liberty statue at the Agrément roundabout; and animals that may be visible in the children's neighborhoods.

Presenters: **Andy Armongon** (Guadeloupe/ St. Martin), **Regine Samson** (St. Martin/ Guadeloupe)

VII – The Poetry Workshop

Territorial Media Tech [Médiathèque Territoriale]
(Spring Concordia, Marigot)

A multilingual (English, Kwéyòl, French) workshop on writing and performing poetry by new-generation Caribbean poets. Are you writing, interested in writing, or wish you could write good or great verse for traditional poetry forms, hip hop, rap, reggaeton, or dancehall? Hear “the word” from successful young poets on how to get started, or discuss with them different ways of getting better at the poetry and spoken word craft.

Presenters: **Vladimir Lucien**, award-winning poet (St. Lucia), **Dory Sélèsprika**, slam poet champion (Guadeloupe)

9 am – 11 am (De 9 heures à 11 heures)

Conversation and book signing with Guadeloupean novelist Gisèle Pineau

Séance de dédicace du roman *Les voyages de Merry Sisal* de **Gisèle Pineau** (Guadeloupe), à la **Librairie des isles**, Concordia, Marigot.

10:35 am – 10:50 am

University of St. Martin (USM), Philipsburg

Coffee, tea, and pastries break

11 am – 12:30 noon

VIII – The Music Workshop

University of St. Martin, **Rm 102**

The life and work of **Bankie Banx** is “the lesson” of this music workshop. He rose from humble beginnings to international recording star, to producer of the annual Moonsplash, a unique Caribbean music festival that is the haunt of “Wall Street types.” How does he do it? What does it take to keep going while staying true to your roots? Audience will be able to ask questions.

Presenter: **Bankie Banx**, international recording artist, poet, songwriter, music producer, Moonsplash founder (Anguilla)

IX – A Cross-Cultural and Multilingual approach to the Caribbean Community

[A bilingual workshop: English/French]

University of St. Martin, **Rm 103**

*Un approche transculturelle et multilinguistique de la communauté caribéenne animée par **Dr. Fabienne Viala** (France/UK) [A*



Cross-Cultural and Multilingual approach to the Caribbean Community. Presenter: **Dr. Fabienne Viala** (France/UK)]. Informing the workshop will be Dr. Viala's newest book, *The Post-Columbus Syndrome: Identities, Cultural Nationalism and Commemorations in the Caribbean* (Palgrave Macmillan, New Caribbean Series, 2014). It examines the representation of Christopher Columbus in Hispanic, English, and French-speaking Caribbean Cultural production, with a focus on literature, music, and performance.

X – The Writing Workshop

University of St. Martin, **Rm 107**

The Writing Workshop is a discussion about the writing process, how to get started: poetry, stories, prose; when is your manuscript completed; what are some of the current ways to get your work to a publisher (e.g. via an agent)? Discussions and examples could include experiences with the author's newest book, *The Adulterous Citizen – poems stories essays* (House of Nehesi Publishers), and her other books and articles (e.g. in *International Herald Tribune*, *The Hindu*, *The Weekend Financial Times*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, and *The New York Times*).

Presenter: **Tishani Doshi** (India), poet, novelist, dancer, award-winning author

Panel Discussion II: Contemporary Developments in Caribbean Theater

University of St. Martin, **Rm 202**

Panelists: **Nicole de Weever**, dancer, international/Broadway star, founder/president, Art Saves Lives Foundation (St. Martin); **Felix Fleming**, playwright, theater director, actor, founder, Sunshine Theatre Company (Anguilla); **Clara Reyes**, choreographer, dancer, Ponum expert, founding director, National Institute of Arts (St. Martin).

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

Lunch break

[12:30 noon – 1:55 pm](#)

[12 noon – 1:30 pm](#)

Open Mic Poetry

University of St. Martin (USM), Gazebo

Fyah “Under the Gazebo”

An out-door poetry reading by St. Martin's young poets and spoken word artists, and perhaps audience members, at the USM campus grounds.

by **Soualigan Fyah: Youth Poetry**

MCs: **Sjorensly R. R. Valies, Glenda York**



WELCOME | 13TH ANNUAL ST.MARTIN BOOK FAIR

2 pm – 3:30 pm

Presidents Forum: The Symposium of the St. Martin Book Fair

Place: University of St. Martin, **Rm 202** (Philipsburg)

Challenges to Caribbean Unity: Immigration issues, denationalization of citizens, the new USA-Cuba relations, the remaining colonies in the Caribbean.

Introduction

Dr. Francio Guadeloupe

Dean of Academics/Interim President
University of St. Martin

Discussants

Luiz Bernardo Pericás (Brazil)

Historian, social critic, translator, author of *Che Guevara e o debate econômico em Cuba* (*Che Guevara and the economic debate in Cuba*)

Dr. Ayelevi Novivor (Guadeloupe/Togo)

Literary scholar and critic, writer

Andre Fouad (Haiti/USA)

Poet, journalist

Rapporteur/moderator

Fabian Adekunle Badejo (St. Martin)

Author, literary critic, journalist

8 pm – 10 pm

Main Book Launch & Book Fair Closing Ceremony

Les Jardins de Bellevue

St. Martin Luxury Villa

Bellevue Road, Marigot

Welcome

Mistress of Ceremony, Dr. Rhoda Arrindell

NEW BOOK LAUNCHED:

Columbus, the Moor | **Colón, el Moro**

Colomb, le Maure | **Colombo, il Moro**

by Charles Matz

Poet, renaissance scholar, professor, dramaturge, author (USA)

Guest Speaker

Dr. Fabienne Viala

Historian, researcher, professor, author (UK/France)

Special guest performance

Bankie Banx

Poet, international recording artist (Anguilla)

Presentation

The Presidents Award

Word of Thanks

Shujah Reiph

Coordinator

St. Martin Book Fair

Thank you for participating in the 13th Annual St. Martin Book Fair 2015

www.houseofnehesipublish.com

Authors and Workshop Presenters



Andy Armongon (Guadeloupe/St. Martin), 31 ans, professeur des écoles travaillant à l'école élémentaire publique Nina Duverly à Marigot, Saint-Martin. Il est l'auteur du livret pédagogique « Qui a volé la lampe de Lady Liberty ? » ainsi que de son guide pédagogique du maître. Diplômé en lettres en sciences humaines, cet enseignant est spécialisé dans l'éducation et la socialisation des jeunes enfants.



Joselyne Arnell (St. Martin), is an education supervisor at the Department of Education in Marigot; and a former primary school teacher. Arnell's debut children's book is *Ignacio and the mysterious egg* (2015). "This story, with a friendly character as *Ignacio, the iguana*, will appeal to a wide range of readers from two to eleven years old," said the French Quarter native. *Ignacio and the mysterious egg* was illustrated by Arnell's daughter, Milkaya Lajiah, who is also a Paris-based fashion designer.



Rhoda Arrindell, PhD, is a leading St. Martin linguist. The former Humanities Division head at the University of St. Martin (USM) has taught English Composition, Caribbean Literature, and Elements of Literature. Dr. Arrindell served as St. Martin's first Minister 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 regularly presents papers on linguistics and literature at international conferences. Dr. Arrindell's newest book is *Language, Culture, and Identity in St. Martin*, published by House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP) houseofnehesipublish.com.



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Fabian Adekunle Badejo (St. Martin), is the author of *Claude – A Portrait of Power and Salted Tongues – Modern Literature in St. Martin*. He also wrote profiles for *St. Martin Massive! A Snapshot on Popular Artists*. His Senghor Colloquium paper, "Negritude in the forgotten territories: Lasana Sekou and Aimé Césaire," has been published in *Negritude: Legacy and Present Relevance*. In 1982, Badejo coordinated the groundbreaking cultural festival SMAFESTAC. Badejo has produced concerts by kaisonian Mighty Dow and humorists/storytellers Paul Keens Douglas and Fernando Clark. He has directed plays, monologues and film documentaries in St. Martin and abroad and presented scholarly papers on the island's literature at regional conferences. In 2003, Badejo conducted the "New Forms of Writing" course for HNP's Creative Writing Program. Between 1989 and 2005, the former Nigerian diplomat was the managing director/editor, publisher and news director respectively of *The St. Maarten Guardian*, *St. Martin Business Week*, and *Today* newspapers. Badejo is the producer/host of *Culture Time*, the long-running PJD-2 radio program.



Oluwakemi M Linda Banks, PhD, is the leading clinical psychologist of Anguilla and a human resource development consultant. The founder of the Omololu International School has taught as an associate professor of psychology at the Saint James School of Medicine in Anguilla. Though well known in the Eastern Caribbean as a communication specialist and motivational speaker, Dr. Banks first recited her poems publicly in 2013, at the 2nd annual Anguilla Literary Festival and at The Anguilla Underground poetry club. The BBC chose *Heritage* by Dr. Banks for a poetry postcard for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. Dr. Banks is a certified court mediator and describes herself as an "Afrocentric entrepreneur." Her first poems to be published in a book, appear in *Where I See The Sun – Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla* (2015), an anthology of 43 poets and over 90 poems, Edited by Lasana M. Sekou.



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Bankie Banx (Clement Ashley Banks, Anguilla). From age 10, when Bankie built his own guitar, to his stint with the Rolling Tones band in St. Martin, it should have been clear that there was a poet in the aspiring musician. With his first reggae hit single *Prince of Darkness* (1977), and debut album *Roots and Herbs* (1978) with The Roots and Herbs band, Banx became an instant reggae brand pioneer in the Eastern Caribbean. His rising star beginnings were followed by a Reggae Sunsplash performance in 1983; Caribbean and European tours with his band; a live Sunsplash performance featured in the groundbreaking reggae film *Cool Runnings*; soundtrack music for the film *Southie* (1999), and appearances on the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America* and other US TV programs; recording with Bob Dylan and other artists; and by his tenth album *Just Cool* (2012), Bankie Banx had achieved legendary musical status. In 1991 he founded the Moonsplash Music Festival in Anguilla, at the beach-front encampment of his bar, The Dune Preserve (also known as a haunt for “Wall Street types”). The festival annually hosts recording artists such as Third World, David Bryan of Bon Jovi, Rita Marley, Jimmy Buffett, Buju Banton, Burning Spear, Orange Grove, and Freddie McGregor. One of the ways that Banx “gives back” to his nation is with Project Stingray, a music and arts education program. While he is widely known for his music and unique singing voice, the international recording star is generally not thought of as a writer of verse. But Bankie Banx is surely one of Anguilla's accomplished poets (Ten of the twelve songs on *Just Cool* were composed by Banx). His poems appear in *Where I See The Sun – Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla* (2015), an anthology of 43 poets, Edited by Lasana M. Sekou and published by House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP).



WELCOME | 13TH ANNUAL ST.MARTIN BOOK FAIR

Authors and Workshop Presenters



Vernicia Brooks (St. Martin), is the president of the Association Nature Valley Colombier.



Ruby Bute (St. Martin), became the island's first woman to publish a volume of poetry with her seminal collection, *Golden Voices of S'martin* (1989). Bute is widely known as one of St. Martin's leading and successful artists but she is also a storyteller. The grounds of her Silk Cotton Grove Art Gallery, near Friar's Bay, oftentimes serve as a performance space or cultural retreat for the nation's artists, poets, actors, dancers, culture lovers, and visitors to the island. Ruby Bute, along with storyteller Papa Umpho, will cut the ceremonial ribbon to declare the 13th annual St. Martin Book Fair open.



Nicole Cage (Martinique), poet, novelist, journalist, Spanish teacher, psychotherapist. She speaks French, Creole, 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 collections such as *C'est vole que je vole, L'Espagnole* (2002), *Aime comme musique ou comme mourir d'aimer* (2005), *Palabras de paz por tiempos de guerra* (2007), *Dèyé pawol sé lanmou/Par-delà les mots, l'amour – Poèmes bilingue* (2008), and *Vole avec elle* (2009), have been published in Martinique, Venezuela, France, and the UK. Cage has performed her poetry at literary festivals in Colombia, Romania, Mexico, Tunisia, El Salvador, Canada, and St. Martin. Her poems have been translated into Albanian, Arabic,



Authors and Workshop Presenters

Romanian, Macedonian, English, and Spanish. Awards include the OENEUMI Award (Macedonia) and the Poetry Creativity Award (Lebanon). In 2006, Cage won the Prix Gros Sel for her novel *C'est vole que je vole*.



Vanessa Croff Thompson was born in Oregon, USA in 1985. She moved to Anguilla with her mother in 1998 and attended the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School. In 2013 Vanessa obtained a B.Ed. in English literature from the University of the West Indies. She is now a high school English teacher in Anguilla. Vanessa, who is also a singer, was one of the Malliouhana Poetry Competition winners in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Between 2008 and 2013, she recited her poetry at "AXA Presents the Spoken Word" and the Anguilla Public Library Poetry Evening. Vanessa was a featured poet at the Anguilla Literary Festival in 2013. Her poems were published in the anthology *Where I See The Sun - Contemporary Poetry in St. Martin* (HNP, 2015).



Nicole Chantal de Weever is a much-admired "Cultural Ambassador" of "Sweet St. Martin Land." The graduate of New York University Tisch School of the Arts, Fairfax Ballet, and Motiance, is a recipient of the Fred and Adele Astaire Awards 2010 for Best Female Dancer on Broadway. Nicole has performed at *The View*, *Stephen Colbert Report*, 64th Annual Tony Awards, The BET Honor's Awards, Obbie Awards, Broadway on Broadway, Broadway in Bryant Park, Afro Pop Hall of Fame Awards, AUDELCO Awards, Black Film Festival, Dance Africa, West Side Story World Tour, FELA! Off-Broadway and FELA! on Broadway. The Broadway star has worked with choreographers Katherine Dunham, Bill T. Jones, Joey McKneely, George Faison, Rob Ashford, Frank Gatson, Maria Torres, Abdel Salaam and Jamel Gaines. She has appeared on the Fox News Primetime Special with John Stossel "What's Great about America." Leeann Trotter NBC Chicago, ABC with Tamala Edwards Philadelphia, and Principal on commercials on the Oxygen channel,



Authors and Workshop Presenters

have all interviewed Nicole. She was also a featured dancer on the PBS special *Dancing with Life: Katherine Dunham* (American Library of Congress Documentary DVD on Katherine Dunham Technique). Nicole de Weever was the assistant to the VMA Award-winning choreographer Jeffrey Page for Beyonce's video "Girls Run The World," Beyonce's The Billboard Award, and Beyonce's Oprah Winfrey Tribute. Nicole has performed with the following companies: Forces of Nature Dance Theatre, Creative Outlet of Brooklyn, Prophecy Dance Works and Seventh Principles; and as a featured dancer in the First International and National Tour of *Fela!* In the 2011 "Tribute to the Great Salt Pond" at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library, Nicole performed an original dance that she choreographed for the recital of the narrative poem "Cradle of the Nation" by Lasana M. Sekou (Dancer Rudy Davis accompanied Nicole). (Photo: Sarina Gito. Courtesy use of © photo from N. de Weever. <http://artsaveslivesfoundation.tumblr.com>)



Tishani Doshi (India), was born in Madras, India, in 1975. She received her master's in writing from Johns Hopkins University and worked in London in advertising before returning to India in 2001. At the age of twenty-six, an encounter with the legendary choreographer Chandralekha led her to an unexpected career in dance. In 2006, her book of poems *Countries of the Body* won the Forward Poetry Prize for best first collection in the UK. She is also the recipient of an Eric Gregory Award for poetry and winner of the All-India Poetry Competition. Her first novel, *The Pleasure Seekers*, was published to critical acclaim in 2010 and has been translated into several languages. It was long-listed for the Orange Prize and the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and short-listed for the Hindu Literary Prize. Her articles have appeared in newspapers such as the *Guardian*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Hindu*, *The Weekend Financial Times*, *Vogue*, *Elle*, and *The New York Times*. Doshi now



Authors and Workshop Presenters

divides her time between a village by the sea in South India, and elsewhere. *The Adulterous Citizen – poems stories essays* by Tishani Doshi, is the featured book of the opening ceremony of the St. Martin Book Fair 2015. Doshi is perhaps the first important author from India published in the Caribbean. houseofnehesipublish.com.



Doris Dumabin (Guadeloupe), has authored 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. Dumabin said that she enjoys exploring new worlds in her fictions. The novelist attended the Caribbean Writers Congress 2015 in Guadeloupe, and returns for a second consecutive year to the St. Martin Book Fair.



Felix E. Fleming (Anguilla), is a playwright, theater director, actor, and founder of Sunshine Theatre Company. Fleming's productions are regularly staged in St. Martin and Anguilla.



Andre Fouad (Haiti/USA). Né le 2 mai 1972 à Port-au-Prince, André Fouad a fait ses études primaires à l'école République du Libéria (Frères du Sacré Coeur, 1978-1985) et ses études secondaires au Collège Canado haïtien (1985-1992). Il a étudié tour à tour la comptabilité, le journalisme et la communication. Il a travaillé au journal *le Nouvelliste*, *Récréation Magazine* et la Télévision Nationale d'Haïti à titre de présentateur/rédacteur à la section culturelle. André Fouad est l'auteur de 4 recueils de poèmes : *GERBE D'ESPÉRANCE* (1992), *EN QUÊTE DE LUMIÈRE* (1992), *BRI LAN NWIT* (2000) et *ETENSÈL MO'M YO* (2006). Ses poèmes figurent dans plusieurs



Authors and Workshop Presenters

anthologies dont : *l'Anthologie de la Littérature Haïtienne, un siècle de poésie* (1901-2001), qui a reçu le prix Ouessant 2005 pour le 6ème Salon du Livre Insulaire à Paris (France). Il a reçu un AWARD OF RECOGNITION de la part du maire de la ville de Miami, Alex Penelas, dans le cadre du Mois de l'Héritage Culturel Haïtien en mai 2004. Il a été choisi comme Artiste de la Saison par l'Alliance Française de Miami dans son agenda pour l'année 2005. Il a aussi décroché le 2ème prix dans le cadre d'un concours de poèmes organisé par le journal franco haïtien *Haïti Tribune* (France) en janvier 2006. En mai 2007, il a été choisi comme Poète de l'Année pour la 7ème édition du Mois de l'Héritage Culturel Haïtien à Miami, comme poète, diseur et animateur culturel.



Fola Gadet (Guadeloupe) teaches English literature and American history at the University of Martinique. Gadet has also taught and lived in Kingston, Jamaica for a year. He's been a rapper since 1998, and in 2013 he released his album, *Undisguised*. Gadet said that 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 newest book, *Make a difference*, about social activism, was introduced at the St. Martin Book Fair in 2014. His books are published in French.



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Antiguan and Barbudan writer **Joanne C. Hillhouse** is the author of the novel-*las* *The Boy from Willow Bend* and *Dancing Nude in the Moonlight*; the children's picture book *Fish Outta Water*; the novel *Oh Gad!*; and the teen/young adult novel *Musical Youth*, which placed second in the Burt Award for YA Caribbean literature (2014). Her writing has appeared in *Pepperpot: Best New Writing from the Caribbean* and *In the Black: New African Canadian Literature*. Awards and honors include an Honor award from UNESCO, and *The Caribbean Writer's* David Hough Literary Prize, the Flash Fiction Prize. Hillhouse was short-listed for the *Small Axe* fiction prize (2012, 2013). She's also been awarded the Leonard Tim Hector Memorial Award for contributions to journalism, literary arts, and youth development in Antigua and Barbuda. Hillhouse founded the Wadadli Youth Pen Prize to nurture and showcase the literary arts in her home country. She was a guest author at the Anguilla Literary Festival in 2015.
<http://jhohadli.wordpress.com>.



Rosabelle Illes (1987-), is an Aruban writer and artist. She is the author of the poetry collections, *Beyond Insanity* and *Spiel di mi Alma (Mirror of my Soul)*. Illes also created the art calendar, "Wholism." Her short stories have appeared in *Susumba's Bookbag*, *Gone Lawn Journal*, *theNewerYork Press*, *Crack the Spine* literary magazine, and *My Favorite Bullet*. Rosabelle Illes is a doctoral candidate in psychology at Leiden University. www.rosabelleilles.com. (Photo by Robin de Vogel)



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Oonya Kempadoo (Guyana/Grenada), grew up in Guyana and has worked and lived on various Caribbean islands, including Grenada, where she has resided for the last 15 years. Kempadoo's first novel, *Buxton Spice* (1998), was long-listed for the Orange Prize and translated into six languages. Her second novel, *Tide Running*, won the prestigious Casa de Las Americas prize (2002). Kempadoo was named a "Great Talent for the 21st Century" by the Orange Prize judges. Kempadoo's latest novel, *All Decent Animals* (Farrar Strauss & Giroux, 2013), was listed #6 on Oprah Winfrey's *O Magazine* summer reads. She is currently completing a narrative of local perspectives of sexual abuse, and developing a speculative fiction, multi-media, eco-social project. Kempadoo has worked in the Caribbean region as a consultant and social development researcher. She was a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence and Creative Writing instructor for academic year 2013-2014, with two community colleges in Connecticut, USA. Oonya Kempadoo is the director and a co-founder of a community library and literacy center in St. George's, Grenada. www.oonyakempadoo.com, www.facebook.com/oonya.kempadoo.



Nzinga P. Lake (St. Martin). A successful children's pageant coordinator, Lake is the founder of Glamour Princess Spa & Club. Her work as a Chamber of Commerce board member hasn't stopped Lake from returning for the third consecutive year to the St. Martin Book Fair, as coordinator of the "Children's Room."



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Vladimir Lucien (St. Lucia), is a writer, actor, and critic from St. Lucia. His poetry has been published in *The Caribbean Review of Books*, *Wasafiri*, *Small Axe*, *PN Review*, *BIM*, and *Caribbean Beat*, and in the poetry anthology, *Beyond Sangre Grande*, edited by Cyril Dabydeen. Lucien was awarded the *Small Axe* first prize in the poetry category in 2013. In 2015, he took home the coveted OCM Bocas Prize in the poetry category for his debut collection, *Sounding Ground* (Peepal Tree Press, 2014). Some of Lucien's poems have been translated into Dutch and published in the literary journal, *Tortuca*. The co-editor of the anthology, *Sent Lisi: Poems and Art of St. Lucia* (2014), Lucien is also the screenwriter of *The Merikins*, a documentary that premiered at the Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival in 2013.



Charles Matz (USA), poet, novelist, dramaturge, and performer, has taught literature at Italian and US universities. His specialties are Dante and Comparative Western Literature (chiefly Italian and French). His shout poetry uses oral and music composition techniques, and is based in part on traditional forms from the European Mediterranean and Africa. The founder of New York's CAM Art Company has contributed articles on contemporary artistic concepts to *Opera News*, *Vogue*, and *Testuale*. He has worked with Norman Mailer and Andrea Zanzotto. Awards include a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur of France. This is the first publishing of *Columbus, the Moor* as one book of the performance text in English, along with the Spanish, French, and Italian translations. The four texts include various languages, such as Taino and Latin. Published in the Caribbean by House of Nehesi (HNP), *Columbus, the Moor* by Charles Matz (2015), is the featured book at the "Main Book Launch and Closing Ceremony" of the 13th annual St. Martin Book Fair.



Authors and Workshop Presenters

Nikky MC (Guillaume Delannay), rapper (St. Martin)



Carlos Oriel Wynter Melo nació en Panamá, ciudad capital, en 1971. Culminó estudios literarios en la Secretaría de Cultura de Jalisco, en Guadalajara, México, donde vivió por siete años. Ha obtenido el premio Nacional de Cuento José María Sánchez (1998), un tercer lugar en el Nacional de Cuento Ignacio Valdés (2005) y una mención honorífica en el Centroamericano, versión Cuento, Rogelio Sinán (2010). En el año 2007 fue elegido como uno de los 39 escritores menores de 39 años más importantes de Latinoamérica en el marco de Bogotá 39, proyecto avalado por la UNESCO, la Secretaría de Cultura de Bogotá y un jurado de honor integrado por Héctor Abad Facioline, Piedad Bonnet y Óscar Collazos. Y en el 2011 participó en la Feria del Libro de Guadalajara como uno de los 25 secretos literarios de América Latina. Ha estado presente en encuentros literarios de variados países del continente americano. Cuenta ya con ocho libros de cuento y una novela, *Nostalgia de escuchar tu risa loca*, publicada en el 2013. Ha sido traducido al inglés, alemán, portugués, francés y húngaro. Se formó, además, como ingeniero industrial y en temas organizacionales. http://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlos_Oriel_Wynter_Melo.



Ayelevi Novivor (Guadeloupe/Togo) est *Ph.D.* en études françaises, diplômée de l'Université de Montréal où elle a soutenu sa thèse, « Du conte au roman dans l'œuvre d'Amadou Hampâté Bâ » en 2005. Ses recherches académiques actuelles portent sur les méthodes d'analyse et les différentes approches théoriques des textes littéraires d'Afrique et de la Caraïbe. Ses axes de recherche couvrent les théories dites postcoloniales, l'écriture féminine, l'intergénéricité et la part de fiction dans les témoignages. Elle a également produit un guide de lecture sur des auteurs de la Caraïbe, destiné à la Médiathèque Caraïbe (LAMECA) en Guadeloupe.

Authors and Workshop Presenters



Luiz Bernardo Pericás is a Brazilian historian. He obtained his BA in History from George Washington University, a PhD in Economic History from the University of São Paulo, and a post-doctorate in Political Science from Facultad Latino-Americana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), Mexico, where he was a Visiting Professor. He has also been a Visiting Scholar at the University of Texas at Austin. Pericás has published articles and essays in Brazilian and foreign magazines, journals and newspapers, and edited and translated to Portuguese important authors such as James Petras, John Reed, Edward Said, Jack London, Slavoj Žižek, and José Carlos Mariátegui. Among the books written by Pericás are *Che Guevara e a luta revolucionária na Bolívia*, *Mystery Train*, and the fascinating *Os Cangaceiros*. Pericás is currently a scholar-in-residence at the European Graduate School, a researcher at Fundap, in São Paulo, and a professor at FLACSO, in Brazil.



Gisèle Pineau est une écrivaine guadeloupéenne née à Paris. Elle a grandi en banlieue parisienne dans une famille nombreuse. Le père est militaire de carrière et voyage en Afrique, en Asie et dans le Pacifique. La mère, femme au foyer, est une très grande lectrice. Mais c'est surtout auprès de sa grand-mère paternelle que Gisèle Pineau développe son imaginaire et fortifie ses racines créoles, tout en partageant la nostalgie de l'île lointaine au mitant du racisme ordinaire des années 1960. L'écriture de romans s'impose à dix ans. Depuis, Gisèle Pineau a écrit plus d'une vingtaine d'ouvrages pour lecteurs de tous âges. De part et d'autre de l'Atlantique, de grands prix littéraires couronnent son travail. Elle nous présente aujourd'hui son nouveau roman: *Les voyages de Merry Sisal* qui retrace les périples d'une jeune femme haïtienne au lendemain du séisme de 2010.



Authors and Workshop Presenters

Écrivain, **Frédéric Pichon** est aussi journaliste. Il a collaboré pour différents médias, notamment pour le *National Geographic*. Les différents articles archéologiques rédigés pour ce magazine l'ont poussé à écrire le livre *Un Amérindien dans la tempête*. Ce Lyonnais d'origine, a beaucoup voyagé. C'est un amoureux de l'Amérique latine et de la Caraïbe. Il a séjourné au Paraguay et a parcouru le Brésil, l'Argentine et la Colombie. Depuis 18 ans, il vit en Guadeloupe où il s'est installé. La plupart de ses romans jeunesse reçoivent le soutien du ministère de la culture et de la DAC Guadeloupe et sont étudiés dans les établissements scolaires.



Clara Reyes, MFA, is a dancer, choreographer and teacher. Reyes is the founder of the Imbali Center for Creative Movement and the founding director of the National Institute of Arts. Her master's thesis is the first study of the Ponum, St. Martin's national dance, for which she also interviewed "older heads" from French Quarter to Reward. Reyes choreographed the nation's oldest dance for the Ponum film, which is in production. In 2003, she staged *In the Company of Women* dance-theater and *Ponum the Musical – St. Martin's Dance of Liberation* in Philipsburg and Marigot. In 2004, the John LaFontaine Center for Creative Arts named one of its dance halls in honor of this first lady of St. Martin dance. Reyes choreographed and directed *Run for freedom* (2005) and *St. Martin is my home ... The musical* (2006). Reyes produced and directed *In the Company of Men – His/story*. An award-winning choreographer, Clara Reyes also coproduced and directed *Vagina Monologues St. Martin*, one of the most successful theatrical productions on the island in recent memory.



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Max Rippon, Marie Galante, Guadeloupe, is the author of twelve books of poems, essays on tourism, and narratives, including *Pawòl naiif*, *Agouba*, *Le Dernier Matin – Récit*, *Six virgule trios – Secousses à Terre-de-Bas*, and *Blues an tout lang* (2009). 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. His poems are in the collection *Hurricane, Shouts of Islanders (Hurricane, Cris d'Insulaires)* among the poetry of noted authors Aimé Césaire, Derek Walcott, and Nabile Fares. He has participated in literary festivals in Guadeloupe, Nicaragua, USA, and France. Rippon's book, *Marie Galante Regards* (2014), was introduced at St. Martin Book Fair 2014. His newest poetry collection, *Pègmèl – Trant lanné poézi kréyòl*, will be introduced at St. Martin Book Fair 2015.



Rumari Rogers (St. Martin), rapper, Road March winner, St. Maarten Carnival 2015. He was the TelCell Talent Show winner in the rap category in 2014

Regine Samson (St. Martin/Guadeloupe), is a teacher at a private high school in Grand Case, St. Martin.

Authors and Workshop Presenters



Lasana M. Sekou is a St. Martin author of 19 books of poetry, monologues, and short stories. His *Nativity*, *The Salt Reaper*, *37 Poems*, *Brotherhood of the Spurs*, and *Love Songs Make You Cry*, have been required reading at Caribbean, North American, and European universities. He is the editor of *National Symbols of St. Martin – A Primer*; producer of *Fête – The first recording of Traditional St. Martin festive music* by Tanny & The Boys; and can be heard reciting his poetry to music on *The Salt Reaper* audio CD. Sekou has performed his poetry throughout the Caribbean, USA, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. His poetry has been translated into Spanish, Dutch, French, German, Turkish, and Chinese. Awards and honors include an International Writers Workshop Visiting Fellow (China), a James Michener Fellow (USA), a knighthood (The Netherlands), Recognition for literary excellence in the service of Caribbean unity (Dominican Republic), Conscious Lyrics Artist of the Decade (St. Martin), and the CTO Award of Excellence. Sekou is an advocate for the independence of St. Martin, a colony of France and the Netherlands. *Where I See The Sun – Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla*, an anthology of 43 poets and over 90 poems, Edited by Lasana M. Sekou, will be introduced at the St. Martin Book Fair 2015.



Dory SélèsprIKA, slameuse jeune Guadeloupéenne, a toujours baigné dans un environnement musical, littéraire et créatif, qui l'a naturellement guidé vers l'écriture de textes en créole, français et anglais. Dory a été révélée lors des premières slam sessions organisées par le collectif slamblag et a remporté en 2006, le premier championnat de slam de Guadeloupe. On a pu l'entendre déclamer sur plusieurs thèmes : la nature, la culture, la femme, l'argent, les injustices et bien d'autres.



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Faizah Tabasamu (Rochelle Ward, St. Martin), poet, blogger, and teacher.

Faizah started writing poetry while attending the St. Maarten Academy. She now teaches English literature and language at the same high school. Faizah holds a BA in English and communications from Pace University, where she received the Hilary Becker Poetry Award. She has taken MFA-level creative writing courses at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago. Over the last eight years, Tabasamu has recited her poetry at Axum and Summer Speaks slams, at the St. Martin Book Fair, the Marigot massacre commemoration, and the Anguilla Literary Festival. Her poetry appears in the anthology *Where I See The Sun – Contemporary Poetry in St. Martin* (2013), published by House of Nehesi Publishers. According to Tabasamu, "Poetry is my way of seeing." Faizah is one of the island's few consistent and quality bloggers, at rochelleward.com and saltfishandlace.com. She's also the co-founder of Don't Break the Comb, St. Martin's first natural hair group (dontbreakthecomb.com).

Papa Umpho (Garfield Young, St. Martin), is a high school teacher, poet, and storyteller. He has performed traditional and his original folktales for Philipsburg Jubilee Library, HNP's Creative Writing Program, St. Martin Book Fair, and other programs. Papa Umpho, along with the nation's first lady of culture, Ruby Bute, will cut the ceremonial ribbon to declare the 13th annual St. Martin Book Fair open.



Authors and Workshop Presenters



Fabienne Viala (France/United Kingdom), is Associate Professor in Hispanic Studies and Director of the Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies at the University of Warwick, United Kingdom. Dr. Viala has published comparative studies on the Latin American and francophone historical novel, national memory and crime fiction in Cuban, Spanish, and French literatures. Her last monograph is entitled *The Post-Columbus Syndrome: Identities, Cultural Nationalism and Commemorations in the Caribbean* (Palgrave Macmillan, New Caribbean Series, 2014). It examines the representation of Christopher Columbus in Hispanic, English, and French Caribbean Cultural production, with a focus on literature, music, and performance. It analyzes the relationship between memory, historical commemoration, and cultural nationalism in the Caribbean islands since the 1990s and develops a transcultural and multilingual approach to the region.



Organizations

Association Nature Valley Colombier. The association is well known for its hands-on exhibitions of traditional culture, agriculture, and nature conservation in Colombier, the St. Martin village that is well known for its fertile agricultural land.

PMIA, Philipsburg Mutual Improvement Association, organizer of the annual "Lionel Bernard Scott Memorial Lecture." The PMIA, is a revived civic organization based on the self-reliance, leadership, and community improvement principles of the PMIA of the 1930s, which was in turn influenced by the principles of the UNIA of Marcus Garvey. Lionel Bernard Scott was the first president of the "parent" PMIA, founded in Philipsburg, St. Martin, in 1933.

Soualigan Fyah: Youth Poetry is a Poetry/Spoken Word Competition for St. Martin high schoolers, ages 13-18. The poet Lysanne Charles is a principal of the competition platform, which organizes annual readings at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library. According to its objectives: "Soualigan Fyah is designed to create a vehicle where youngsters can give voice to their emotions and ideas, 2) to encourage youngsters to be aware of and critical of what is happening around them and 3) to encourage the continued development of poetry and spoken word amongst the youth of St. Maarten." https://www.facebook.com/SoualiganFyah/info?tab=page_info.

The Poets Lounge is an "open mic event ... about the art of spoken word," founded by Esdra Richardson in 2014, and produced monthly by Ki Connections SXM. The poetry reading club format, "with a chic ambience, and a sense of sophistication" is designed to "give the poets of our island a stage to shine," said the founder. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ki.poetslounge/>

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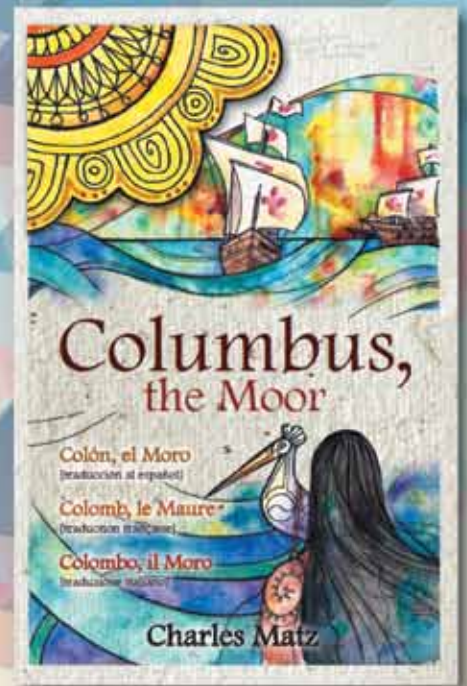
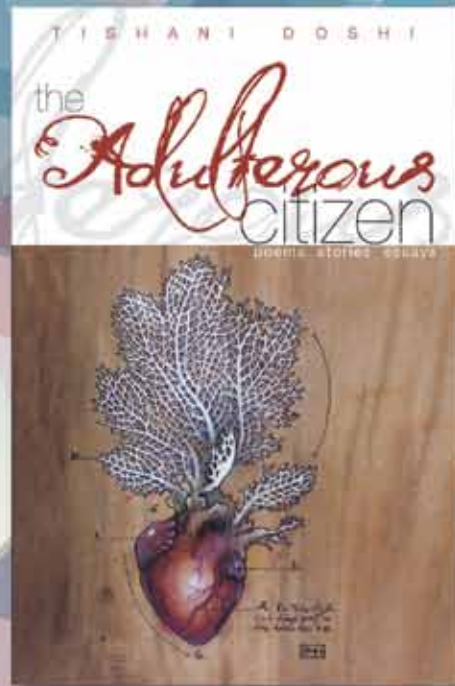
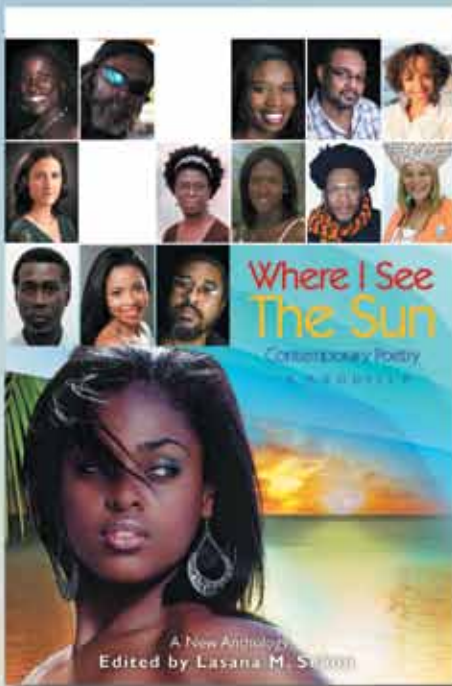
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