



A book fair for the entire family ...

June 2 - 4, 2022



20th Anniversary

.....
Recitals | Book Parties | Youth Session
Panel Discussions | Book Fair Workshops





A book fair for the entire family ...

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

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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

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- 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.

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The 20th Annual St. Martin Book Fair
Organized by Conscious Lyrics Foundation
in collaboration with Computech, University of St. Martin, St. Maarten Department of
Culture (MECYS), Collectivity of St. Martin, SOS Radio, and in consultation with
House of Nehesi Publishers



Message: St. Martin Book Fair @20

Shujah Reiph, Founder, Coordinator



A child born 20 years ago, when the first St. Martin Book Fair was held, would now be finishing college, or may have graduated already. Graduation is not the end of the road but the beginning of a new journey. In that sense, it is a form of rebirth.

The journey that we began 20 years ago out of a Creative Writing Program organized by the House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP) not only gave birth to the book fair but to a new generation of St. Martin authors, many of whom contributed with youthful exuberance to the organization of the St. Martin Book Fair. We have had a symbiotic collaboration with HNP from the get-go. And with the University of St. Martin (USM) as well. Our modest ambition was to have a book fair that would bring the entire family closer to the book and, among other things, show as

the saying that if you want to hide something from a Black person, put it in a book. Our intention was also to challenge that statement, which is a concern of the venerable George Lamming—who has graced the first and subsequent editions of the book fair with his presence—that once we leave school, we wave goodbye to books.

The book is not a stranger to us. We are descendants of peoples from the continent where writing invented, where the great libraries Alexandria to Timbuktu were built. We come from those who developed and mastered arithmetic, astrology, medicine, architecture, the calendar. That is our heritage. That is our inheritance. The Book Fair is just a small way to remind us of who we are and from whence we came or, as we would say in St. Martin, “who we fah!”

This 20th edition of the St. Martin Book Fair also marks an attempt to reinvent ourselves; to chart a course that will launch us into a new orbit, one in which the pursuit of knowledge will not only enhance our horizon as a freedom-loving people, but also consolidate our position as a peaceful, resourceful, progressive Caribbean nation.

This is what “Rebirth” means.

It is the regenerative and contagious energy of the young people in the Book Fair Committee that has brought us this far. I applaud their bubbling dedication, commitment, and hard work. They introduced a new feature—the Caribbean Social Studies Competition which, in just its second year, has caught fire among schools and students on both halves of the island. To them belongs the future.

Thank you to our sponsors for their unwavering belief in the cause and in our ability to deliver the goods. Most of all, thanks to the guest authors from home and abroad who have made the St. Martin Book Fair their book fair, a place where writers and book lovers from across the globe gather to exchange ideas, make friends, and celebrate the book. Some of our past guest authors have joined the ancestors but we are confident that they are smiling down on us and cheering us on.

But what would a book fair be if it is not embraced by the people? The people of St. Martin, North and South, have year in and year out given us their full support. For us, there is no greater reward than that.

Thank you all. Have an enjoyable and exciting 20th St. Martin Book Fair.

Message

The Hon. drs. Rodolphe E. Samuel



Welcome to this commemorative event, which gives a quick grasp of a range of social and political issues, together with some amusing humour and theoretical insights, all sprinkled with our Caribbean flavours. Books are a means of communicating with the world and “The Rebirth” gives access to diverse realities and cultural experiences, which may foster more harmony.

I believe “The Rebirth” beautifully captures some of our intangible culture and as such seems destined to become an integral part of our tangible culture. Through 20 years of the annual St. Martin Book Fair we have celebrated and shared the practises and skills that communities, individuals, and groups recognise as part of their cultural heritage and thus captured some of our intangible heritage for future generations.

I hope you find this a compelling read.

drs. Rodolphe E. Samuel
Minister of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport (MECYS)
Government of St. Maarten

Message

The Hon. Louis Mussington

President of the Collectivité of Saint-Martin



Undeniably, culture is one of the most important means of communication and cooperation between people.

The relations between Caribbean people and all other people groups that have chosen to live here for various reasons are deep in all fields, and of late, it has certainly added to the revival of culture in the Caribbean.

So, on this 20th celebration of books and literary works, I wish further progress and success to the annual St Martin Book Fair under its wise leadership by ShujahReiph, the Book Fair coordinator.

The St. Martin Book Fair is an opportunity for cultural exchange and participation in the ongoing cultural dialogue about the development of the book using the latest technological methods available.

Above all, this bookfair is also a stepping stone, a platform for embracing that larger identity of being Caribbean in the world. It is a platform provided for our creative intellectuals to lead in the regeneration of the region and the opportunity it represents into an arena of cultural dialogue for communication and cooperation.

We must embrace, appreciate, and promote our Caribbean identity, history and culture. This will make us to be true to ourselves.

We are the Caribbean. On this 20th edition of the St. Martin Book Fair, our artists, the custodians of the Caribbean soul, must and will share home-made but a global platform to assert our identity and contribution to society.

God bless Saint-Martin!! thank you.



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St. Maarten Department of Culture (MECYS), Collectivity of St. Martin,
SOS Radio, and in consultation with House of Nehesi Publishers

St. Martin Book Fair Program | June 2 – 4, 2022

Pre-Book Fair Activities

Saturday, May 28

5 pm

St. Martin Caribbean Social Studies Competition

(Second and third form students)

Robert Weinum High School Gymnasium, Savanna, Grand Case

Presentation of winning prizes at the Closing Ceremony of the St. Martin Book Fair.

Wednesday, June 1

9am – 10 am

The Authors Round table I

Live on SOS Radio 95.9 FM; and @ <https://sosradio959.com>

Host: “**Billy D**” Hamlet, “Talking Point”

Topic: The anniversary theme of the St. Martin Book Fair’s 20th edition is “The Rebirth.”

How is “rebirth” expressed in the books of the following guest writers and generally in contemporary literatures.

Guest authors/publicist:

Yona Deshommes (USA), **Caleb Dros** (St. Martin), **Geoff Goodfellow** (Australia),
Mara Pastor (Puerto Rico)

SOS Radio Studio

Rue de Hollande, Marigot

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Authors Reception

Authors, artists, sponsors, organizers meet and greet.

Celebratory poem

“Gage d’amitié” (“Token of Friendship”)

by **Max Rippon**

(Guadeloupe)

Perle Bleu restaurant

16 Welfare Road, Cole Bay

The St. Martin Book Fair Program

Thursday, June 2

9 am – 12 noon

Meet the Writers I

New writers and leading authors and artists visit primary and secondary schools throughout the island, a senior citizens home, to read or discuss their work, experience with writing books, and the value of reading and literature with teachers and students; and conduct workshops.

12 noon – 1 pm

The Authors Round table II

Live on SOS Radio 95.9 FM; and @ <https://sosradio959.com>

Host: **Fernando Clark**, “12-to-1 Talk with Fernando Clark”

Topic: Can literature give birth to a new society?

Guest authors:

Saida Agostini (Guyana/USA), **Burnett Coburn** (Jamaica/USA),

Drisana Deborah Jack (St. Martin), **Enzo SilonSurin** (Haiti/USA)

8 pm – 10 pm

Opening Ceremony

“Under the Literary Big Tent”

Government Administration Building

Soualiga Road 1, Philipsburg

Call of the Conch shell and Drums

Welcome

Master of Ceremony, Herve Dorville

Words of Welcome

Mr. Shujah Reiph

President, Conscious Lyrics Foundation

Dr. Antonio Carmona Báez

President, University of St. Martin

Hon. Rudolphe E. Samuel

Minister of Education, Culture, Youth, and Sport (MECYS), St. Martin (South)

Hon. Louis Mussington

President of the Collectivity of St. Martin (North)

Hon. Silveria Jacobs

Prime Minister of St. Martin (South)

Guest Recital

Burnett Coburn, poet
(Jamaica/USA)

Keynote Address

Hon. David Comissiong

Attorney-at-Law, author, Ambassador to CARICOM
(Barbados)

Introducing Featured Books

Disaster Matters: Disasters Matter

Edited by **Yvonne Weekes, Wendy McMahon**

(Barbados; England, UK)

House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP), St. Martin, 2022

Voices: Monologues & Dramatic Text for Caribbean Actors

Edited by **Yvonne Weekes**

(Barbados/Montserrat)

House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP), St. Martin

(Print, December 2021; e-Book, 2022)

Loin de l'Amer

by **Jocelyn Béroard**, author, musical artist (Kassav')

(Martinique)

Le Cherche-Midi, France, 2022

Deborah Jack: 20 Years Catalogue

This first comprehensive publication dedicated entirely to exploring and contextualizing two decades of work by Jack. Featuring thoughtful yet critical essays positioning the multimedia artist exactly where she needs to be in the canon of art history: as a pioneer of visual nuance ...

[Artist: Deborah Jack, St. Martin]

Pen + Brush, USA, 2022

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Moko Jumbies

The 20th Annual St. Martin Book Fair 2022 is declared open

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

Friday, June 3, 2022

9 am – 12 noon

Meet the Writers II

New writers and leading authors and artists visit primary and secondary schools throughout the island, a senior citizens home, to read or discuss their work, experience with writing books, and the value of reading and literature with teachers and students; and conduct workshops.

9 am – 10:30 am

I – Drama and Education Masterclass

University of St. Martin (USM), **Rm 202/203**
with **Jillian John**, educator (Trinidad and Tobago)

Process drama is a method of teaching and learning where both the students and teacher are working in and out of role. The teacher and students work together in the form of a quest to solve problems, not for an audience but for the benefit of the students. Through an imaginary dramatic world, topics in math, science, language, and social studies will be used to solve problems and complete a quest.

11 am– 12:30 noon

II – The Power of Poetry Master class

University of St. Martin (USM), **Rm 202/203**
with **Geoff Goodfellow**, poet, novelist, activist (Australia)

The veteran and award-winning poet will walk the participants through the process of writing and reading poetry. Explore the emotions and power of poetry; discover new meaning in the elements and types of poetry and much more. Bring your poems just in case you're asked to read a sample for a workshop exercise.

2 pm – 3:30 pm

General Session I

University of St. Martin, **Rm 202/203**

“Word Up!” The Rebirth Edition

Our young people have great ideas about the future. Hear them roar! It's a frank and open discussion time with teenagers and high schoolers of St. Martin (North and South), sharing ideas with young authors about the future and activities that they're involved in toward building a better future.

Panelists: **Cassilda Thomas Brookes** (Anguilla), **Pierre André Théodore** (Guadeloupe),

Aya Milagros Lake (St. Martin)

Moderator: **Cindy Peters** (St. Martin), Clark Atlanta University, USA

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

LITERARY EVENING

Splash

Presentation of the first trilingual book of poems
by **Nicole Cage**, poet, award-winning novelist (Martinique)

Recital

Guest authors from Anguilla, Australia, Barbados, Canada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Marie-Galante, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Martin, United Kingdom, USA.

New poetry chapbook launch

Oualichi: Land of Oma

by *Caleb Dros* (St. Martin)

“Under the Literary Big Tent”

Grand Case Boulevard
(The main street, by the Grand Case Bridge)
Grand Case, St. Martin

Admission free

Saturday, June 4, 2022

8 am – 4 pm

Book Fair main day, exhibition of books, book sales, book signings, workshops, all open to the public.

Free admission

University of St. Martin (USM), Philipsburg

9 am – 12 noon

I – In the Children’s Room, Rm 105

Storytelling, games, songs and more. Ages: 4-12.

Guest appearances: storyteller **Papa Mpho**; authors with new children's books

Cassilda Thomas Brookes (Anguilla), **Heddrick McBride** (USA).

9 am – 10:30 am

II – Women’s Maternal Health: Obstetric Fistula – A “frightful affliction,” Rm 202/203

Learn more about this devastating condition which can occur during childbirth. The World Health Organization (WHO) calls obstetric fistula “the most frightful affliction of humankind.”
by **Habiba Cooper Diallo**, author, women’s health activist (Canada)

III – St. Martiners in World War I and World War II, Rm 103

Join the conversation: Two books place St. Martiners in the line of fire during the two major periods of the European civil wars known as World War I and World War II. Meet and discuss with **Serge Gumbs** (St. Martin), author of *Saint-Martin dans la Grande Guerre* and **Mary J. Romney-Schaab** (USA), author of *An Afro-Caribbean in the Nazi Era: From Papiamentu to German*.

Interviewer: **Shujah Reiph**, coordinator, St. Martin Book Fair

IV – Panel Discussion I: First-time authors in the house, Rm 102

First-time published writers will share their experiences about book writing and publishing.

Joseph Ivor Hodge (Anguilla), **Caleb Dros** (St. Martin), **Avenella Griffith** (Anguilla)

Interviewer: **Ralph Cantave**, author, journalist, host/producer of *Behind the News*

10:35 am – 10:50 am

University of St. Martin (USM), Philipsburg

Coffee, tea, and pastries break

11 am – 12:30 noon

V – Panel Discussion II: Independent Publishing, What's in It ...?, Rm 103

Panelists: **Yona Deshommes**, publicist, founder, Riverchild Media (USA), Heddrick McBride, publisher, McBride Collection of Stories (USA), **Lasana M. Sekou**, projects director, House of Nehesi Publishers, HNP (St. Martin), **Enzo Silon Surin**, founding editor/publisher, Central Square Press (USA)

Interviewer: **Lisa Pegram** (USA/St. Martin)

VI – Panel Discussion III: Kwéyòl Literature / Littérature créole, Rm 104

Changements sociaux et littérature: En quoi la littérature peut-elle être un vecteur de renaissance?

Participants: **Nicole Cage** (Martinique), **Marie-Pierre** « Mapie » Loiseau (Martinique), **Julien Mérimon** (Guadeloupe), **Max Rippon** (Marie-Galante)

Modératrice: **Lynda Létan**, professeure, membre du Book Fair Committee (BFC) (Workshop language / Lang / Langue : Kwéyòl / Français)

VII – The Acting Workshop, Rm 102

Acting students, aspiring actors and directors will be shown the art of improvisation using simple props and objects. The workshop will use the newly published drama book *Voices: Monologues & Dramatic Text for Caribbean Actors* as discussion material (available at the main book table).

by **Yvonne Weekes, PhD**, theater arts educator, author, actress, theater and film producer, University of the West Indies – Cave Hill

VIII – Untangling Our Beautiful Black Hair, Rm 202/203

An engaging, and always popular natural hair workshop. Conducted by St. Clair Detrick-Jules, author of *My Beautiful Black Hair* and Rochelle Ward [Faizah Tabasamu], author of *Tangle*, using images and words to work out our bittersweet stories and shift the narrative for the next generation. Our hair. Our healing. Our terms.

by **Faizah Tabasamu** (St. Martin), **St. Clair Detrick-Jules** (St. Barth/USA)

12:30 noon – 1:45 pm

Open Mic “Under the Pagoda”

University of St. Martin (USM)

Bring your poems and read with poets and aspiring poets. It is a free, outdoor lunchtime reading for all-comers. Audience members are welcome to perform impromptu and extempore verse. Sometimes famous poets stop by and “touch the mic.”

Coordinator: **Tamara Groeneveldt**, author of the bestseller *After the Storm*, BFC member

Lunch break

12:30 noon – 1:55 pm

2 pm – 3:30 pm

Presidents Forum

University of St. Martin (USM), Rm 202/203

Introduction

Antonio Carmona Báez, PhD

President, University of St. Martin

Rapporteur/moderator

Rhoda Arrindell, PhD

Institute for Language Research and Development; SOLL

The fragments reveal the whole: The archipelago as creative space

Panelists:

Burnett Coburn (USA/Jamaica)

Writer, poet

Hon. David Comissiong (Barbados)

Attorney-at-Law, author, Ambassador to CARICOM

Prof. Drisana Deborah Jack (St. Martin)

Author, poet, multimedia artist, professor

New Jersey City University

Prof. Mara Pastor (Puerto Rico)

Poet, author, professor of Spanish and Literature

Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico

Sagrado Corazón University

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

New Book Presentation

University of St. Martin (USM), Rm 202/203

Disaster Matters: Disasters Matter Edited by **Yvonne Weekes** (UWI – Cave Hill) and **Wendy McMahon** (University of East Anglia, UK), will be presented by Dr. Weekes – on behalf of both editors – to writers from St. Martin, Guadeloupe, and Martinique with poetry and prose in the pan-Caribbean literary anthology (textbook): Tamara Groeneveldt, Rochelle Ward (Faizah Tabasamu), Greta Rodney-Thompson, Nicole Cage, Stephanie Melyon-Reinette, PhD, Fabian Adekunle Badejo, Lasana M. Sekou.

Coordination: **Jacqueline A. Sample**, president, House of Nehesi Publishers (HNP).

Saturday, June 4

8 pm – 10 pm

Main Book Launch & Closing Ceremony

"Under the Literary Big Tent"

The Port at Galis Bay, Marigot

Welcome

Mistress of Ceremony, Marie Richardson

NEW BOOK LAUNCHED:

Children of the Ash

by N.C. Marks

(St. Vincent and the Grenadines)

Keynote

Michael McMillan

Author, playwright, artist/curator,

"Windrush generation" researcher

(England, United Kingdom)

Reviewer

Jillian John

Educator

Trinidad & Tobago

Guest Recital

Geoff Goodfellow

Novelist, poet

(Australia)

Presentation

- **St. Martin Caribbean Social Studies Competition Prizes**
- **The Presidents Award**

Word of Thanks

Shujah Reiph

Coordinator

St. Martin Book Fair

Thank you

for participating in the
20th Annual St. Martin Book Fair 2022

www.houseofnehesipublish.com



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Authors, Editors, Workshop Presenters

St. Martin Book Fair 2022



Saida Agostini's first collection of poems, *let the dead in* (Alan Squire Publishing, 2022) was a 2020 Book Prize finalist for the Center of African American Poetry & Poetics. She is the author of *STUNT* (Neon Hemlock, 2020), a chapbook about Nellie Jackson, a Black woman entrepreneur, activist, and FBI spy who operated a brothel for sixty years in Mississippi. Her poetry appears in *Barrelhouse Magazine*, *Hobart Pulp*, *Plume*, and in the anthology *Not Without Our Laughter*. A Cave Canem Graduate Fellow, Saida has been awarded honors and support for her work by the Watering Hole and Blue Mountain Center, as well as a 2018 Rubys Grant funding travel to her native Guyana to support the completion of her first manuscript. In 2021, she was named president of Funders for LGBTQ Issues.



Jocelyne Béroard (Fort-de-France, Martinique), singer, author. She studied at the National School of Fine Arts in Paris, France and in 1980 began working in the Caribbean as a background singer. In 1983, Béroard became a lead singer for Kassav', the band that was formed in Guadeloupe in 1979 and by the mid-1980s had become an international music sensation. Béroard has recorded albums as a solo artist and is cited as the only female lead singer of Kassav' that is considered a core member of the group. Her autobiography, *Loin de l'amer*, co-written with journalist Bertrand Dicale, was released on March 17, 2022. The book chronicles specific facts about the singer's life and it addresses themes about the Martinican identity.

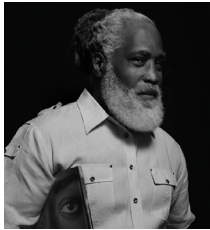


Jennifer Brooks, author, motivational speaker, radio personality, and president of Miss Brooks Imagine Believe Achieve association. According to Brooks, she coaches young and old "to regain self-confidence and boost self-love and self-worth." Books by Brooks include *Immature Thinking : The Love Edition*, *Young Black Parents: Dear Young Black Queen*, and *Dear Young Black Queen*.



Nicole Cage (Martinique), poet, novelist, journalist, Spanish teacher, psychotherapist, publisher. She speaks French, Kwéyòl, Spanish, and English. In 1996, Cage received 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 portiempos de Guerra*; *Dèyé pawol sélan-*

mou/Par-delà les mots, l'amour-Poèmes bilingue, and *Vole avec elle*, have been published in Martinique, Venezuela, France, and the UK. Cage has performed her poetry, often accompanied by jazz, at literary festivals and cultural programs in Colombia, Romania, Mexico, Tunisia, El Salvador, Canada, Benin, Martinique, 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), the Presidents Award from the St. Martin Book Fair, and the *Prix Gros Sel* for her novel *C'est vole que je vole*. Cage launched her first trilingual poetry collection, *Splash* (LP5 Editora, 2022) at the 20th annual St. Martin Book Fair.



Burnett Coburn was born in 1958 in St. Andrew, Jamaica. He attended the Jamaica School of Drama at Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts where he majored in directing. Burnett taught English Language and Literature briefly after graduating. He later migrated to the USA where he is currently living. *Sorbet & Sweet Potato Pudding* (Ian Randle & Co Publishers, 2017) is his first book of poems. Burnett reads his work at literary festivals and cultural programs in North America and the Caribbean.



Aisha Comissiong (Barbados) is a Lecturer in Dance, The University of the West Indies – Cave Hill. The multiple award-winning dancer and choreographer is the founder and creative director of Riddim Tribe, the Barbadian dance collective. She has attended the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, Jamaica and is known for executing projects that play a vital role in enriching the learning and educational experiences of the wider community. Comissiong uses choreography, dance photography, videography, site specific dance-works and social media “to illustrate and share important and empowering lessons about our history and culture.”



David Comissiong is an attorney-at-Law since 1984. The former senator in the government of Barbados is currently Barbados' Ambassador to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). He is a founder-member of the Caribbean Pan-African Network (CPAN), the Clement Payne Movement of Barbados, the Caribbean Chapter of the International Network In Defence of Humanity, and the Global Afrikan Congress (GAC). Comissiong was an architect and the first director of the Barbados Government's Commission for Pan-African Affairs (CPAA). He represented the Caribbean region at the 7th Pan-African Congress in Uganda (1994), played a key role in the United Nations' World Conference Against Racism in South Africa (2001), and has represented the Diaspora on the African Union's Economic Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). Since 2012, Comissiong has served as a member of Barbados' National Task Force on Reparations. Comissiong is the author of *The Wide Streets of Tomorrow: Essays and Speeches*, *It's the Healing of the Nation: The Case for Reparations*, and *The Pan-African Love Story of Arnold and Mignon Ford*.



Habiba Cooper Diallo is the author of *#BlackInSchool* (University of Regina Press, 2021). She was a finalist in the 2020 Bristol Short Story Prize and in the 2019 Writers' Union of Canada Short Prose Competition. Habiba is an activist in support of women's maternal health. She is a sought-after activist for the eradication of obstetric fistula. Among the media that have interviewed, quoted, or published her article(s) on what the WHO calls "the most horrific affliction," is the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Campaign to End Fistula. In 2015, while still a student, Habiba published her first children's book, *Yeshialem Learns About Fistula*. You can find Habiba Cooper Diallo on Twitter @haala-beeba.



Teri Ellen Cross Davis is a poet, author of *A More Perfect Union* (Ohio State University Press), and winner of The Journal/Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize 2019. Her debut collection *Haint* won the 2017 Ohioana Book Award for Poetry. She is a Cave Canem fellow and recipient of the Poetry Society of America's 2020 Robert H. Winner Memorial Award. The recipient of grants from the Sustainable Arts Foundation and The Freya Project has received literary scholarships from the Sewanee's Writer Conference, Virginia Center for Creative Arts, Community of Writers Poetry Workshop, and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown. She is on the Advisory Council of Split This Rock poetry festival, Washington DC; and has served as a judge for Poetry Out Loud for the National Endowment of the Arts. Davis was the 2019-2020 Howard County Poetry and Literature Society Writer-in-Residence, Maryland and the Poetry Coordinator for the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington D.C. She lives in Maryland with her husband, poet Hayes Davis and their two children.



Yona Deshommes (USA), began her career in education as a certified teaching assistant and academic coordinator. Her love and passion for writing led to a 15-year career in book publicity where she served as an Associate Director of Publicity at Atria Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, one of the largest publishers in the world. She has conceived and executed strategic publicity plans for high-profile clients such as *New York Times* bestselling authors Bishop TD Jakes, rapper/actor Common, Taraji P. Henson, Zane, Michael Strahan, Dr. Tererai Trent, Charlie Wilson, George Clinton, DeVon Franklin, Alice Walker, Ntozake Shange, Tananarive Due, Sister Souljah, Kevin Hart and other literary/entertainment luminaries. In 2020, Deshommes started her own company, Riverchild Media, a public relations firm specializing in the promotion of books by and for authors of color.



St. Clair Detrick-Julesis an award-winning filmmaker, photographer, author, and activist. She captures personal stories and intimate moments centering on immigrant justice, women's rights, and Black liberation. An Afro-Caribbean (St. Barths) artist who remains rooted in her community, St. Clair grounds her work in radical love, joy, and the knowledge that a more just world is possible. St. Clair has a BA from Brown University in French and Francophone Studies. She has been featured on NPR's *Strange Fruit*, BuzzFeed News, South Seattle Emerald, and *Everyday Black History: Afro Appreciation*. Her documentary,

DACAmented, has received awards at Immigration Film Fest, Baltimore International Black Film Festival, and Ogden City Latino Film Festival. St. Clair currently resides in her hometown of Washington, DC.



Caleb Dros is an emerging St. Martin writer. The Steven D. Schloff Creative Writing Award winner for non-fiction is pursuing his Master of Fine Arts at Florida State University. His poetry has appeared in *Adelaide Literary Magazine*, *The Daily Herald*, *Windhover*, and *Oakland Art Review*. *Oualichi: Land of Oma* is the first publication by Caleb Dros. The chapbook is dedicated to his great-grandmother, Élsa Hyman, who as a young woman worked in the salt pond of Orient Bay, St. Martin.



Doris Dumabin is a Guadeloupean novelist. The adult theme books are known to raise eyebrows in her homeland because of the way that she writes about male-female relationships in the new worlds that she explores in her French language fictions. Dumabin has attended literary conferences and festivals such as the Caribbean Writers Congress and the St. Martin Book Fair.



Geoff Goodfellow is a poet, memoirist, and short story writer from Adelaide, South Australia. He has been writing and publishing for 38 years, often giving voice to the marginalized and oppressed. He has published 14 books. His poetry has appeared in multiple issues of the *Best Australian Poems* and his *Poems for a Dead Father* (Vulgar Press, 2002) was short-listed for the Age Book of the Year award. His memoir, *Out of Copley Street: A working class boyhood* (Wakefield Press, 2020), provides readers with a good understanding of his cultural background. Geoff has travelled widely giving readings, including Canada, USA, Cuba, China, Europe, and the UK. His verse novella *Blight Street* (Walleah Press, 2021) provides readers with haunting insights into the tragedy of addiction, single parent families, teenage pregnancies, the working-class struggle and the celebration of love and sexual attraction.

www.geoffgoodfellow.com



Avenella Griffith (Anguilla), has taught primary and secondary school. She holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Development and heads the Business Department at the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School, Anguilla. In 2021, Griffith published *Sandy Ground Tales – Boat Men*, her first book.



Serge Gumbs (St. Martin) is the compiler and author of *Saint-Martin dans la Grande Guerre*, a survey of St. Martin men from the north of the island (a French territory), who were conscripted in the French military during World War I.



Joseph Ivor Hodge was born in Anguilla. He has worked on the island as a postal driver, teacher, social worker, and journalist. He is the vice president of the Brotherhood of St Andrew. *The Copper Hole* is Hodge's first book.



Drisana Deborah Jack is a St. Martin and Jersey City based multi-disciplinary artist who works in video/sound installation, photography, painting, and text. Her work engages a variety of strategies for mining the intersections of histories, cultural memory, ecology, and climate change, while negotiating a global present. She has exhibited at Perez Art Museum of Miami, Museum of Latin American Art in Los Angeles, SITE Santa Fe, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art, with reviews in *Hyperallergic*, *Frieze*, *Artsy* and *The New York Times*. In Fall 2021 *Deborah Jack: 20 Years* was presented at Pen + Brush in New York City. The associate professor of art at New Jersey City University has published two poetry collections with House of Nehesi Publishers, *The Rainy Season* and *skin*. In 2022, Pen + Brush published *Deborah Jack: 20 Years Catalogue*, a catalogue of critical essays of Jack's work.



Jillian John (Trinidad and Tobago), theatre arts teacher, director and SFX makeup artist. She holds a master's degree in Theatre Education and Applied Theatre, Emerson College Boston. For the past 10 years John has taught Theatre Arts in Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and the USA. Awards and honors include Best Director from St. Vincent and the Grenadines Secondary Schools' Drama Festival and the Eleston Adams Best Directing Award from the Caribbean Secondary Schools Drama Festival 2017.



Aya Milagros Lake (St. Martin) is a nursing care entrepreneur, certified life coach, and author. Lake is the host of her own morning talk show on SOS Radio 95.9 FM. Her book *The Good Morning Chronicles* is a collection of daily inspirations.



Joseph H. Lake, Jr. is St. Martin newspaper publisher, author, and president of the Independence for St. Martin Foundation. Between 1970 and 2001, he was a columnist, associate editor or publisher for the *Windward Islands Opinion*, *Shaka*, *Newsday*, *Welkom/Bienvenue*, and *St. Martin Republic*. He founded the *Windward Islands Newsday* (1976) and *St. Martin Republic Publishers* (2014). Awards and honors include a journalism public awareness plaque from Lt. Governor Max Pandt (1981), the journalism award from the Student Government Association of the University of St. Martin and *Teen Times* (1997), and the St. Martin Day Culture and Heritage Award from the Collectivité Saint-Martin (2012). Lake is the author of *The Republic of St. Martin* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2000), *Friendly Anger—The Rise of the Labor Movement in St. Martin* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2004), *Six 4 Nine—Country Sint Maarten/Collectivité Saint-Martin* (2014), *Pen on Paper* (2017), and the young adult novel *Kwame* (2021).



LaToya Lake is a St. Martin writer. Her novels include *It's Like Déjà Vu with You*, *Chronicles of My Deception: Kayla's Truth*, and *Bria's Focus Captured*. In 2019, Lake's foundation, LaToyawas, released its film *And Here Comes the Groom* at Caribbean Cinemas, St. Martin.



Marie-Pierre Loiseau dite « Mapie », Martiniquaise, a grandi à Trénelles-Citron, quartier populaire de Fort-de-France. Elle commence à flirter avec les mots en 1996 en intégrant l'atelier théâtre du SERMAC (centre culturel créé par Aimé Césaire). En parallèle, elle travaille son talent d'écriture au sein du groupe de Rap « Boss Koneksyon ». En 2009, elle découvre le SLAM et obtient le titre de championne de SLAM de la Martinique en 2012. Depuis, elle partage ses émotions et inspirations, sur scène et dans des ateliers d'initiation à la poésie orale, à la Martinique et dans le reste du monde, particulièrement sur le continent africain.



N.C. Marks [Natasha] is a contemporary writer from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. She holds an MSc in Environmental Management, University of London. The author of the pop culture novel *Plastered in Pretty* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2019), teaches high school geography. Marks' poetry appears in *Disaster Matters: Disasters Matter*, edited by Yvonne Weekes and Wendy McMahon. *Children of the Ash* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2022), is her debut collection of poems.

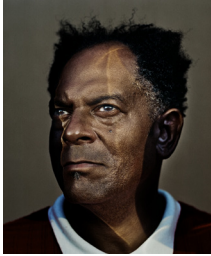


Heddrick McBride is the founder of McBride Collection of Stories. He has created a collection of over 100 culturally responsive children's books that provide diverse characters and storylines—increasing the possibility and “desire for minority children to read across the globe.” His books have been featured on Good Morning America, The Breakfast Club, USA Today, CNN News, New York 1 News, and ESPN Sports Nation. McBride is an educational consultant for schools in New York City, Baltimore, and Atlanta for which he facilitates after-school and summer programs. Awards and honors include the NAACP and New York State Senate recognition for his “outstanding literature and community work.”



Wendy McMahon, PhD, is an associate professor at the University of East Anglia, United Kingdom. She specializes in Caribbean writing and cultures, focusing particularly on peoples' relationships to place, the environment, and histories of the region. Dr. McMahon has worked on St. Vincent and Montserrat on projects about cultural responses to volcanic hazard as part of an inter-

disciplinary research team focusing on approaches to disaster risk reduction in the Eastern Caribbean. McMahon and Yvonne Weekes are the editors of *Disaster Matters: Disasters Matter* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2022), a literary anthology textbook for Caribbean high schools.



Michael McMillan is a London-based writer, playwright, artist/curator, and scholar of Vincentian migrant heritage. He is best known for his critically acclaimed installation-based exhibition, "The West Indian Front Room" (2005-06) at the Museum of the Home (then the Geffrye Museum). In 2021, the exhibition became permanent at the museum, along with McMillan's triptych film installation *Waiting for myself to appear*. "The Front Room" has been iterated in the Netherlands, Curacao, South Africa, and France, and was part of "Life Between Islands" at Tate Britain (2021-22). Inspired the BBC4 documentary *Tales from the Front Room* (2007), McMillan's book *The Front Room: Migrant Aesthetics in the Home* was published in 2009 with a revised edition in 2022. His drama/documentary *On Duty*, aired on Channel 4's *Eleventh Hour* series (1984), and his 2001 BBC4 Radio Drama, *Blood for Britain*, about Dr. Charles Drew, was nominated for a Diversity in Media award. McMillan's music theatrical work *Sonic Vibrations: who can't hear must feel*, is published at the Writers Mosaic.org.uk. He is currently an associate lecturer in Cultural & Historical Studies at London College of Fashion (UAL), and research associate with VIAD, University of Johannesburg, South Africa.



Stéphanie Melyon-Reinette obtient son doctorat avec la plus haute distinction: Mention Très Honorable avec Félicitation du jury. Elle s'intéresse dans ce cadre à l'intégration de la population haïtienne (longtemps honnie et ségréguée) afin de faire connaître leur histoire et limiter voire supprimer les comportements discriminatoires. Son premier ouvrage (qu'elle tire de sa thèse de doctorat) s'intitule *Haïtiens à New York City - Entre Amérique Noire et Amérique Multiculturelle* (L'Harmattan, Coll. Minorités & Sociétés, 2009). Elle y traite de la question de l'intégration de la communauté haïtienne dans la ville de New York, en passant par les processus migratoires, les stratégies d'intégration mises en place par les protagonistes, entre une Amérique noire ségréguée et un courant dominant, et d'une génération à l'autre.



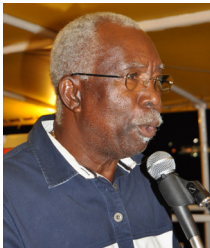
Politologue, **Julien Mérimon** a exercé les fonctions de directeur de cabinet à Grand-Bourg de Marie-Galante et enseigne à l'université des Antilles. Homme de conviction, il porte un regard averti sur la vie politique guadeloupéenne. Son engagement avec l'association CO.RE.CA et son expertise sur les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



Mara Pastor is a Puerto Rican poet, editor, and professor. She has authored six full-length poetry books in Spanish and two bilingual chapbooks. Pastor's newest poetry collection is *Deuda Natal* (University of Arizona Press, 2021)—translated by María José Giménez and Anna Rosenwong, and selected for the Ambroggio Prize 2020. The poet/scholar lives in the high mountains of Ponce, Puerto Rico, amongst mango and achiote trees and teaches Spanish and Literature at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico and the Sagrado Corazón University, San Juan.



Mary J. Romney-Schaab is a retired educator with over 40 years of experience teaching English to speakers of other languages—in Spain and the USA. Romney holds master's degrees in Instructional Media; Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Columbia University; and Spanish. *An Afro-Caribbean in the Nazi Era: From Papiamentu to German* by Mary J. Romney-Schaab was published in 2020. The educator/author has a passion for African Diaspora history and family history. "As one whose family is entirely rooted in St. Maarten," said Romney, she "believes in the power and value of oral history for families in the Caribbean and the rest of the African Diaspora."



Max Rippon (Marie-Galante) 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*. He is a strong advocate of Kwéyòl as a popular and literary language. Rippon's books *LeDernier 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, Shoutsof Islanders (Hurricane, Crisd'Insulaires)* among such noted authors as AiméCésaire, Derek Walcott, and Nabile Fares. Rippon has participated in literary festivals in Guadeloupe, Martinique, Nicaragua, USA, and France. Over the years, the St. Martin Book Fair has been selected as the release venue of two of Max Rippon's books, including *MarieGalante Regards*. He is a recipient of the Presidents Award from the St. Martin Book Fair.



Lasana M. Sekou (St. Martin). His poetry and fiction books, including *Nativity*, *Brotherhood of the Spurs*, *The Salt Reaper*, *37 Poems*, *Corazón de pelícano*, and *Hurricane Protocol* have been required reading at Caribbean, North and South American, and European universities. His poetry has been translated into Spanish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Turkish, and Chinese. Sekou's writings have been reviewed in *World Literature Today*, *Revue Noire*, *De Gids*, *Del Caribe*, *The Daily Herald*, *Hong Kong Literary Monthly*, *Newsday*, and *Jamaica Gleaner*. He has presented papers and recited his poetry in the Caribbean, USA, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. The newest study of his work, *Caribbean Counterpoint – The Aesthetics of Salt in Lasana Sekou* by Sara Florian, PhD, was published in 2019. Sekou is an advocate for the independence of St. Martin, a territory of France and the Netherlands.



Enzo Silon Surin is a Haitian-born award-winning writer, poet, educator, publisher, and social advocate. He is the author of *When My Body Was A Clinched Fist* (Black Lawrence Press, 2020) and winner of a Massachusetts Book Award for Poetry. His chapbook *A Letter of Resignation: An American Libretto* was published in 2017. He is the co-editor of *Where We Stand: Poems of Black Resilience*. Surin is a recipient of a PEN New England Discovery Award and a Denis Diderot [A-i-R] Grant/Artist-in-Residence at Chateau d'Orquevaux, France. He teaches creative writing and literature at Bunker Hill Community College. The founding editor/publisher at Central Square Press, Surin is also the founder/executive director of Faraday Publishing Company, a nonprofit literary service and social advocacy organization.



Sharma Taylor is a lawyer and an acclaimed Jamaican writer. Sharma won the 2020 Wasafiri Queen Mary New Writing Prize, the 2020 Frank Collymore Literary Endowment Award, and the 2019 Bocas Lit Fest's Johnson and Amoy Achong Caribbean Writers Prize. She won Second Prize in the 2020 First Novel Competition (organized by Daniel Goldsmith Associates Ltd, UK). Sharma has won gold medals in Barbados' National Independence Festival of Creative Arts Literary Competition and the Best Adult Short Story Writer prize in the 2019 Jamaica Cultural Development Commission's Creative Writing Competition. Sharma's highly anticipated debut novel, *What A Mother's Love Don't Teach You*, is scheduled for release in July 2022 by Virago.



Pierre André Théodore (Guadeloupe), est professionnel de l'aéronautique, mais aussi artiste et entrepreneur. En partageant son expérience, il s'est lancé comme défi d'aider tout un chacun à réaliser sa mission de vie. Son livre *Et tu peux soulever ce monde ! – De victime à victorieux – Mes douze conseils* est un témoignage de sa mission.



Cassilda Thomas Brookes (Anguilla), is a library assistant and facilitator of the Children Reading Program at the Anguilla Library Service. The writings have appeared in *The Anguillan* newspaper and the anthology *Where I See The Sun: Contemporary Poetry in Anguilla* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2015). Thomas Brookes is the first and second prize winner of the Anguilla Library Annual Malliouhana Poetry Competition. She lives in Anguilla with her husband, Awlton Brookes (illustrator of her children's stories), and their two children. *Anansi and the Hurricane* (Emmanuel Publishing House, 2022) is the first children's book by Cassilda Thomas Brookes.

Papa Umpho (Rodney Young) is a St. Martin high school teacher 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.



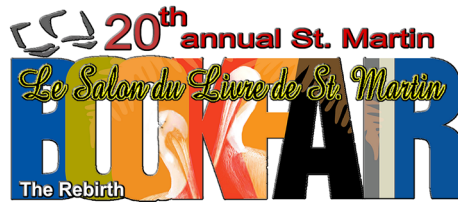
Rochelle Ward [Faizah Tabasamu] is a St. Martin poet. She holds an MSc in Management Studies, UWI. The English and Literature teacher at St. Maarten Academy high school has recited her poetry at demonstrations, slams, concerts, and literary festivals in Anguilla, Dominica, St. Martin, and Nevis. Ward's poetry encompasses womanhood, Caribbean nostalgia and culture, and the urgency to preserve and engage in nature. As curator at *saltfish & Lace*, she blogs about hair and beauty care, Caribbean lifestyle, and fashion, and reviews books. Ward is a Catapult Lockdown Virtual Salon grant recipient. Her poetry appears in the anthologies *Where I See the Sun – Contemporary Poetry in St. Martin* and *Disaster Matters: Disasters Matter. Tangle* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2021), is Rochelle Ward's first book of poems.



Yvonne Weekes, PhD, teaches theatre and arts education at The University of the West Indies – Cave Hill. She has lived in Barbados since being forced to move from Montserrat because of the Soufriere Hills volcanic eruption in 1995. Dr. Weekes is the author of the award-winning memoir *Volcano* and the poetry collections *Nomad* and *Pandemic Moments*—the latter with Howard A Fergus. Dr. Weekes is the Panel Chair for the Performing Arts syllabus of the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE). Weekes and Wendy McMahon are the editors of *Disaster Matters: Disasters Matter* (House of Nehesi Publishers, 2022).



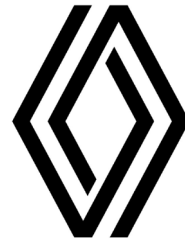
Dr. "Nay" Renee White is a professor of teacher education at St. Joseph's University in New York. Her writing supports women and children of color. Dr. Nay is the author of *Embrace Your Power: A Sistah to Sistah Conversation*, which affords women opportunities to self-reflect and self-empower. The founder and president of Renee's Way Inc. facilitates "Empowered Feminine Leadership" consultation to encourage corporate leaders to embrace and utilize their feminine energy in the business arena. Her Sistah Pod's Sistah Hood encompasses over 250 women from around the globe, sharing their expertise and experiences via workshops.



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Oualichi

Land of Oma


Caleb Dros is an emerging St. Martin writer. The Steven D. Schloff Creative Writing Award winner for non-fiction is pursuing his Master of Fine Arts at Florida State University. His poetry has appeared in *Adelaide Literary Magazine, The Daily Herald, Windhover, and Oakland Art Review. Oualichi: Land of Oma* is the first publication by Caleb Dros. The chapbook is dedicated to his great-grandmother, Elisa Hyman, who as a young woman worked in the salt pond of Orient Bay, St. Martin.



Caleb Dros

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