



# Poetry

**African Books Collective**

**- 2019 CATALOGUE -**

# Welcome to the African Books Collective Poetry Catalogue 2019

Recently, African Books Collective (ABC) has grown, adding a wealth of poetry presses, particularly from South Africa. Poets from Africa have been productive for many years, and throughout its 30 year history ABC has been privileged to offer collections from such greats as Niyi Osundare, J.P. Clark, Okot p'Bitek, Kwadwo Opoku-Agyemang, Shaaban Robert, Syl Cheney-Coker and Tanure Ojaide.

Poets have been self-organising, founding their own presses and publishing their work and the work their contemporaries. Through the Collective, these presses have a platform to share literary voices from the region with global audiences. They are home to multiple voices, including those who are often side-lined, sharing stories of identity, marginalisation, history and love – with all its complexities. A list of poetry publishers can be found at the end of this catalogue.

While browsing the catalogue, please click on the cover from the collections you like to be directed to a page where you can purchase the book directly from ABC. If you choose to order from us, you will be sending more income back to the press who has published it. This is because we do not need to give a discount to a reseller like Amazon – who probably has enough income to get by. Checkout is via PayPal, though you do not need to have a PayPal account. We ship worldwide and would love to hear from you :-).

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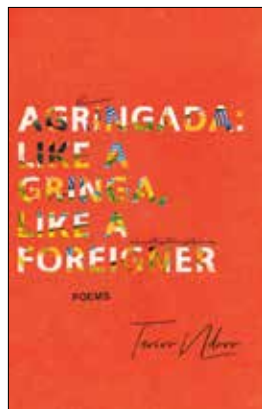
African Books Collective (ABC) is an African owned, worldwide marketing and distribution outlet for books from Africa – scholarly, literature and children's books. ABC is a UK-registered not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. ABC seeks to be profit making on behalf of its publishers, and is non-profit making on its own behalf. All titles are available for immediate supply at [www.africanbookscollective.com](http://www.africanbookscollective.com), or from wholesalers Ingram, Gardners, Bertrams, and Baker and Taylor. ABC distributed titles are available from the library wholesaler YBP and to individuals through a wide range of online retailers like Amazon.com. ABC distributes electronic content worldwide through a huge variety of retailers. Libraries can order over 3000 titles for their collections through Proquest, EBSCO, JSTOR, Project MUSE, Biblioboard, Cyberlibris, and many more. In Africa, the ABC collection is available to libraries through both the Baobab Books and NENA platforms. Custom-building collections can be done through Digitalback Books.

Thanks for your time!  
ABC

# Agringada: Like a gringa, like a foreigner

Tariro Ndoro

*You wear silence  
sitting on the concrete floor of a library  
a shroud like speech  
Language does not belong to you...*



An honest exploration of dislocation and (un) belonging in its forms: exile from language, exile from country, and exile from sanity. In her debut collection of poetry, Ndoro divides and intermingles national and personal history in an attempt to reach herself. Within its fragmented prose and lyrical poems, *Agringada* is not only a celebrated capture of language but also of its intriguing subversion as it navigates meetings of class, gender, nationality and race.

*“Tariro Ndoro wields many tongues to give a testament of the innumerable ways humans survive. She is not concerned with comforting you with hope: poems end with severed limbs, and you too are dragged through southern African borders. She leaves you panting, too afraid to stop for a sip of self-pity, and she has made you too familiar with her foreignness to want belong disappears, yet, you are acutely aware that you are alive.”*

- Katleho Kano Shoro (Serurubele)

*“A love song to language, and all her betrayals and liberations; a linguist’s dance through political, psychological and psychic borders. My favourite 2019 read so far.”*

- Megan Ross (Milk Fever)



**Tariro Ndoro** is a Zimbabwean poet and storyteller. Born in Harare but raised in a smattering of small towns, Tariro holds a BSc in Microbiology and an MA in Creative Writing. Her work has been published in numerous international journals and anthologies including *20.35 Africa: An Anthology of Contemporary Poetry* (Brittle Paper, 2018) *Kotaz*, *New Contrast*, *Oxford Poetry* and *Puerto del Sol*. Her poetry has been shortlisted for the 2018 **Babishai Niwe Poetry Prize** and awarded second place for the 2017 **DALRO Prize**. *Agringada* is her debut collection.

9781928215769 | 82pp. | 2019 | MODJAJI BOOKS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# All the Places

Musawenkosi Khanyile

*All the places he goes to  
remind him of where he comes from.  
He cannot escape his background; it's always with him.  
Like now, seated at a long shiny table in a hotel  
with colleagues who overlook his township English  
and laugh kindly at his jokes.  
He cannot look at his sparkling fork and knife  
without thinking of holidays spent at his father's birthplace  
gathered around a huge bowl of maas with his cousins,  
digging in with his hands.*



In his moving debut collection, Musawenkosi Khanyile speaks for the heartache, perseverance and untriumphant triumph of township life. Through snapshots and memories of family and community, centred around the boy- and young manhood of a single narrator, *All The Places* is a rare and compelling poetic Bildungsroman, with the ambition and scope of a novel, paired with (and pared down to) minimalist and clear-eyed verse.

Concurrently original and quintessentially South African, these poems mark Khanyile out as a skilled stylist and storyteller – a frank and important new voice in South African literature.



**Musawenkosi Khanyile** was born in 1991 and raised in Nseleni. He holds a Masters in Clinical Psychology from the University of Zululand, and a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of the Western Cape. His first published poems appeared in an *uHlanga magazine* released in 2014. He currently lives in Cape Town. This is his first book.

9780620838719 | 58pp. | 2019 | UHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$14/£11

# The Alkalinity of Bottled Water

Makhosazana Xaba

Makhosazana Xaba, with several collections and anthologies to her name, is at the forefront of a poetry that embraces penetrating socio-political insight with highly emotional responses to the love and pain that our country provides in such abundance.



**Makhosazana Xaba** is the author of two poetry collections: *these hands* (2005) and, *Tongues of their Mothers* (2008). Her poetry has been anthologized widely, translated into Italian, Mandarin and Turkish and also available from the Cambridge Poetry Archive. She is the editor of, *Like the untouchable wind:*

*An anthology of poems* (2016). Her collection of collection of fiction, *Running & other stories* (2013), won the **SALA Nadine Gordimer Short Story Award** in 2014. Her short story “Running” won the **Deon Hofmeyr Prize** for Creative Writing in 2005 and was anthologised in, *20 Best Short Stories of South Africa’s Democracy*, in 2014. She has co-edited three anthologies; *Proudly Malawian: Life Stories from lesbian and gender-nonconforming individuals* (2016) and *Queer Africa: New and Collected Fiction* (2013) which won the 26th **Lambda Literary Award** for the fiction anthology category in 2014 and was translated in Spanish in the same year. Xaba holds an MA in Writing (with distinction) from The University of the Witwatersrand.

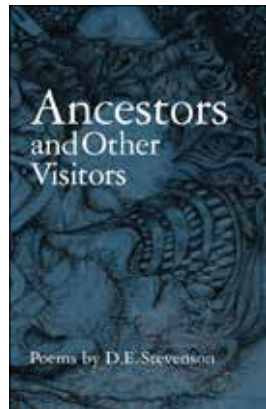
9780994708168 | 76pp. | 2019 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING , SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£11

# Ancestors and Other Visitors

## *Selected Poetry & Drawings*

D. Stevenson

Pursued through poetic pastures of faith, love, and time by an Omuhimba muse who alternately challenges and enchants him, D. Stevenson presents *Ancestors and Other Visitors*, a poetry anthology that is as sweepingly existential as it is personal and as sagely simple as it is complex.



An immigrant, artist and spoken wordsmith observing the world through a traveler soul, Stevenson journeys through time and literary style to pay homage to influence such as e.e. cummings, W.B. Yeats and Robert Hayden in a wonderfully intimate selection of poems.

Set primarily in Windhoek, Namibia, Stevenson's home of 37 years, *Ancestors* is at once a musing on self, surroundings and the local artists who inflame his imagination: a young Namibian painter, a dance troupe that inspired 'Arc magnificent' and 'Unseen', with original ballet, and the assorted upcoming poets who fees his passion and whose stage he shares. Offering up exposition as well as desperate, imagined and curious conversations. *Ancestors* is a welcome and unprecedented addition to the Namibian poetry landscape.



**Don Stevenson** was born in New York City, grew up in western United States and embraced the Baha i Faith while serving in Vietnam with the U.S. military. He met his wife while living in Germany. With their two daughters, they moved to Namibia in 1981, where shortly thereafter, their son was born. Don is a poet, illustrator, copy editor, graphic designer, bonsai artist and sometime actor, and lectured at the University of Namibia for 19 years.

9789991642444 | 92pp. col.illus | 2018 | UNIVERSITY OF NAMIBIA PRESS | \$20/£16

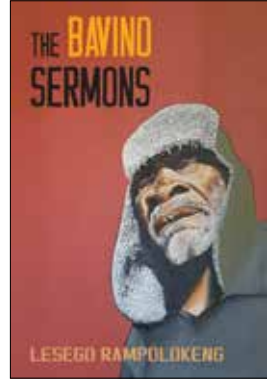
# The Bavino Sermons

Lesego Rampolokeng

Originally published in 1999, *The Bavino Sermons* includes such memorable poems as 'Lines for Vincent', 'Riding the victim train', 'To Gil Scott-Heron', 'Crab attack', 'Rap Ranting' and 'The Fela Sermon'.

*The dark Kafkaesque humour of Lesego Rampolokeng is an arrow shot into the heart of the complacent, those "wearing the victim label/ everyone a sufferer/ pretending there never was a biafra/ can't see ethiopia for myopia". But his concern is less with an overtly party-political struggle, than it is with a struggle against fascism in everyday life... Rampolokeng's work exists on many levels. He is a veritable Recording Angel of a trans-historical, trans-geographical society wracked with contradictions, and continuous instances of horrific, gratuitous violence.*

- Paul Wessels, Cape Times



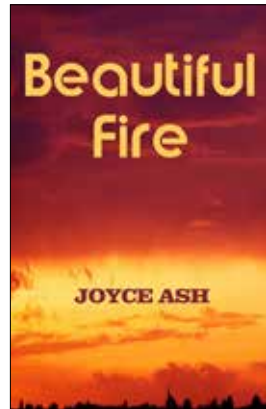
**Lesego Rampolokeng** is a poet, novelist, playwright, filmmaker and writing teacher who rose to prominence in the 1980s, a turbulent period in South Africa's history. He is the author of several pioneering collections of poetry including *Talking Rain* (1993), *The Bavino Sermons* (1999), *Head on Fire* (2012) and *A Half Century Thing* (2015). He is also the author of three novels, two plays, screenplays and has collaborated in performances and recording with several musicians.

9781928476306 | 126pp. | 2019 | DEEP SOUTH, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# Beautiful Fire

Joyce Ash

*“The inspired and well crafted poetry of Joyce Ash is a feast of life deepened and intensified through her poetic search for meaning. Here is a poet whose every movement into language challenges us out of our sentimental approaches to living. Her merciless insights translate reality into what it used to be, taking us to the long forgotten world where language, cultural roots, womanhood, and nature itself are experienced as vital parts of the republic of the self. Beautiful Fire is a book that shows us what poetry can be, a book that stays with you long after you have finished reading it.”*



- Amir Or, author of Wings

*“Beautiful Fire radiates intimacy, passion, and sensitivity. This poetry touches us to our deepest core and awakens the warm emotions and humanity we can’t ignore. Joyce Ash gathers images into a honeycomb that the reader tastes and keeps on devouring its sweetness. The highly imagistic poems proffer an enduring message that resonates with our private and public selves.”*

- Tanure Ojaide, Poet



**Dr. Joyce Ash** is a poet, actress, creative writer and Associate Professor of English at the University of Hartford, Connecticut. Her first book of poetry, *A Basket of Flaming Ashes*, was published to great acclaim. She has also contributed to several international anthologies of poetry, including *Dhaka Anthology of World Poetry*, *Reflections: An Anthology of New Work by African Women Poets*, *We Have Crossed Many Rivers: New Poetry from Africa* and *World Poetry Almanac 2011*. Her poems have been translated into Spanish, Greek, Hebrew, Turkish and Bengali (Bangla).

9781942876250 | 90pp | 2018 | SPEARS MEDIA PRESS, CAMEROON | \$13/£9.99

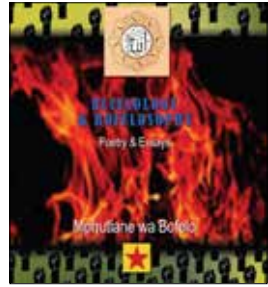


# Bluesology and Bofelosophy

## *Poetry and Essays*

Mphutlane wa Bofelo

The poems, stories and essays of Mphutlane wa Bofelo operate within a framework of thinking that is an amalgam of philosophies: that of black consciousness, humanistic Islam and socialism. His voice is both lyrical and satirical, expressing anger and tenderness even as his barbs are sharp and his kisses tender. His beats are complex polyrhythms that roll on in incantatory style or achieve mystical brevity.



Bofelo entered the world of sociopolitical and cultural activism in the early 1980s through the black consciousness movement in Zamdela Township in Sasolburg. He lives in Durban, where he has built up an audience as a performer of poetry, a speaker and a facilitator. He has self-published two poetry collections and is represented in journals, newspapers and on web sites.



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9780981406886 | 156pp. | 2018 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING, SOUTH AFRICA | \$22/£18

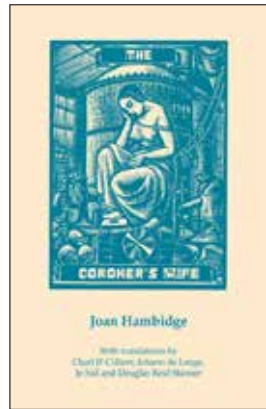
# The Coroner's Wife

## Poems in Translation

Joan Hambidge

Joan Hambidge has published over 25 collections of poetry. Her work uses the magnifying lense of poetry to dissect, examine and recompose the material of her own life and work, and in so doing, explores ideas and issues central to our understanding of language and meaning.

The poems selected for translation in this compilation offer insights into her views across a spectrum of four categories: city life; love and family; ars poetica; and time and eternity. *The Coroner's Wife* offers English readers the unique opportunity to experience a prolific and renowned Afrikaans poet in their own language. Translations have been sensitively rendered by wellknown poets, Charl JF Cilliers, Johann de Lange, Jo Nel and Douglas Reid Skinner.



Joan Hambidge's debut book of poetry, *Hartskrif*, was published in 1985. Her second collection, *Bitterlemoene*, published in 1986, was the recipient of the **Eugène Marais Prize**. She was also awarded the **Litera Prize** for her poem on Eugène Marais (which appeared in *Lykdigte*) and the **ATKV Poetry Prize** for her collection, *Visums* by Verstek. In the decades since receiving these awards, Hambidge has written prolifically and produced over 25 poetry collections, the most recent being *Indeks*, (Human & Rousseau, 2016). She was a lecturer and later a professor at the University of the North. Since 1992, she has been a professor at the School of Literature and Languages at the University of Cape Town. In 2016, she was also appointed to the Council of the University of Stellenbosch. She is an active reviewer, literary theorist and public intellectual, and has written extensively on Postmodernism, deconstruction and gender. She has also published various novels, including *Die Judaskus* (Perskor, 1988) and *Kladboek* (Protea, 2008).

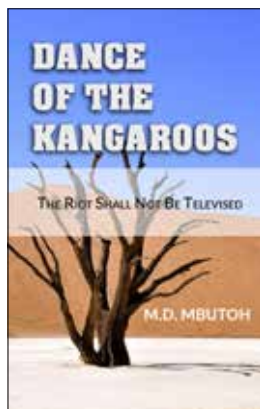
9780639914121 | 90pp. | 2018 | DRYAD PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$15/£12

# Dance of the Kangaroos

## *The Riot shall not be Televised*

MD Mbutoh

*Dance of the Kangaroos* (The Riot shall not be Televised) is a collection of 42 poems on the socio-political and economic realities of a people polarised by bitter colonial experiences. Through the use of metaphor and other literary devices, closely knitted by an apprehensive sense of a first witness, the poems highlight experiences of oppression, marginalization, social justice and human rights abuse.



*Dance of the Kangaroos* takes the reader on a journey that unveils the realities and challenges of postcolonial African society. It is one where the superior class have taken up the colonial whip and induced their subordinates to re-stage a colonial parody under indigénat, a policy used by the French in colonial Africa. Mbutoh draws on words and expressions from his African background and his knowledge of his people's colonial experiences to make each poem unique.

*"Mbutoh has an ear for music. The poems in Dance of the Kangaroos are not only courageous, they are melodic, intense, ruminative, and adventurous. Every reader can be assured that one reading of these beautifully written poems will not just be enough."*

- Okwudili Nebeolisa, Nigerian Poet Laureate



**MD Mbutoh** is an award-winning poet from the North West Region of Cameroon. His literary works have appeared in journals, blogs, and newspapers across the world including *Refugee Republic* (poetry collection) 2017, and *Praxis*, (2017) a Nigerian-based literary magazine. His debut play, 'Coastland of Hope' (2016) was commended by the BBC Radio Play in 2017. He was guest writer in the Short Story Day Africa Flow Workshop in 2016 and 2017 respectively, as well as guest writer for the *Bakwa Magazine* Creative Writing Workshop in 2016.

9781942876229 | 70pp | 2018 | SPEARS MEDIA PRESS, CAMEROON | \$15/£11

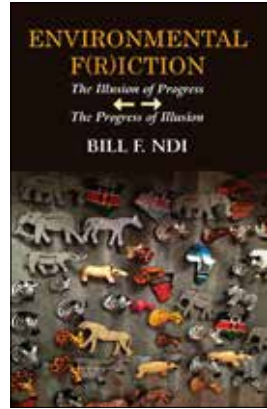
# Environmental F(r)iction

## *The Illusion of Progress / The Progress of Illusion*

Bill F. Ndi

So much ink has already been spilled on the issues of climate change. In this collection, Bill F. Ndi blends environmental sciences with poetic art in a bit to make the strange ordinary and the ordinary strangely extraordinary. The poems challenge the denialists in desperate need for some material to

chew on. The poems in this collection, written with both provocativeness and compassion, are about the wondrous working of nature. This brilliant work of poetic art—crafted with poignancy and beauty—uses a fixed form, for the most part, as if to say Nature’s splendor should not be meddled with in the same way man has and still does. This collection is an exquisite, an incredible as well as a great and a rare gift from the plume of Bill F. Ndi.



**Dr. Bill F. Ndi**, poet, playwright, storyteller, critic, translator & academic was born in Bamunka-Ndop, the North West Region of Cameroon and educated at GBHS Bamenda & Essos, the University of Yaoundé, Nigeria: ABSU, Paris: ISIT, the Sorbonne, Paris VIII & UCP where he obtained his doctorate degree in Languages, Literatures and Contemporary Civilizations. He has held teaching positions at the Paris School of Languages, the University of the Sunshine Coast at Sippy Downs, the University of Queensland, Brisbane, St Lucia and Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. He is presently a faculty with the department of English and Foreign Languages at Tuskegee University, Alabama, USA.

9789956550517 | 116pp. | 2018 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$16/£12

# Everything is a Deathly Flower

Maneo Mohale

*dear reader,  
are you still there?  
take a second, now.  
breathe //  
with me.*



In one of the most anticipated debut collections of recent years, Maneo Mohale reckons boldly with the experience of – and the reconstruction of a life after – a sexual assault.

Mohale's unapologetic and disarming voice carries through a budding and blooming garden of poetics, rooted in a contemporary southern African tradition, but springing forth in queer and radical new directions. Indeed, this is a work encompassing the full, often contradictory, and seldom complete process of healing: where relations must be chosen as well as made; where time becomes non-linear and language insufficient; where nothing is what it seems, yet everything is what it is.



**Maneo Mohale** was born in 1992 in Benoni. Her work has appeared in *Jalada*, *Prufrock*, the *New York Times*, the *Mail & Guardian*, *spectrum.za*, and others. She is a 2016 Bitch Media Global Feminism Fellow, and has been longlisted twice for the **Sol Plaatje European Union Poetry Award**. After living in Canada for five years, she now lives in Johannesburg, where she works as an editor and writer.

9780639810829 | 68pp. | 2019 | UHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$15/£11

# Feeling and Ugly

Danai Mupotsa

DANAI MUPOTSA was born in Harare, and has lived in Botswana, the United States and South Africa where she is now based. She describes herself as a teacher and writer.

*Feeling and Ugly* was largely written between 2016 and 2018, although some of the poems were written earlier or previously published in some form. The collection gathers the various statuses and locations she moves across, as daughter, mother, teacher, scholar and writer. From these places, many of the poems try to approach difficult feelings about what it means to “do politics” from an empathetic complexity. “I’m raging, sometimes that makes me petty” is one such example. The collection carries a set of standpoints, or willfulness about pedagogy, politics and optimism. And while she carries an attachment to a non-reparative, or negative affect across the collection, she closes in describing the work, or all of her work, as love poems. This collection is a long love letter to those who are wilful.



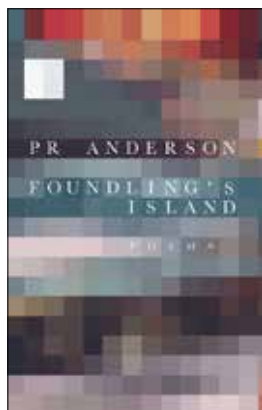
**DANAI MUPOTSA** was born in Harare, and has lived in Botswana, the United States and South Africa where she is now based.

9780639946511 | 86pp. | 2018 | IMPEPHO PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£13

# Foundling's Island

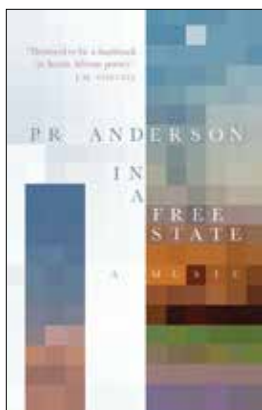
P.R. Anderson

P.R. Anderson's second collection – which as an unfinished manuscript shared the 2003 Sanlam Literary Award – announced his arrival as a fresh and significant voice in South African poetry. Republished now for the first time in over a decade, Foundling's Island's journey of coasts, creatures and dreams is as tightly crafted and joyously readable as it has ever been. A collection in which form is created and meaning maintained with the lightest of touches, to the greatest effect.



9780620812252 | 70pp. | 2018 | UHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

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## In A Free State *a music*

P.R. Anderson

In this quite extraordinary sequence of poems, P.R. Anderson discombobulates and re-assembles the image and idiom of the various nations, landscapes and earthscapes of central South Africa. From first peoples, to those who took and settled on their ancestral lands, and to those for whom that land would come ancestral, In a Free State encompasses and compresses centuries of human drama into a fleeting and temperamental poetic narrative. Yet this is no drudge, nor is it a historical yarn. With an easy mastery of form and metre, coupled with swashbuckling metaphorical and -textual flourish, Anderson's new "music" is a bold and visionary work. A piece of South African poetry – and South African storytelling – unlike any other

9780620812245 | 70pp. | 2018 | UHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

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**P.R. Anderson**, born in 1967, studied at the Universities of Oxford and Cape Town; he currently lectures at the latter in English Language and Literature. He was the winner of the 2003 Sanlam Literary Award as well as the 2018 Thomas Pringle Award for Poetry.

# The Gushungo Way

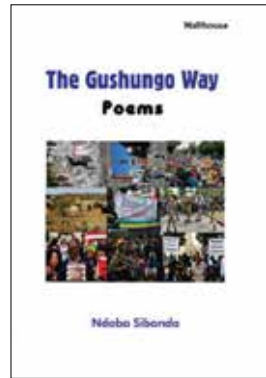
Ndaba Sibanda

*“I did not say I was a candidate to retire.”*

- **Robert Mugabe**, at 92.

As citizens sank into an abyss of social anguish, a lot migrated to South Africa, UK, USA and other nations, and a once ‘hit song’ The Blair That I Know Is a Toilet was flushed down too!

Of that song, one youth bawled, “I’m suffering because myopic blunderers who can’t even Man a mere Blair toilet were entrusted with the managing of the nation. Stinking nonsense!”



**Ndaba Sibanda**, from Zimbabwe, has co-authored more than thirty published books. He was a 2005 **National Arts Merit Awards** (NAMA) nominee, compiled and edited *Its Time* (2006), and *Free Fall* (2017), and the recipient of a Starry Night ART School scholarship in 2015. He is the author of *Love O'clock*, *The Dead Must Be Sobbing* and *Football of Fools*. His work is featured in *The New Shoots Anthology*, *The Van Gogh Anthology* edited by Catfish McDaris and Dr. Marc Pietrzykowski, *Eternal Snow*, A Worldwide Anthology of One Hundred Poetic Intersections with Himalayan Poet Yuyutsu RD Sharma by Nirala Press and *Seeing Beyond the Surface Volume II*.

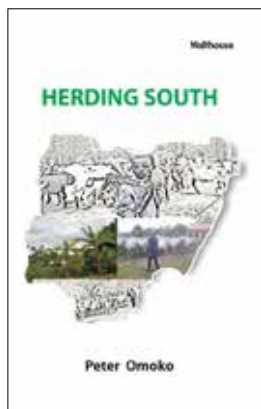
9789785621976 | 198pp. | 2019 | MALTHOUSE PRESS, NIGERIA | \$16/£12



# Herding South

Peter Omoko

In *Herding South*, Peter Omoko spotlights the dispossessed and dystopian fate of minority groups in Nigeria, and the fractured social equilibrium that pervades the land, with its polarising and destructive effect on the people's psyche. Writing essentially as a troubled witness, the poet navigates through the horrifying pains and trauma of a people, instigated by the ineptitude and narrow-mindedness of their leadership. Omoko's intention in this collection – to speak home-truth to power in order to reclaim the people's humanity – is well delineated in the sardonic and emotive metaphors used in the poetry and the rhetorical force of its lines.



*“Peter Omoko’s “poetry is passionate, highly imagistic and sensuous, and possesses a special lyrical quality.”*

- Tanure Ojaide, The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

*“In these poems, Peter Omoko adorns the gab of the griot to diagnose the socio-political ailments that afflict his homeland.”*

- Nduka Otiono, Carleton University, Ottawa

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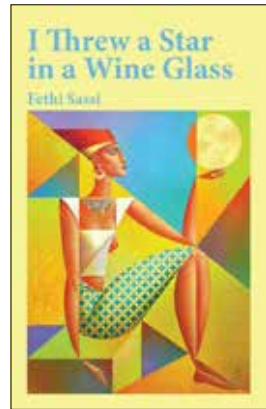
**Peter E. Omoko** (Ph.D) is a playwright/scholar who teaches African oral literature, creative writing, African and European literatures at the Department of English, Delta State College of Education, Mosogar Delta State. Omoko is also an award-winning playwright. His published plays include *Battles of Pleasure* (2009), *Three Plays* (an anthology of plays, 2010), *Uloho* (2013), *Crude Nightmen* (2015) and *Majestic Revolt* (2016).

9789785657517 | 82pp. | 2019 | MALTHOUSE PRESS, NIGERIA | \$16/£12

# I Threw a Star in a Wine Glass

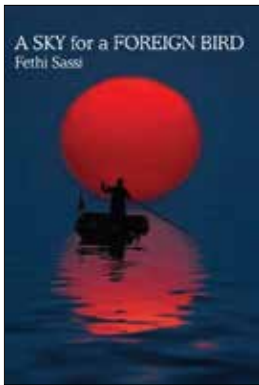
Fethi Sassi

This careful selection of short poems, *I Threw a Star in a Wine Glass*, originally written in Arabic and translated into English can offer you a passport to live for other planets never imagined. With love and soft fragrance, works the poet Fethi Sassi to realize a dream, that was until now, breathing in the depth of his personality.



9780797493353 | 116pp. | 2018 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$16/£12

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## Sky for a Foreign Bird *Poetry and Poetry Translations*

Fethi Sassi

*A Sky for a Foreign Bird* emerges as pioneering work of romance. This poet gives for his lovely readers a graphic picture of a hug and kisses never to end and never stopped!

9781779065131 | 54pp. | 2019 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$16/£12

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**Fethi Sassi** is a writer of prose poetry, short poems and haiku; translator of all his poems into English. A member of the Tunisian Writers' Union; and the Literature club at the cultural center of Sousse. His first book entitled *A Seed of Love* was published in 2010. He has since published 3 books.

He translated a book by the Turkish poetess H. Karahan, entitled *poems to the shadows* in 2017 and his own third Arabic book into French is published in France as *Ciel pour un oiseau étranger*.

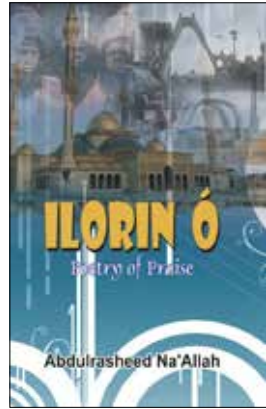
# Ilorin Ó Poetry of Praise

Abdul Rasheed Na'Allah

Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah's *Ilorin Ó* is a unique collection of praise poems in English, Yoruba, and Hausa passionately celebrating and illuminating the city of Ilorin's wealth of culture, history, Islamic heritage, and individual achievements. It is a work that is solid in content, form, and techniques.

There are many quotable lines, a measure of poetic strength. I cannot forget the line about the child hearing Koranic recitation from the mother's womb.

Also, the moral authority combined with oratory in a wise one who can be heard by a dumb ruler! In addition to the rich Islamic heritage and the success of Ilorin individuals in the areas of justice and bravery, the poet praises the city's delicious trademarked foods such as "Warankasi," "Tuworesi," and "Gbegiri." Among the best executed poems are "Onikepe Aduke Opo" and "Why the Sun Has Not Diminished in Light." Na'Allah has handled the praise poetry form dexterously, and that means "at times even a critical appraisal of an item of praise." The reader comes out with a feeling of satisfaction for the poetic effulgence and knowing Ilorin better in its multiple areas of distinction and especially for its multicultural, Islamic, and tolerant character from an Ilorin-born and raised fine poet.



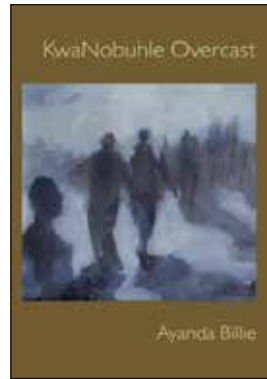
**Abdul Rasheed Na'Allah**, is the vice chancellor of Kwara State University in Nigeria. He received a BA in 1988 from University of Ilorin, with a thesis "Dadakuada: the trends in the development of Ilorin traditional oral poetry", subsequently published in *African Notes.*, and in 1992 received a M.A. Literature in English from the same university. In 1999, he received his PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada, and was subsequently professor and chair of African Studies at Western Illinois University. He is now the vice chancellor of Kwara State University in Nigeria.

9789785579864 | 86pp. | 2018 | MALTHOUSE PRESS, NIGERIA | \$19/£15

# KwaNobuhle Overcast

Ayanda Billie

*KwaNobuhle Overcast* is a book of vivid observations of Billie's community 20 years into South Africa's democracy. It describes an inhospitable and sometimes callous KwaNobuhle, its spirit worn away by the harsh toll of survival and political betrayal. The poet remains rooted, borne up by love, family, jazz music, and a stubborn belief in humanity.



**Ayanda Billie** was born in 1975 in KwaNobuhle, Uitenhage, and has lived there all his life. He works as a quality inspector at Volkswagen SA in Uitenhage. He has published two poetry collections, *Avenues of my soul* in English, and *Umhlaba Umanzi* in isiXhosa. Billie is also a community arts activist, jazz critic, and co-organiser of the Mandela Bay Book Fair.

9780994710437 | 62pp. | 2019 | DEEP SOUTH, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# Landscapes of Light and Loss

Stephen Symons

*Landscapes of Light and Loss* is the follow-up to the poet's luminous debut poetry collection, *Questions for the Sea*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious **Ingrid Jonker Prize** and received an honourable mention for the **Glenna Luschei Prize for African Poetry**.

*"The poems in this collection bear witness with the crisp attention of a Robert Capa photograph. These ecosystems, each with their own by-laws ... hold together such a curious, nearly impossible balance in his new book."*

- David Keplinger, author of *Another City*



**Stephen Symons** was born in Cape Town in 1966. He holds an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Cape Town and is currently working on a PhD in African Studies, focusing on the experiences of ex-conscripts of the South African Defense Force under apartheid. Stephen currently lives in Cape Town.

9780639914145 | 82pp. | 2018 | DRYAD PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

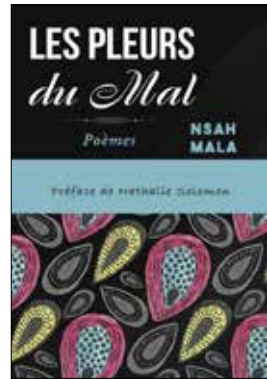
# Les Pleurs du Mal

Nsah Mala

Que faire face à la stagnation de l'Afrique ?

Comment l'écrivain peut-il affronter les multiples maux qui gangrènent le monde d'aujourd'hui ?

Dans ce recueil de poèmes, Nsah Mala adopte le genre poétique pour illustrer son engagement social et politique en évoquant des thématiques actuelles de son pays natal le Cameroun, de l'Afrique, et du monde entier. Ces thèmes sont, entre autres, la corruption, la déchéance de l'État et du pouvoir, la dérive de la démocratie, la protection de la nature, la promotion de la jeunesse, la marginalisation socio-politique, les ténèbres, et la liberté. Malgré l'ampleur des maux affrontés, Nsah Mala garde son optimisme et démontre que la poésie peut servir de moyen pour corriger et améliorer la société humaine et non-humaine. Faisant preuve de l'expérimentation et de l'innovation poétique, ce recueil trace une cartographie intéressante suivant son auteur à travers ses voyages infinis en Afrique, en Europe, et ailleurs. C'est aussi un moyen d'entrer en conversation avec les auteurs et les cultures de l'Afrique et du monde. Cette poésie organique et vitale, qui prend sa source dans l'humanité et la nature, donne la voix à tous les sans-voix et devra ainsi occuper une place importante dans toutes les bibliothèques du monde.



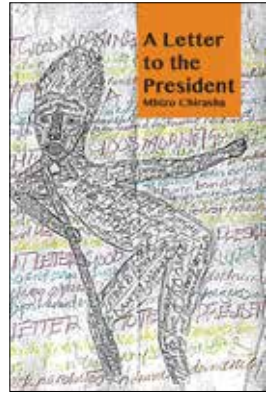
**Nsah Mala** is a multilingual Anglophone Cameroonian poet and short story writer with 4 poetry books published. He is currently doing his PhD studies.

9781942876465 | 84pp. | 2019 | SPEARS MEDIA PRESS, CAMEROON | \$16/£12

# A Letter to the President

Mbizo Chirasha

His eagle eyes scan beyond the boundaries of his native Zimbabwe to right the crookedness of men with dubious ideals and reckless twists in lands abroad. Caressing his Lenovo mistress upon a night, he relives in recorded poesy, memories of victims of corruption and the false memoirs of looters of the land. *A Letter to the President*, is a collection of his experimental poetry. Here is the man on a mission and with a mission. Words are slings and rocks on his quiver. Tireless and resilient; no ugliness is too ugly to stay below his radar. His weapon of choice is his pen. Dipped in acid, as he says, no thug escapes the roast of his laser beam that put them on the spot light.



**Mbizo Chirasha** is a recipient of the **PEN Deutschland Exiled Writer Grant** (2017), Literary Arts Projects Curator, Writer in Residence, Blog Publisher, Arts for Human Rights/Peace Activism Catalyst, Social Media Publicist and Internationally Anthologized Writer, 2017 and an African Partner of the International Human Rights Arts Festival Exiled in Africa Program in New York. He is a 2017 grantee of the EU- Horn of Africa Defend Human Rights Defenders Protection Fund. Resident Curator of 100 Thousand Poets for Peace-Zimbabwe, Originator of Zimbabwe We Want Poetry Movement. He has published a collection of poetry, *Good Morning President*, and co-created another, *Whispering Woes of Ganges and Zembezi* with Indian poet Sweta Vikram.

9780797495494 | 56pp. | 2019 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$14/£11

# Liminal

Douglas Reid Skinner

*Why do we keep anything?  
All morning I hear the pages  
rustling softly in the stacks.  
Autumn comes to all leaves.*

This seventh collection from one of South African poetry's under-appreciated masters is possibly his best yet. Metatextual, meticulous and deeply steeped in sentiment, *Liminal* is an exquisite and at-times startling rumination on lives lived, loves loved and writings written.

Skinner's technical mastery of his style and craft, honed over the decades, only brightens the emotions that run through a mélange of travel poems, remembrances, experiments and treatises on the nature of being, literature and friendship. A testament not only to his exacting eye and appreciation of that which has (and those who have) come before him, but also to an unending adaptability and an unerring desire for growth.



**Douglas Reid Skinner** was born in Upington. He is the author of six previous collections of poetry - *Reassembling World*, *The House in Pella District*, *The Unspoken*, *The Middle Years*, *Blue Rivers and Heaven: New & Selected Poems* - as well as four books of translation, most recently *The Secret Ambition: Selected Poems of Valerio Magrelli*, translated from the Italian with Marco Fazzini. He directed The Carrefour Press from 1988 to 1992 and was editor of *New Contrast* from 1990 to 1992. He is co-editor of *Stanzas*.

9780620762564 | 80pp. | 2018 | UHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$17/£12



# Liquid Bones

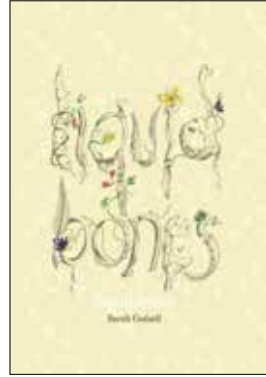
Sarah Godsell

*Liquid Bones* takes poems as needle and thread, weaving in small and big breaths, in magic and in memory, tracing in stitches, stitching inside stories, exploring the sky. Emotions are explored in soft black and white tones sometimes, in defiant blooming in other moments.

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**SARAH GODSELL** was born, and has grown up, in Johannesburg, South Africa. She merges her work as educator, historian, and poet, in trying to understand how we think about narrative and power, how the past is alive in the present, and how we are alive in each other. She released her first poetry collection, *Seaweed Sky*, with Poetree Publications in 2016.



9780639946528 | 96pp. | 2018 | IMPEPHO PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# Milk Fever

Megan Ross

*& the midwife then unhitches  
oceans from the sky  
& I am the blood  
of my first blood's promise*

In an extraordinary debut, Megan Ross writes the uneasy truths about unexpected motherhood and all its emotional detritus. In deftly and experimentally navigating the angst, joy and self-reckoning that comes with the choices and misadventures of young womanhood, this is a collection that brings together the evocative with the provocative, and the feminist with the personal, in a bold and startling poetic style. Hallucinatory, image-wet, and navigating the eternal tides of spirit and body, *Milk Fever* is a chimeric dreamscape in which a woman reconfigures, remembers and rebirths herself.



**Megan Ross**, born in 1989, is a writer and poet from East London. She is the 2017 winner of the **Brittle Paper Award for Fiction** and an Iceland Writers Retreat alum. She was a runner-up for the 2016 **Short Story Day Africa Prize** and the 2017 **National Arts Festival Short Sharp Stories Award**. She lives near the Indian Ocean with her son and partner. *Milk Fever* is her first book.

9780620792271 | 100pp. | 2018 | UHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# The Mushroom Summer of Skipper Darling

Tony Voss



The debut collection from one of Southern Africa's most astute critics of poetry, born in 1935, is a treasure. A collection that accomplishes that rare thing in poetry: of being an immediate pleasure even as it demands re-reading and slow contemplation.

With classical form and meter meeting modern sensibility and local image, *The Mushroom Summer of Skipper Darling* fills a gaping absence in South African letters, and will kickstart an appreciation anew of a strong, steady and significant influence on this country's literature.

"I have tried to write poetry ever since I can remember," says the author, "with varying degrees of success, having published poems intermittently over the years. As an academic I found that the critical faculty sometimes interfered with the creative in both the writing of my own poetry and the appreciation of others.' In retirement, the critical and the creative seem to have become more cooperative.

"A poem can come from anywhere, but more often than not these days it will spring out of, give admission to and offer a release from, memory. Quite often a poem turns out to be my half of a conversation, and I can only hope that my imagination admits the reader to a realm where words mean what they say. While understanding may not come at once, a poet hopes to offer enough to catch and hold the reader on first reading."



**Tony Voss** was born in Swakopmund in 1935. He was educated at St George's Grammar School, Cape Town; Rhodes University, Grahamstown; and the University of Washington, Seattle. His interests were formed by his southern African upbringing, his parents' faith, and imagination - from songs of the First World War and swing, to Yeats's *Oxford Book of Modern Verse*. "Like most Southern Africans," he says, "I grew up in a multilingual community and I appreciate, enjoy and admire other languages, as they have been instrumental in my developing a sense of the social answerability of any human activity." He taught English in universities until he retired from the service of the then University of Natal in 1995. *The Mushroom Summer of Skipper Darling* is his first book.

9780620831277 | 78pp. | 2019 | uHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$14/£11

# a naked bone

Mangaliso Buzani

In simple vocabulary *a naked bone* describes complex states of beauty and suffering, often at the borderline where life meets death. In their dreamlike rhythms and images, the poems draw strength from Xhosa culture, Christianity, and elements of nature. They are love poems in the widest sense, embracing the interface between daily life and the spiritual, enacting joy and caring in the face of deprivation and mourning.

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**Mangaliso Buzani** grew up in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, and later trained as a jeweller in Tshwane. His first collection *Ndisabhala Imibongo* (Imbizo, 2014) written in isiXhosa, won the 2015 t. Buzani teaches poetry in English and isiXhosa in the MA in Creative Writing programme at Rhodes University.

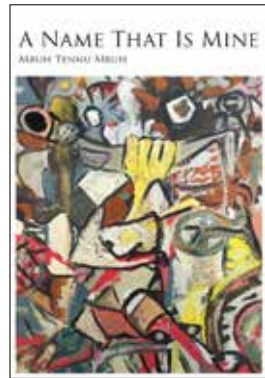
9780994710468 | 82pp. | 2019 | DEEP SOUTH, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# A Name That Is Mine

Mbuh Tenu Mbuh

*A Name that is Mine is an enriching contribution to Anglophone Cameroon literary aesthetics today; a contribution which highlights the poetics of Self that pervades Mbuh Tenu Mbuh's writing. This collection of poems is unique in its representation of topical issues that animate life in transnational and geopolitical spaces. Amongst other things, the poems are teeming with postmodernist, postchristian, and postcolonial rhetoric which culminate in interrogating the "ideologies of a nameless creed" that is couched in the Graeco-Roman foundations of "civilisation". The reader will find delight in accompanying the poet/post... subject through the struggle to "unstrap" the Self from the subterfuge models of life designed to deprive him of the name that is truly his—his identity. I daresay no reader will be disappointed by the jouissance derived from Mbuh's linguistic finesse that blends the formal, the colloquial, and the local into exquisite poesy."*

- Awoh Peter Foinjong, Lecturer, HTTC, University of Bamenda



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**Mbuh Tenu Mbuh** hails from Pinyin in the North West Region of Cameroon. He obtained his B.A., Maitrise, and Doctorat de Troisieme Cycle in English Literary Studies from the University of Yaoundé (I), and holds a PhD from the University of Nottingham. He is a two-time laureate of the **Bernard Fonlon Society Literary Award**, and a founding member of both the Yaoundé University Poetry Club (YUPOC) and of the Anglophone Cameroon Writers Association (ACWA). Having taught in America as a Fulbright Scholar-in-Resident, Mbuh presently lectures in the Department of English Studies, University of Yaoundé I.

9789956550104 | 98pp. | 2019 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$16/£12

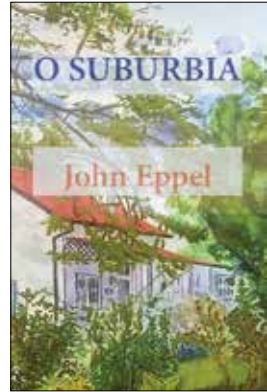
# O Suburbia

John Eppel

*... his poems have nothing to do do with white nostalgia for the colonial period. On the contrary, they circle round an attempt both to embrace a past (after all, he has no other source of identity) and also to wean himself from it.*

- Stephen Watson

*'Eppel is a poet with a compulsive gift for the telling image ...he has clung to a Southern African idiom and concerns, even though expert in a "world language.'*



- Geoffrey Haresnape

*"It is impossible here to really exemplify the full richness and variety of this collection, which at times shows off Eppel at the height of his humane powers, at other points descends unabashedly into bathos and brief whimsies. It is substantial, at over 80 pages, and as welcome on the subcontinent as anything Eppel has ever written."*

- Dan Wylie, professor of English at Rhodes University



John Eppel's poetry collections include *Spoils of War*, which won the **Ingrid Jonker prize**, *Sonata for Matabeleland*, *Selected Poems: 1965 – 1995*, *Songs My Country Taught Me*, and *Landlocked: New and Selected Poems from Zimbabwe*, which was a winner in the **International Poetry Workshop Prize**, Judged by Billy Collins. Furthermore he has collaborated with Philani Amadeus Nyoni in a collection called *Hewn From Rock*, and with Togara Muzanenhamo in a collection called *Textures*, which won the 2015 **NOMA Award**. He has published three collections of poetry and short stories: *The Caruso of Colleen Bawn*, *White Man Crawling*, and, in collaboration with the late Julius Chingono, *Together*. His single collection of short stories is entitled *White Man Walking*.

9781779223456 | 82pp. | 2018 | WEAVER PRESS, ZIMBABWE | \$16/£12

# Oncoming Traffic

Maakomele R. Manaka

The traffic mainly reflects the silence in the author's personal conflicts, meaning, writing what he cannot say, fusing different styles and tones from the lyrical to the surreal to strip himself down to the vulnerable marrow. As such, this collection of poetry grapples with issues he has struggled with on a daily basis: firstly, what it means to be man when raised by a woman; secondly, his relationship with himself as a man with a physical disability; and lastly, as a black man dealing with the reality of living in a dysfunctional society.



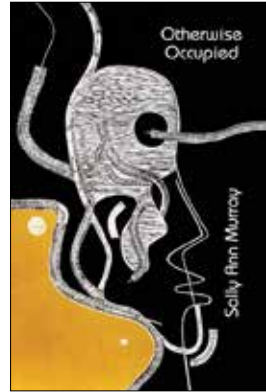
**Maakomele R. Manaka** is a Soweto born poet with a strong artistic heritage. Mak, as he is widely known, has published three collections of poetry *If Only* (self published, 2003. Edited by Don Mattera) and *In Time* (Geko, 2009. Edited by Andrew Miller) and *Flowers Of A Broken Smile* (Inksword, 2016); two of which have been translated into Italian and German. His writings have appeared in literary journals and news papers globally and in South Africa. He also recorded a dub-poetry album titled, *Word Sound Power*. Manaka has been invited to perform his poetry at various literary festivals locally and abroad, from Soweto to Spain, Cuba, Jamaica, Lesotho, Botswana, Germany, Holland, Italy, Switzerland and at the inauguration of former president Mr. Thabo Mbeki; he also performed for the late Mr. Nelson Mandela.

9780994708144 | 72pp. | 2018 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# Otherwise Occupied

Sally Ann Murray

In this serious, often playful, sometimes outrageous volume, Murray draws inspiration from contemporary women's experimental poetics. The collection recognises female writers' equivocal relation to forms of the linguistic avant-garde such as L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E poetry, and brings embodiment and affective voicing back into the provocative equation. Yet, this is not a simple return to lyric intimacy. Murray inflects poetry's familiar inner speech with the sounds and shapes of found materials and engaging cultural noise.



In *Otherwise Occupied*, the seamlessness of the beautiful, expressive poem becomes otherwise under the innovative necessity of the page as an open field of multiple (mis)takes and (mis)givings. Here, a poem is a space of enactment, a process of thinking-writing and performative exploration: idea ↔ body, lyric ↔ language, innovative necessity ↔ enduring convention. And in the end: there is no subject outside language.



**Sally Ann Murray** is Chair of the English Department at Stellenbosch University. She has an MA (cum laude) and a PhD from the University of Natal, Durban. Her novel, *Small Moving Parts* (Kwela, 2009), won the 2013 **UKZN Book Prize**, the 2010 **M-Net Literary Award** for Best Novel in English, and the 2010 **Herman Charles Bosman Prize** for Best Publication Media 24. It was also shortlisted for the **University of Johannesburg Prize** (2010), and the **Sunday Times Fiction Prize** (2010). She was the recipient of the 1991 **Sanlam Award for Literature** (Poetry) and the 1989 **Arthur Nortje/Vita Award for poetry**. Her poems have recently been published in poetry journals *Aerodrome* and *Five Points*, and in *The New Century of South African Poetry* (Jonathan Ball, 2018). *Otherwise Occupied* is her third poetry volume, her previous collections being *open season* (HardPressd, 2006) and *Shifting* (Carrefour Press, 1992). She has also published short fiction, most recently in the Short.Sharp.Stories competition anthologies *Incredible Journey* (Mercury Books, 2015), *Trade Secrets* (Tattoo Press, 2017), and *Instant Exposure* (National Arts Festival, 2018).

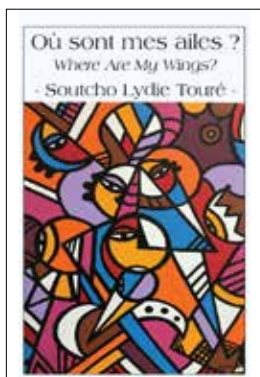
9780639914176 | 92pp. | 2019 | DRYAD PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12



# Où sont mes ailes ? Where Are My Wings?

Soutcho Lydie Touré

“Don’t sit on your stool, watching life go by,” insists Soutcho Lydie Touré. In this collection of reflections written over a decade, she explores insecurities and vulnerabilities, with which many a reader will relate. She shares about loneliness and feeling different and goes on to ponder everyday life in “Politicking” and “VDN” – a memorable highway in Dakar which pedestrians must cross “under the mocking smile of the sun.” Touré draws on experiences and insights from her life betwixt and between West Africa and North America. In her verses, spiced with nature, color, joy, humor and fantasy, questions and answers compete equally for the reader’s attention. A veritable source of confidence in the force of life and love. Confidence that makes one grow wings.



**Soutcho Lydie Touré**, born in Bouake, in Cote d’Ivoire in West Africa, manages information for various scholarship programs in an international organization in Washington, DC. *Where Are My Wings?* is her first collection of poetic reflections.

9789956550791 | 76pp. | 2019 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$16/£12

# Red Cotton

Vangile Gantsho

*red cotton* is an exploration of what it means to be black, queer, and woman in modern-day South Africa. gantsho interrogates being non-conformist in both a traditional-cultural-religious upbringing and a more liberal yet equally-oppressive urban socialisation. This poetry novella questions what women are taught about their bodies and the feminine sexual space, while also addressing the mother-daughter relationship as the first and most constant reference of womanhood. The collection moves fluidly between the erotic, the uncomfortable and grotesque. What is painful and what is beautiful? What is remembered and what is longed-for?



**Vangile Gantsho** is a South African-born a poet and a healer. She is dedicated to creating and/or supporting spaces which encourage (black feminine) healing. Most of the poems in *red cotton* were written in 2016 as part of her MA thesis from the University Currently Known as Rhodes, and 2017, when she first accepted her spiritual calling.

9780639946504 | 70pp. | 2018 | IMPEPHO PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# Remnants Restante Reste

Annette Snyckers

Her poems are as subtle and intimately telling as the differences between the three languages in which she writes and battles to live and dream. These verses touch and tug at one another like the Afrikaans of her childhood, the German of her husband and the South African English of her homeland. They agree to differ in all sorts of nuanced ways.



*“In a series of jewel-like images, poems like paintings, Annette Snyckers evokes the real and imagined journeys of a lifetime. Beautifully conceptualised and crafted, the poems in Remnants, Restante, Reste are easy to read and yet deep. When the end comes (too soon) we don’t want to part company with the poet.”*

- Finuala Dowling

*“Annette Snyckers’ poetry attests to the rich inner world of a woman who has sharpened her sensitivity against reality from a young age and has found escape and safety in all the wild places of the world. Her poems, in three languages, leave the reader feeling calm and vicariously nourished. Remnants Restante, Reste is a whisper of solace.”*

- Karin Schimke

*“In this, her first volume of poetry Annette Snyckers both affirms and radically questions with steely restraint, her place in the family of things and all the conflicting things of family.”*

- Danie Marais



**Annette Snyckers** is a visual artist and poet living in Cape Town. She studied literature (English, French and German) at the University of Pretoria and later Fine Art at the University of South Africa. She was a high school teacher and translator before dedicating herself to the visual arts. Her poems have been published in literary magazines, online magazines and in several anthologies. She writes in English, Afrikaans and German.

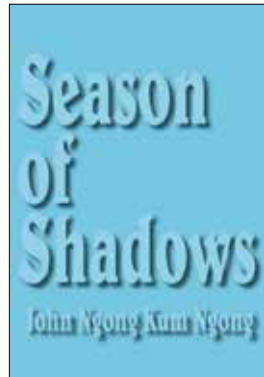
9781928215592 | 74pp. | 2018 | MODJAJI BOOKS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$14/£11

# Season of Shadows

John Ngong Kum Ngong

*"In this wide-ranging collection of forty-three poems, John Ngong Kum Ngong undertakes a critical and acerbic diagnosis of the socio-political situation in postcolonial Africa through a deceptively simple, aesthetically complex, and ideologically intriguing style. The multi-faceted and interrelated motifs of 'shadows' and 'seasons', together with a plethora of literary devices such as paradox, suspense, metaphors, allusions, personification, irony, satire, humour, and contrast, are the weapons through which the poet drives home his message. The poems, in this collection, are not only politically 'correct' but are also artistically profound."*

- **Zuhmboshi Eric Nsuh**, PhD. Lecturer, Literary Critic, and Political Analyst



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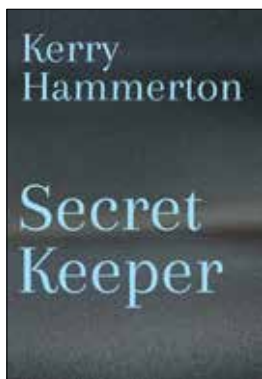
**John Ngong Kum Ngong** was born in Esu, Menchum Division, North West Region of Cameroon. He holds a Masters degree in African Literature and a Certificate in Reading in a foreign Language from the University of Birmingham, England. Winner of the 1st **EduArt Bate Besong Award for Poetry** in 2007 for *Walls of Agony*, John Ngong Kum Ngong has equally published *Battle for Survival* (play, 2006) and *Chants of a Lunatic* (poetry, 2007) all with Editions Clé. He is presently Principal of Government Bilingual High School Etoug – Ebe, Yaoundé.

9789956550524 | 60pp. | 2018 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$16/£12

# Secret Keeper

Kerry Hammerton

In poems that memorialise and celebrate both the extraordinary and every day with unnerving clarity, Kerry Hammerton traverses the landscapes of loss and living, recalling the weight of past loves, new life and imminent death. Hers is the poetics of honesty: an un-filtered account of dying paired with the burning urgency of youth and sex. Hammerton fuses each tenebrous poem with the wryness of its counterpart, balancing joy and mourning in a harmony that echoes the human experience. Unflinching and daring, *tis* a collection that sings.



*“Secret Keeper, her third collection, testifies to the growing strength of Hammerton’s poetic voice. These poems are brave and honest. Sharp as the truth. They look life and death, ageing and loss, squarely in the face. And still smile.”*

- Kobus Moolman

*“Hammerton’s subtly playful journey in this collection [These are the Lies I told you] is amusing, refreshing and extraordinarily entertaining.”*

- The Star



**Kerry Hammerton** is a poet, writer and alternative health practitioner. She is a graduate of The University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg) and The College of Integrated Chinese Medicine (Reading, UK). Her poetry has been published in South African literary journals such as *Carapace*, *New Contrast* and *New Coin*, online at Litnet and Incwadi. She has also been a contributor to The Empty Tin Readings (May 2010) and The Poetry Project. *These are the lies I told you* is her first poetry collection.

9781928215578 | 68pp. | 2018 | MODJAJI BOOKS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$13/£11

# Shapes, Shades and Faces

Moferefere Lekorotsoana

Like looking into a mirror, the poet surveys his life and relationships asking probing questions, making resolutions along the way.

*“Moferefere bares his soul in this haunting collection. This lyrical prose is about life, and the intersection of tenderness and anguish at the heart of the human condition.”*

- PALESA MORUDI, Writer and MD of Cover2Cover Books

*“Like looking into a mirror, the poet surveys his life and relationships asking probing questions, making resolutions along the way – ‘be willing to hear from the seasons’ he writes, evoking ideas of looking to nature for wisdom, of the ever-changing character of life and the promise of growth that the reflective life yields. His words do not dance in vague mystery, rather they march with focus and clarity like soldiers on a mission.”*

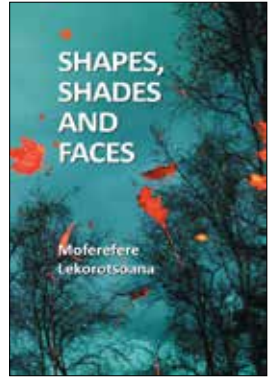
- ATHOL WILLIAMS, Poet

*“The collection explicitly and intensely reminds us that our spirits, feelings and reasoning are rooted in experience both personal and collective, conveying it truthfully and powerfully.”*

SANDRA MUSHI, Poet

*“In this, his language is spare, unembellished, devoid of the embroidery that tend to cover up empty words. He adopts a language that is beguilingly uncluttered to express complex truths.”*

- MANDLA LANGA, Novelist



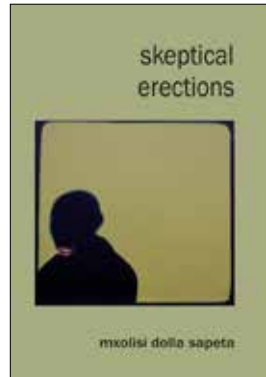
**Moferefere Lekorotsoana** has experience in policy development stemming from his work in various Government bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations. He has also worked as a radio producer; head of communications in the trade union movement; communications manager in the Office of the Secretary-General of the African National Congress (ANC); and as Content Specialist Advisor in the ANC's Parliamentary Caucus.

9780639918716 | 206pp. | 2018 | AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES, SOUTH AFRICA | \$17/£13

# Skeptical Erections

Mxolisi Dolla Sapeta

*Skeptical Erections* is a book of startling visual and verbal imagination. In his poems Sapeta describes the deception and self-loathing prevalent in the people he encounters in his world, including (or perhaps especially) himself. Despite their distortions, however, the characters who come alive in these poems are depicted with respect and compassion.



**Mxolisi Dolla Sapeta**, born 1967, is a full time painter, sculptor, poet, and art teacher, who lives in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth. His work has been widely exhibited in South Africa and overseas. Sapeta taught art for six years at Port Elizabeth College, and now runs art classes in local schools. In 2016 he completed an MA in Creative Writing at Rhodes University.

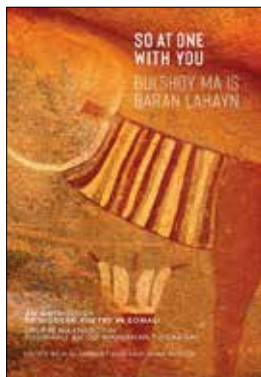
9780994710444 | 62pp. | 2019 | DEEP SOUTH, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# So At One With You

## An Anthology of Modern Poetry in Somali

Edited by W.N. Herbert & Said Jama Hussein

*So At One With You* is a groundbreaking anthology of the last fifty years of Somali poetry, and marks ten years of collaboration between Kayd Somali Arts and Culture and the Poetry Translation Centre. The anthology celebrates the primary medium for public debate in this 'nation of poets', where audiences in their hundreds gather to listen to an intricate, virtuosic artform that speaks directly to them about the great issues of their time.



As the title – taken from the work of Maxamed Ibraahin Warsame “Hadraawi” – suggests, in Somali literature the poet is utterly at one with their listener sharing values and aesthetics in an intimate manner that offers food for thought to English-speaking writers, readers, and critics.

The present selection brings together eighteen key poets from across the generations, and combines tender love poetry and pastoral idyll with scathing attacks on corruption and hypocrisy, as well as social satire on life in the cities of the Horn of Africa and across the globe. This is a world poetry, both in its imaginative reach and in its ability to speak to the debates we all face in a time of global crisis.



**Said Jama Hussein** is a well-known Somali scholar, intensely devoted to the promotion of the Somali language and culture. He is the author of *Shufbeeland* and *Safar Aan Jaho Lahayn*; both are collections of short stories and literary essays. His most recent work *Ma Innaguun Baa!* also published by Ponte Invisible, comprises of short stories and personal Memoirs.

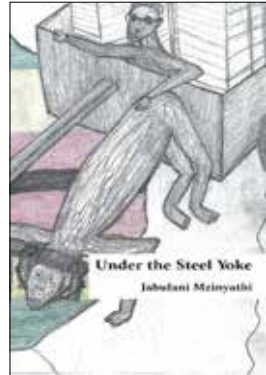
9788888934631 | 207pp. | 2018 | PONTE INVISIBLE (REDSEA CULTURAL FOUNDATION), SOMALILAND | \$20/£15



# Under The Steel Yoke

Jabulani Mzinyathi

*In Under The Steel Yoke* I hear the wailing of fellow citizens as leadership subversion takes root. When servants become masters- that is a subversion, waves of despair threaten our people. I attempt to reflect the resilience of fellow Zimbabweans as we fight on for survival, hope refuses to die. The ideals of the true liberators prick our collective conscience. These poems are designed to provoke debate about nation building and they are an assertion that there can never be peace without justice. The poems are the voices heard on the streets, in pubs, factories, churches, homes and wherever our people irk a living. The voices yearn for a glorious future.



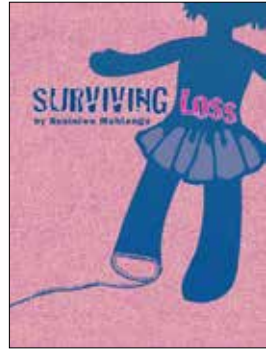
**Jabulani Mzinyathi** is a writer in general and a poet in particular. In 1997 he was awarded the Scottish International Open Poetry diploma for excellence. He has had several poems published in several local and international anthologies. His short stories, humour pieces and legal articles have been published locally and internationally. The self styled poet, philosopher, prophet loves the arts.

9780797484917 | 68pp. | 2018 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$15/£12

# Surviving Loss

Busisiwe Mahlangu

Mahlangu's debut collection, written between 2015 and 2018, is undoing a house of silence. Her writing is too lived in to be naïve and somehow manages to remain untainted by the cynicism of growing up. If it is true that the artist is the child who survives, then this is the book that journey spat out. *Surviving Loss* is a gentle-urgent fight for breath and voice.



**Busisiwe Mahlangu** is a writer and poet from Mamelodi, Pretoria. She is the winner of the **Tshwane Speak Out Loud Youth Poetry Competition** (2016/2017) and founder of Lwazilubanzi Project, an NPO aimed at using literature as a tool for learning, resistance and healing. Her poetry is a raw conversation around poverty, mental health, education, violence, healing and staying alive.

9780639946535 | 74pp. | 2018 | IMPEPHO PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

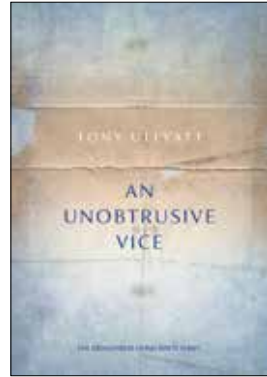
# An Unobtrusive Vice

Tony Ullyatt

An *Unobtrusive Vice* was shortlisted for the 2019 **South African Literary Award**.

*“Crouched among the last surviving pieces of my life’s wreck, I seek a chemistry, some wizard’s formula which releases the wayward life from its grim history.”*

– Tony Ullyatt, ‘Like Icarus’



*Tony Ullyatt is that rare thing: a poet’s poet, but at the same time utterly accessible. His poems are deliciously dense, his images rich and sharp and his tone ironical, lightly seasoned with humour. Poetry itself is his unobtrusive vice.”* - Johann De Lange

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**Tony Ullyatt** is an award-winning author, scriptwriter, playwright, literary critic, poet and translator. He was born in Nottingham and educated in the United Kingdom, India, Kenya and South Africa. From 1983 to 2003, he was professor of English at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein, South Africa. He is currently adjunct professor and part-time lecturer in the English department of the University of Fort Hare in East London, South Africa. Since 1974, when his first poems appeared, his work has been published locally and internationally. He is the author of *A Profusion of Choices: An Introduction to the Study of Poems* (J.L. Van Schaik, 1994). *An Unobtrusive Vice* is his debut poetry collection.

9780639914107 | 90pp. | 2017 | DRYAD PRESS, SOUTH AFRICA | \$16/£12

# When Escape Becomes the Only Lover

Tendai Rinos Mwanaka

*When Escape Becomes the only Lover* is a continuation and crystallization of issues dealt with in *A Portrait of Defiance*. The poet deals with a broad subject matter, love in all its forms, spirituality; this spirituality is individual it is the artist's spiritual world. He deals with dreams, voice, word, numbers, poet's vocation, wars, language, etc... He is the prophet of his dreams, his world, his future... There is strong experimentation and innovativeness in the writing, in the text, in form, in style, in content matter, the writer is a discoverer, every horizon is a life horizon. There is the dissecting of that space where art criticism meets art mimesis, and this space is offered as the future of art criticism. The storyteller refuses to die thus the collection proffers escape as the ultimate lover who can help us deal with the insanities of our time.



**Tendai. R. Mwanaka** is a multi-disciplinary artist from Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe. His oeuvre of works touches on non-fictions, essays, poetry, plays, fictions, music, sound art, photography, drawings, paintings, video, collage, mixed media, inter-genres and inter-disciplines. His work has been published in over 300 journals, anthologies and magazines in over 27 countries.

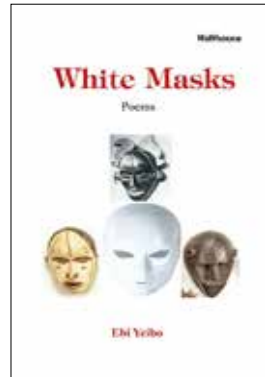
9781779064929 | 64pp. | 2019 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$14/£11

# White Masks

Ebi Yeibo

*“This collection of poetry both reflects and creates attitudes that we now regard as characteristic of our age – the crisis of nationhood and the burden of citizenship. Ebi Yeibo’s White Masks unambiguously exposes the dystopian nightmares of a nation and a people’s willing detachment from humanity.*

*While some poets of his generation are content with dreaming of an ideal world, in White Masks, Yeibo, through the resources of memory, experiments with the idea of a better world.”*



- Professor Ogaga Okuyade,  
Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

*“...Ebi Yeibo’s White Masks is a collection inspired by hope. In whichever way it is read, it cannot but invite a political and social argument. Highly recommended to the discerning reader—to anyone who takes more than a passing interest in any aspect of modern Nigerian poetry.”*

- Professor Hyginus Ekwuazi, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

*“...In theme, temper, and style, Yeibo reconfigures human experience in a manner that makes it ethereal. In White Masks, Yeibo charts new frontiers of human experience in culture, environment, spirituality, and history, while also foregrounding the nuances that give his earlier poetry its distinctiveness.”*

- Professor Sunday Awhefeada, Delta State University, Abirika, Nigeria



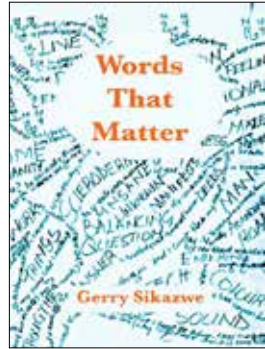
Ebi Yeibo is the author of *Of Waters and the Wild* (2017), *The Fourth Masquerade* (2014), *Shadows of the Setting Sun* (2012), *The Forbidden Tongue* (2007), *A Song for Tomorrow* (2003) and *Maiden Lines* (1997). He was winner of the **ANA/Maria Ajima Prize** for Literary Criticism (2018), **ANA Poetry Prize** (2014) and the **Isaac Boro Prize** for Niger Delta Literature (2008). He was runner-up, **ANA Poetry Prize** (2017 and 2005) and **Pat Utomi Book Prize** for African Literature (2006); and was listed for the **NLNG Nigeria Prize for Literature** (2017). Ebi Yeibo has also won the **ANA Bayelsa State Poetry Prize** (2008), **ANA Delta State Poetry Prize** (2003 & 2004) and **ANA Oyo State Poetry Prize** (2000)., **Nigeria State Poetry Prize** (2000)., Nigeria.

9789785669077 | 138pp. | 2019 | MALTHOUSE PRESS, NIGERIA | \$16/£12

# Words That Matter

Gerry Sikazwe

*Words That Matter* attempts to spark conversation around social issues that are often neglected, either for their lack of beauty or sheer rigidity. These issues are mainly cultural and political. It further seeks to community hope in its purest form, unfailing and evermore willingly to rewrite situations brightly however dark initially. Find thusly sarcasm and humour, folly and wisdom, discord and harmony, and death and life, all interwoven in revealing just how sound existence can be (or should be henceforth). Above all, get lost and find new paths in these verses!



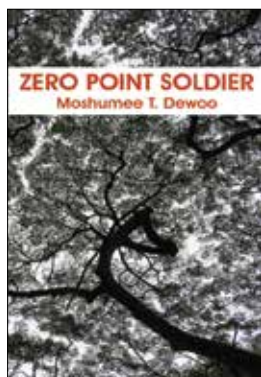
**Gerry Sikazwe**, who is otherwise known as Gerald Sikazwe in formal spaces, is a Zambian poet, literary blogger and promoter. He has his works featured in print magazines, Newspapers, anthologies and Online literary sites notable being *Nthanda Review*, AfricanWriter.com, Dissident Voice, Scarlet Leaf Review, *The Global Zambian Magazine*, *Times of Zambia* (Sunday Edition), and Spillwords.com. He is also a founding editor of *New Ink Review*, a Zambian based online literary journal which was founded to enhance coverage of the Zambian literary scene, and also to contribute Zambian creative writings to the wide world of literature. Currently he is a student of the University of Zambia reading Adult Education, and actively involved in Creative writing and Spoken-word poetry movements around Lusaka.

9781779063540 | 88pp. | 2019 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$16/£12

# Zero Point Soldier

Moshumee Teena Dewoo

It took two years for this collection of poems to see the light of day. Two years. Two whole years. But two whole years of thinking, feeling and working through and from one of the strangest and certainly most torturous facts of life on Earth, and one of the least explored themes in the world of the modern woman of Africa, or my world, at least. This is the fact of Death. But not the fact of the death of all. Not the fact of the death of any. It is that of the modern man, the man, of Africa.



*“Pain, loss, and suffering are recipes for endless thoughts that would drive many a man and many a woman into the spiral of depression. However, in spite of the harsh reality of death and dying, Dewoo’s Zero Point Soldier captures and lauds, with poetic terseness, a woman at her nadir who embraces courage to soldier on in her endeavor to accept death, the brutal separator. Some of the poems echo Edgar Allan Poe’s ‘Annabel Lee’. An interesting read.”*

- Bill F. Ndi

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**Moshumee Teena Dewoo** was born a child of Surinam in Mauritius, on a 23rd December. She grew up in between a mountain and the beach, running the fields and climbing trees, and her head in books, and learning of things that her parents and grandparents thought best she knew. Her life would forever be influenced by a combatant grandfather, a baptised grandmother, a teaching mother and a Hindu father, all descendants of migrants constantly seeking to define themselves and the world around them through words...

9789956550432 | 56pp. | 2019 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$16/£12

# Zikr

Saaleha Idrees Bamjee

To be resolute in faith – in God, in oneself – in times of grief and disappointment. To unapologetically assert one’s woman- and personhood in a society that attempts to devalue both. To seek hidden parts of yourself, both new and forgotten, through the memories and words of other people.

In *Zikr’s* beguilingly measured and covertly powerful poems, Saaleha Idrees Bamjee achieves these often difficult tasks. In doing so, Bamjee introduces new idioms and understandings of Muslim identity to South African poetry – yet not through manifesto, nor outright polemic. This is a collection of fine metaphors, concrete turns of phrase, and a refreshing specificity of image, place, and self.



**Saaleha Idrees Bamjee**, born in 1983, is a photographer and writer based in Johannesburg. She has an MA in Creative Writing from Rhodes University and is the winner of the 2014 **Writivism Short Story Prize**. *Zikr* is her first collection of poems.

9780620803250 | 56pp. | 2018 | UHLANGA, SOUTH AFRICA | \$13/£11



# Best “New” African Poets 2018 Anthology

Edited by Tendai Rinos Mwanaka & Nsah Mala

*Best “New” African Poets 2018 Anthology* follows volumes in 2017, 2016 and 2015. In this fourth volume of these continent-wide anthologies of African poetry featured is work from 154 African poets from over 30 African countries and the African Diasporas. There are poems in English, French, Portuguese, Sepedi, Shona, Yoruba, and Asante Twi languages. In 2018 there was a notable increase in the number of entries with memorable novelties regarding poetic experimentation: some of the poets have daringly sliced up words playing around with the spatial and structural patterns of their texts on paper. This may be described as both textual and visual poetry. Reading the poems becomes a journey with many paths, where the reader walks according to poetic rhythms and the hesitating breaks of action verbs and enjambments.



9781779063601 | 486pp. | 2019 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$32/£22

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## Best “New” African Poets 2017 Anthology

Edited by Tendai Rinos Mwanaka & Daniel da Purificação

9780797484900 | 614PP. | 2018 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$48/£34

## Best “New” African Poets 2016 Anthology

Edited by Tendai Rinos Mwanaka & Daniel da Purificação

9789956764891 | 436PP. | 2017 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$35/£25

## Best “New” African Poets 2015 Anthology

Edited by Tendai Rinos Mwanaka & Daniel da Purificação

9789956763481 | 386PP. | 2016 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$33/£29

# Botsotso 16: Poetry, Essays, Photographs, Fiction, Reviews

Edited by Botsotso



The *Botsotso* literary journal started in 1996 as a monthly 4 page insert in the *New Nation*, an independent anti-apartheid South African weekly and reached over 80,000 people at a time – largely politicized black workers and youth – with a selection of poems, short stories and short essays that reflected the deep changes taking place in the country at that time. Since the closure of the *New Nation* in 1999, the journal has evolved into a stand-alone compilation featuring the same mix of genres, and with the addition of photo essays and reviews. The Botsotso editorial policy remains committed to creating a mix of voices which highlight the diverse spectrum of South African identities and languages, particularly those that are dedicated to radical expression and examinations of South Africa's complex society.

With over seventy poets represented, this is a bumper edition of the journal and given the number of interesting and accomplished poems received (over the past two years since publication of *Botsotso 17*), we believed it worthwhile to break from tradition and dedicate this edition wholly to poetry.

9780994708120 | 186pp. | 2018 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING , SOUTH AFRICA | \$20/£15

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## Botsotso 20: Drama

9780994708151 | 234pp. | 2019 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING , SOUTH AFRICA | \$20/£15

## Botsotso 19: Fiction

9780994708137 | 250pp. | 2018 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING , SOUTH AFRICA | \$20/£15

## Botsotso 16: poetry, short fiction, essays, photographs and drawings

9780981420523 | 192pp. | 2012 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING , SOUTH AFRICA | \$25/£20

## Botsotso 15: jozi spoken word special edition

9780981406848 | 266pp. | 2008 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING , SOUTH AFRICA | \$34/£24

## Botsotso 14: Poetry, Essays, Photographs, Fiction, Reviews

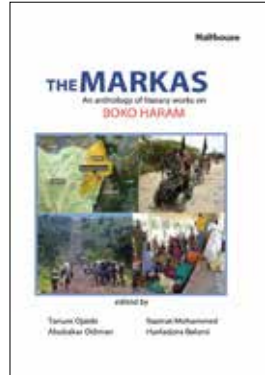
9780994708175 | 266pp. | 2017 | BOTSOTSO PUBLISHING , SOUTH AFRICA | \$34/£24

# The Markas

## An Anthology of Literary Works on Boko Haram

Edited by Tanure Ojaide, Hyeladzira Balami, Razinat T. Mohammed and Abubakar Othman

This anthology is an outcome of literary writers' reaction to the Boko Haram insurgency in the north-eastern part of Nigeria. Lives therein have not only been extensively disrupted by the group's violent tactics and the mind-numbing levels of physical destruction and thousands of deaths, but also in the dislocation of millions of people, with most of them seeking refuge in urban centres, especially Maiduguri, for safety. These refugees, classified as Internally Displaced Persons and in camps guarded by Nigerian soldiers, have received worldwide attention. Writers in the affected areas and elsewhere in Nigeria have responded in their poetry, short stories, and non-fiction some of which are collected here.



*“The Markas is the first anthology on the Boko Haram insurgency, which has blighted northern Nigeria for the past 10 years, causing the death and dislocation of millions... This anthology put together by insiders from Nigeria is definitely a precious testimony on an often forgotten conflict.”*

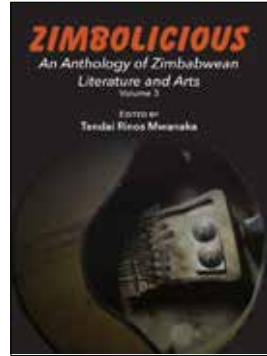
- Françoise Ugochukwu, Africa Book Link

9789785657500 | 20pp. | 2019 | MALTHOUSE PRESS, NIGERIA | \$20/£15

# Zimboldicious

## An Anthology of Zimbabwean Literature and Arts: Volume 3

Edited by Tendai Rinos Mwanaka



*Zimboldicious: An Anthology of Zimbabwean Literature and Arts, Volume 3*, contains 5 short stories, 51 poems, 1 nonfiction piece and 3 drawings from Zimbabwean writers and artists. Zimbabwe continues to tumble on its unshakable political trajectory since Robert Mugabe was removed as president via a military coup. Much of the writing in this anthology addresses both the current political situation, and the hope of the Zimbabweans for a free and fair election in 2018. Within the pieces a lot of questions, anger, mistrust remain, alongside uncertainties around the enigmatic political landscape of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwean people. Despite this the writers have a lot to celebrate and also touch on issues to do with love, morality, spirituality, tradition, relationships, family, identity, individuality and joy.

9780797496453 | 148pp. | 2018 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$19/£15

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### Zimboldicious: Poetry Anthology: Volume 2

9789956763702 | 146pp. | 2017 | LANGAA RPCIG, CAMEROON | \$19/£15

### Zimboldicious Poetry Anthology: Volume 1

9780797496422 | 154pp. | 2018 | MWANAKA MEDIA AND PUBLISHING, ZIMBABWE | \$19/£15

# Poetry Publishers in Africa

- CAMEROON -

Langaa Research and Publishing Common Initiative Group, Bamenda  
Spears Media Press, Bamenda

- GHANA -

Sub-Saharan Publishers, Accra

- KENYA -

East African Educational Publishers, Nairobi

- MOROCCO -

Editions du Sirocco, Casablanca  
Senso Unico Editions, Mohammedia

- NAMIBIA -

University of Namibia Press, Windhoek

- NIGERIA -

African Heritage Press, Lagos  
Bookbuilders: Editions Africa, Ibadan  
Kraft Publications, Lagos  
Malthouse Press Ltd., Lagos

- SOMALILAND -

Ponte Invisible, REDSEA Cultural Foundation

- SOUTH AFRICA -

African Perspectives, Johannesburg  
Botsotso Publishing, Braamfontein  
Deep South, Makhanda  
Dryad Press, Cape Town  
impepho press, Tshwane  
Modjaji Books, Cape Town  
uHanga Poetry Press, Cape Town

- TANZANIA -

Mkuki na Nyota Publishers, Dar es Salaam

- UGANDA -

Fountain Publishers Ltd., Kampala  
FEMRITE (Uganda Women Writers' Association), Kampala

- ZIMBABWE -

amabooks, Bulawayo  
Mwanaka Media and Publishing Pvt Ltd, Chitungwiza  
Weaver Press Ltd, Harare