

RELATIONS

An Anthology of African
and Diaspora Voices

Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond



HARPERVIA

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

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FIRST HARPERVIA EDITION PUBLISHED IN 2023

Designed by SBI Book Arts

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data is available upon request.

ISBN 978-0-06-308904-4

ScoutAutomatedPrintCode

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Arao Ameny is a Uganda-born, Maryland-based poet and writer from Lira, Lango region, Northern Uganda. She spent her early childhood in Uganda and grew up in the United States, earning her MFA in fiction at the University of Baltimore. A former journalist and communications professional, she has an MA in journalism from Indiana University and a BA in political science from the University of Indianapolis. Her first published poem, “Home Is a Woman,” appeared in *The Southern Review* in 2020 and won the James Olney Award. She was a winner of the 2020 Brooklyn Poets Fellowship, a finalist for the 2021 Brunel International African Poetry Prize, and a nominee for the *Best New Poets 2021* anthology. She is an alumna of the 2021 Tin House Workshop (fiction writing) and the 2021 Kenyon Review Writers Workshop (poetry). Currently, she has a one-year contract role as a biography writer and editor at the Poetry Foundation.

Ayesha Harruna Attah is a Ghana-born writer living in Senegal. She was educated at Mount Holyoke College, Columbia University, and New York University. She is the author of the Commonwealth Writers Prize–nominated *Harmattan Rain*; *Saturday’s Shadows*; *The Hundred Wells of Salaga*, currently translated into four languages; *The Deep Blue Between*, a book for teen readers; and *Zainab Takes New York*, a rom-com recently optioned for TV/film adaptation. Her writing has

appeared in the *New York Times*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *Elle Italia*, *Asymptote*, and the 2010 Caine Prize Writers' Anthology.

Ayi Renaud Dossavi-Alipoeh is a writer, business journalist, and blogger from Togo. The author of poetry, short stories, and essays, he is the winner of the France Togo prize in 2018 for his collection of poems *Chants de sable*; that year, he also won first prize in the "Africa of My Dreams" writing competition sponsored by the African Development Bank. In 2020, he was awarded the rank of officier de l'ordre national du mérite (officer of the national order of merit) for his accomplishments in literature nationwide and abroad. He is currently the secretary-general of the association of writers and people of letters PEN Togo, where he promotes writing and freedom of expression, especially among the younger generation.

Bahia Mahmud H. Awah holds a master's and doctorate degree in social anthropology and public orientation from the Autonomous University of Madrid. He has a diploma in translation studies, and serves as an honorary professor of the Autonomous University of Madrid. A humanist, writer, poet, and anthropologist, he is a member of Antropología en Acción, Centro de Estudios AfroHispánicos of the National University Distance Education, and a member of the Asociación Española de Africanistas.

A lecturer at various universities in the United States, Canada, Spain, Italy, Great Britain, the Caribbean, and South America, he is the author of several articles in academic and cultural journals in the United States, Brazil, France, Nigeria, Mexico, Japan, and Spain.

He has several published books of anthropology, history, poetry, and literary and historical-anthropological essays on the culture of Western Sahara and Mauritania, as well as being the coauthor of more than

fourteen prose and verse anthologies. In addition, he is the codirector of the film *Legna, habla el verso Saharaui*, the winner of the first prize of the Sahara International Film Festival in 2014. Some of his most notable works include *La Entidad Política Pantribal Precolonial Saharaui* (2017), *Tiris, rutas literarias* (2016), *Cuentos saharauis de mi abuelo* (2015), *El sueño de volver* (2012), *La maestra que me enseñó una table de madera* (2011), and *Versos Refugiados* (2007). His work may be viewed on the web at <https://www.bahiaawah.net/> and the blog *Sahrawi Writers in Exile*, <http://generaciondelaamistad.blogspot.com/>.

Bidi Salec is an Arabic-English-Spanish translator/interpreter providing accuracy along with a deep understanding of both source and target languages, and taking into consideration the culture of the reader receiving the final text. He holds a master's degree in translation and interpretation, and has eleven years of experience in the field of interpretation and translation in different jargons, especially international development, mine action, arts and literary works, IT, media, and journalism. He has provided both translation and interpretation services for two mine action projects implemented by UNOPS/UNMAS in the Sahrawi refugee camps near Tindouf, South-West Algeria, and worked as a volunteer English-language teacher, a translator journalist, a translator/interpreter, and an information management and translation officer.

Boakyewaa Glover is a Ghanaian writer and organizational psychologist. She is the author of *Circles* (2009, romantic drama), *Tendai* (2013, science fiction), and *The Justice* (2013, political thriller), as well as a plethora of articles, short stories, poems, and other works.

Boakyewaa was a 2014 finalist for Africa's Most Influential Women (organized by CEO Communications, South Africa), the 2018 winner for Ghana's 40 under 40 Awards in the authorship and creative writing

category, and a 2020 nominee in the category of English/Literature/Poetry for the prestigious Ghana Millennium Excellence Awards.

Boakyewaa's current book project is *Commitment*, which tells the story of the thousands who sacrifice personal lives and careers and choose to prioritize family. *Commitment* also tells the story of the particular way that some women in Ghana get by—through the benevolence of older, predatory men, and the physical and psychological abuse these women tolerate in order to protect their lifestyles. *Commitment* is a passion project that Boakyewaa hopes to publish someday soon.

Boakyewaa considers herself an avid connoisseur of life, and when she is not taking care of her mother, foster son, and dogs, is watching movies and TV, listening to music, swimming, reading, blogging, and writing short stories, including her COVID-19 romantic drama, “Connected, Yet Separated.” She hopes to resume her lifelong interest in travel soon. Boakyewaa currently works as a freelance consultant and writer.

Chiké Frankie Edozien is the author of the Lambda Literary Award–winner *Lives of Great Men*. He lives in Accra, Ghana.

Chuma Nwokolo was called to the bar in 1984 and appointed a notary public in 1995. He is the convener of the good-governance advocacy project BribeCode (www.bribeCode.org). He cofounded *African Writing* magazine (www.african-writing.com) and was writer in residence at the Ashmolean Museum. His short stories and essays have been widely published, and his work has been translated into Italian, Slovene, Arabic, Yoruba, and Slovak.

His first novel, *The Extortionist*, was published in 1983. His latest, *The Extinction of Menai*, centers issues of language and cultural extinction. He has published two other novels, *Dangerous Inheritance* (1988)

and *Diaries of a Dead African* (2003); the novel in stories *African Tales at Jailpoint* (1999) and *One More Tale for the Road* (2003); the poetry collections *Memories of Stone* (2006) and *The Final Testament of a Minor God* (2014); the short story collections *The Ghost of Sani Abacha* (2012), and *How to Spell Naija in 100 Short Stories* (vol. 1, 2013 and vol. 2, 2016); as well as essays, including “Law & Justice in the Service of Humanity” (2014).

Conceição Lima was born on December 8, 1961, in Santana, on the island of São Tomé, São Tomé and Príncipe, in the Gulf of Guinea. A journalist, poet, and chronicler, she was among the founders of the National Union of Writers and Artists São Tomé, UNEAS, inspired by Alda Espírito Santo, a poet and a fundamental nationalist and literary reference. Lima attended primary and secondary school in São Tomé, where she currently lives and works as a journalist of TVS, the state television network. For many years she worked as a journalist and a producer for the Portuguese Service of the BBC World Service, based in London. She is the national coordinator of the World Poetry Movement for São Tomé and Príncipe. She is a graduate of King’s College London, with a BA in African, Portuguese, and Brazilian studies (first class honors), and the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, with a specialization in governments and politics in sub-Saharan Africa. Her published books of poetry include *O Útero da Casa* (2004), *A Dolorosa Raiz do Micondó* (2006/2008), *O País de Akendengué* (2011), *Quando Florirem Salambás no Tecto do Pico* (2015). Her poems have been translated into German, Arabic, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Galician, Turkish, Czech, and Serbian-Croatian. In 2010, the books *O Útero da Casa* and *A Dolorosa Raiz do Micondó* were both translated into German by DELTA Publishing, in a bilingual edition. In 2014, *A Dolorosa Raiz do Micondó* was translated into Italian by Edizioni

Kolibris. The same book was translated into Spanish by Baile del Sol, of Tenerife, and *El perro y la rana*, of Caracas. Published in Brazil by Geração Editorial, in 2014, it was selected among more than four hundred titles by the Programa Nacional de Bibliotecas Escolares, with an edition of 35,500. Her poems have been published in several periodicals, magazines, and anthologies, including: *Revista Metamorfoses*, *Revista Prometeo*, *Revista Arquitrave*, *Revista Caransari*, *Antologia da Poesia Feminina dos PALOP*, *The World Record*, *Anthology of Poems on Capital Cities*, *Jornal Cultura*, *Jornal en el Camino*, *World Literature Today*, *Words without Borders*, and *The Literary Review*.

Dami Ajayi studied medicine and surgery at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, where he cofounded the literary magazine *Saraba*. Since then, he has cofounded *The Lagos Review* and most recently *Yaba Left Review*.

His first volume of poems, *Clinical Blues*, was longlisted for the Melita Hume Prize and the Wole Soyinka Prize for Literature in Africa. His second volume of poems, *A Woman's Body Is a Country*, was a finalist for the Luschei Prize for African Poetry. He coedited the anthology *Limbe to Lagos: Nonfiction from Cameroon and Nigeria*.

His essays on literature, music, film, and popular culture have appeared in the *Chimurenga Chronic*, the *Guardian*, *The Africa Report*, *Lost in Lagos*, *The Elephant*, *Bakwa*, *Afropolitan Vibes*, and also in translation in *Das Goethe* (a *Die Ziet* supplement).

He works as a psychiatrist in London.

David Shook is a Californian poet, editor, and translator whose work has focused on underrepresented languages and literatures. Their translations and cotranslations from the African continent include work from Burundi, Cabo Verde, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia,

Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Rwanda, and São Tomé and Príncipe, rendered into English from the Bubi, French, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi, Lingala, Pichinglis, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili, and Tigrinya languages. *No Gods Live Here*, Shook's book-length translation of São Toméan poet Conceição Lima's selected poems, is forthcoming from Deep Vellum in 2023, and their translation of the Cabo Verdean poet Jorge Carlos Fonseca's *Pigs in Delirium* is forthcoming from Insert Blanc Press. They are a 2021 Global Africa Translation Fellow at The Africa Institute.

Edwige-Renée Dro is a writer, literary translator, and literary activist from Côte d'Ivoire whose writings have been published by HarperCollins, Myriad Editions, and Bloomsbury, among others. She is the cofounder of Abidjan Lit, a collective that seeks to put books at the center of lives and at the heart of cities. Other literary ventures with which she has been involved include Jalada, Writivism, and the AfroYoungAdult project, of which she was a facilitator and the French translator of the stories selected for the anthology.

She was awarded a Morland writing scholarship in 2018 and was a resident at the Iowa International Writing Program in 2021.

In March 2020, she set up 1949, a library of women's writing from Africa and the Black world, in Yopougon (Abidjan).

Enuma Okoro is a Nigerian American writer, speaker, and cultural curator. She is a columnist for *FT Weekend*. Her work explores arts and culture, story and identity, women's interiority, and contemplative spirituality. Her bylines include the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Artsy*, *Cultured*, *The Cut*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Aeon Magazine*, *Catapult*, *Washington Square Review*, *The Guardian*, the *Washington Post*, *Essence*, NPR, ABC's *Good Morning America*, and more. As a speaker,

she is represented by the Harry Walker Agency. For more information, please visit www.enumaokoro.com.

Fatima Camara is a writer and spoken word artist from Minneapolis. Not only a TruArtSpeaks (TAS) program alumna, Fatima has worked as the Re-Verb Open Mic host, the program's associate, and Be Heard liaison for TAS. She currently serves as the program's administrative associate.

Camara is a recent graduate of Metropolitan State University with a degree in professional/organizational communications, with a minor in community development and organizing.

Her chapbook, *Yellowline*, was published through Akashic Books and the African Poetry Book Fund. Fatima's passion for writing comes from her desire to highlight the stories and experiences of first-generation people in the United States. Through her creative work, she hopes for future first generations to have narratives they can reference and relate to. Follow her on Instagram @fatima.cl, and on Twitter @fatimac_1.

Jacquelynn Kerubo is a New York-based writer. Her nonfiction has been published in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Insider*, *Quartz*, the *Independent* (UK), and more. Her fiction has been published in the *Golden Handcuffs Review*. She's currently working on a memoir and a novel.

Joe Robert Cole co-wrote the Academy Award-nominated *Black Panther*, for which he received a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Image Award. His critically acclaimed Netflix directorial debut, *All Day and a Night*, starring Ashton Sanders (*Moonlight*) and Jeffrey Wright was released in May 2020. He produced the Emmy-winning FX series *The People vs. O. J. Simpson*, for which

he received an Emmy nomination for writing the episode “The Race Card” and earned a Writers Guild of America Award for Outstanding Writing. Joe is attached to create and executive produce a new series adaptation of *In the Heat of the Night* for MGM and recently completed co-writing *Black Panther 2*.

Johnson Asunka is a lecturer of Spanish and translation at the University of Ghana. He had his secondary education at Kanton Secondary School, Tumu, in the Upper East Region, from 1972 to 1977, and his postsecondary education at Mount Mary College, Somanya, where he trained as a teacher of French between 1978 and 1981. Thereafter, he taught French and English in secondary schools in Ghana and Nigeria over a ten-year period before enrolling at the University of Ghana, from where he graduated with a BA (first class honors) degree in French/Spanish (with a minor in linguistics) in 1996. He took up a temporary teaching appointment with the Ghana Institute of Languages (GIL) and then proceeded to Kent State University, Ohio, where he pursued postgraduate studies in Spanish/French/English translation and undergraduate studies in the Italian and German languages. He returned to Ghana in 2001 and taught at the GIL for four years before joining the academic staff at the University of Ghana in 2006. His research interest is in contrastive language studies and editing/proofreading in translation. He has over thirty years of experience as a translator, translating between English, Spanish, Italian, and French for various units in the University of Ghana, embassies (particularly the Spanish and Italian embassies), banks and other financial institutions, and state organizations such as the Ghana Accreditation Board. He also translates from Portuguese and German into English.

Khal Torabully is a prizewinning poet, essayist, film director, and semiologist from Mauritius who has authored more than twenty-five books.

Born in 1956, Torabully gives voice to the unimaginable suffering of the millions of indentured men and women brought to Port Louis between 1849 and 1923 as a source of cheap labor. Some remained in Mauritius, while others were forced to endure terrible voyages overseas to other European colonies. Torabully coined the term “coolitude” in a way that echoes Aimé Césaire’s concept of “Negritude,” transforming a pejorative term into one reflecting a vibrant and resilient cultural identity and language.

Kim Coleman Foote, born and raised in New Jersey, is the author of the forthcoming novels, *Coleman Hill*, which fictionalizes her family’s experience of the Great Migration, and *Salt Water Sister*, a woman-centered account of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in 1700s and 1990s Ghana. Her writing has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Best American Short Stories 2022*, *The Rumpus*, *Ecotone*, *Iron Horse Literary Review*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of several writing fellowships, including from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, Center for Fiction, Yaddo, MacDowell, Hedgebrook, and Phillips Exeter Academy. Kim was a Fulbright Fellow in 2002-03 in Ghana, where she conducted research for her novel and also wrote a memoir about her experiences. She received an MFA in creative writing from Chicago State University.

Lillian Akampurira Aujo is a poet and fiction writer from Uganda. She is the recipient of the 2015 Jalada Prize for Literature and the 2009 Babishai-Niwe Poetry Award. She was shortlisted for the 2019 Gerald Kraak Award and the 2018 Brittle Paper Anniversary Award, and longlisted for the 2018 Nommo Award.

She has performed poetry at the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign in Ethiopia.

Her writing has been published by *New Internationalist*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Transition*, *Jalada Africa*, the Jacana Literary Foundation, and *Omenana* magazine, among others, with her most recent poems appearing in *Lolwe* literary magazine. She is preoccupied with women's place in the spaces of time, history, and genealogy.

She works as a creative writing mentor, facilitator, and editor.

Makanaka Mavengere was born and raised in Harare, Zimbabwe. She is the author of the novel *Perfect Imperfections*, which was published in South Africa in August 2019. Makanaka currently resides in Johannesburg, South Africa, where she continues her storytelling journey as a screenwriter, playwright, and content creator.

Miral al-Tahawy is an award-winning Egyptian novelist and short story writer, and an affiliated member of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing at Arizona State University in Tempe, where she is associate professor of modern Arabic literature and head of classics and Middle Eastern studies at the School of International Letters and Cultures. She has written four award-winning novels, each of which has garnered national and international recognition. Most are now taught around the world as part of standard curricula in Arabic literature in translation. Her literary work has now been translated into more than fifteen world languages.

Her creative works include *Al-Khibaa'* (*The Tent*), which came out in 1996. It focuses on women and Bedouin life in Egypt, and was selected as the best literary work in English translation by the American University of Cairo. It became a bestseller. The novel was published in Arabic in more than six editions. *The Tent* was translated into English, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, Hindi, Urdu, Dutch, and fourteen other languages.

Al-Bazingana Al-Zarka'a (Blue Aubergine), about the 1980s Islamic uprising in Egypt, followed in 2000. For this book, Miral won the Egyptian National Prize. She is the first woman novelist to do so. Like *The Tent*, *Blue Aubergine* was translated into several foreign languages, including English, French, German, Danish, and Italian.

Miral's third book, *Nakarat El-Zeba'a (Gazelle Tracks)*, is a historical novel about Bedouin families in Egypt at the beginning of the nineteenth century; it traces the changes in women's lives through this time. *Gazelle Tracks* won Best Novel of the Year at the Cairo Book Fair and was translated into many languages.

Miral's fourth novel, *Brooklyn Heights*, released in Arabic in 2010, is an intimate look at a woman's sudden immersion into American culture. It was awarded the 2010 Naguib Mahfouz Medal for Literature at the American University in Cairo. The English translation of *Brooklyn Heights*, published in 2011 by Faber and Faber in the United Kingdom, was chosen as the best translated Arabic book and was shortlisted for the International Prize for Arabic Fiction.

Mogolodi Bond is a writer, poet, and rapper. He was born in Botswana, lives in Harlem, and is the author of two chapbooks: *placidity.* and *no turning back.*

Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond is the author of the children's picture book *BLUE: A History of the Color as Deep as the Sea and as Wide as the Sky*, illustrated by Caldecott Honor Artist Daniel Minter, and the young adult novel *Powder Necklace*, which *Publishers Weekly* called "a winning debut." Her short fiction for adult readers is included in the anthologies *Accra Noir*, edited by Nana-Ama Danquah; *Africa39: New Writing from Africa South of the Sahara*, edited by Ellah Wakatama Allfrey; *New Daughters of Africa*, edited by Margaret Busby, CBE,

Hon. FIRSL; *Everyday People: The Color of Life*, edited by Jennifer Baker; and *Woman's Work*, edited by Michelle Sewell, among others. Forthcoming from Brew-Hammond are a novel and children's picture book.

Brew-Hammond was a 2019 Edward F. Albee Foundation fellow, a 2018 Aké Arts and Book Festival guest author, a 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival Scholar, a 2016 Hedgebrook writer in residence, and a 2015 Rhode Island Writers Colony writer in residence. Every month, Brew-Hammond coleads a writing fellowship whose mission is to write light into darkness.

Nana Nyarko Boateng is a writer and an editor. She works at Gird Center, a writing, editing, and training services company in Accra. Her work has appeared in several publications, including *Lusaka Punk and Other Stories* (the Caine Prize for African Writing 2015 anthology), *Reflections: An Anthology of New Work by African Women Poets*, *Summoning the Rains* (an anthology of the Third FEMRITE Regional Residency for African Women Writers), and *Look Where You Have Gone to Sit: New Ghanaian Poets*.

Nancy Naomi Carlson is a translator, poet, essayist, and author of twelve titles (eight translated), including Khal Torabully's *Cargo Hold of Stars: Coolitude* (Seagull Books, 2021). *An Infusion of Violets* (Seagull, 2019), her second full-length poetry collection, was named "New & Noteworthy" by the *New York Times*. A recipient of two translation grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, she was a finalist for the Best Translated Book Award and the CLMP Firecracker Poetry Award. Decorated with the rank of chevalier in the Order of the Academic Palms, she is the translation editor for *On the Seawall*.

Phillippa Yaa de Villiers writes, performs, and lectures in creative writing at Wits University, Johannesburg. Her poetry collections include *Taller Than Buildings* (2006), *The Everyday Wife* (2010, winner of the South African Literary Award in 2011), and *ice-cream headache in my bone* (2017). She coedited *Keorapetse Kgositsile: Collected Poems, 1969–2018* for the University of Nebraska Press (forthcoming), and her poems appear in *New Daughters of Africa* (2019) and various journals, including *New Coin*, *Stanzas*, and *Wasafiri*. She edited a special edition of the *Atlanta Review* on South African women poets (2018) and coedited *No Serenity Here*, an anthology of African poetry translated into Mandarin (2010). She wrote an essay and contributed to another in *Our Words, Our Worlds: Writing on Black South African Women Poets, 2000–2018* (2019). Since 2016 she has been a member of the editorial board of the African Poetry Book Fund. She was the 2014 Commonwealth Poet.

Ray Ndebi is a Cameroonian writer, literary translator, and analyst based in Yaoundé. He is the author of *The Last Ghost: Son of Struggle*, published in 2013 by AuthorHouse, which appears in many international anthologies such as *Between the Generations: An Anthology for Ama Ata Aidoo at 80*, and a translation of a short story in the anthology *Your Feet Will Lead You Where Your Heart Is* (Bakwa Books, 2020). He has translated many children's books for local publishers, and is currently completing the translation of a poetry collection by Danielle Eyango (Cameroon), and short stories by Boube Hama. He also works in collaboration with the author Nana Ekua Brew-Hammond for poetry and short story translation projects. He is the cofounder of Ônoan Literary Agency and Academy of Creative Writing and Literary Translation, which seeks to promote quality output in literature, especially in the African context. Every day he works to produce modules that can help

authors, readers, and translators best achieve their writings. He has been leading workshops and mentoring authors and readers for almost twenty years in Cameroon, across Africa (physically and virtually, private and public). He has notably led workshops in poetry (Lomé International Book Fair, November 2018), creative writing and reading (University of Lomé, April 2019), translation and bilingual fusion in creative writing (Pa Gya! festival, Accra, 2019), translation (University of Bristol, Yaoundé, 2019), and literary critique and creative writing (Lomé, November 2019). He has also led several online workshops due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and an art of reading workshop at the University of Lomé in August 2021. He aims at making African literature stronger for young authors, and for future generations to benefit from the best possible support and direction.

Recaredo Silebo Boturu is a poet, actor, playwright, director, and cofounder of the Bocamandja theater company in Equatorial Guinea. An “artist” defender of the arts, Boturu is a passionate advocate of the dramatic art of Equatorial Guinea. He is the author of *Luz en la noche* (Editorial Verbum, 2010), *Crónicas de Lágrimas anuladas* (Editorial Verbum, 2014), and *From the Mediterranean* (Editorial AUGÉ, 2019). He has given talks, conferences, and workshops on the culture of Equatorial Guinea in Colombia, the United States, Spain, France, Austria, Nigeria, and Italy. Likewise, his works have appeared in anthologies and magazines such as *Afro-Hispanic Review*, *La Palabra y La Memoria: Guinea Ecuatorial 25 Años Después*, *Caminos y Veredas: Narrativas de Guinea Ecuatorial*, *Revista Iberoamericana*, *Chronic Chimurenga*, *GuinGuinBali*, *Molossus* magazine, *Best “New” African Poets 2018 Anthology*, *Nuevas Voces de la Literatura de Guinea Ecuatorial*, *Antología de la Literatura Hisapanoaficana y Afrodescendiente*, and *The name of the sun*, among others. In 2014, he was chosen for inclusion

in the “Africa 39”—thirty-nine African writers under forty years old published in the corresponding anthology *Africa39: New Writing from Africa South of the Sahara* to celebrate the selection of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, as that year’s UNESCO World Book Capital.

Reem Gaafar is a public health physician, writer, researcher and mother of three boys, with more than fifteen years of experience in the Middle East, Africa, and North America. A graduate of Juba University in Sudan, she obtained her masters in Public Health from the University of Liverpool and is currently working toward a PhD at the University of Ontario, Institute of Technology in Canada. She writes for several platforms and has accumulated nearly two hundred publications including blog posts, peer-reviewed and magazine articles, short stories, and book contributions. Her work has garnered honorable mentions, and she was recently shortlisted for the prestigious Miles Morland Foundation Scholarship awarded to published African writers.

Rémy Ngamije is a Rwandan-born Namibian writer and photographer. He is the founder, chairperson, and artministrator of Doek, an independent arts organization in Namibia supporting the literary arts. He is also the cofounder and editor in chief of *Doek!*, Namibia’s first and only literary magazine. His debut novel, *The Eternal Audience of One*, is available from Scout Press. His work has appeared in the *Johannesburg Review of Books*, *American Chordata*, *Lolwe*, *Granta*, and many other places.

He won the Africa Regional Prize of the 2021 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He was shortlisted for the AKO Caine Prize for African Writing in 2020 and 2021. He was also longlisted and shortlisted for the 2020 and 2021 Afritondo Short Story Prizes, respectively. In 2019 he was shortlisted for the Best Original Fiction award by Stack Magazines. More of his writing can be read on his website, remythequill.com.

Born July 11 in Mbandaka (Democratic Republic of the Congo), **Richard Ali A Mutu K**, known as “Richard Ali,” was selected in 2014 among the thirty-nine young authors of sub-Saharan Africa under forty considered the most promising in Africa for the anthology *Africa39*. Founder of the Association des Jeunes Écrivains du Congo in 2011, and currently secretary-general of the association Écrivains du Congo, he has been working since 2016 as head of the Wallonia-Brussels Library at Kinshasa, where he organizes literary activities that thrill the Congolese literary scene. In 2009, he was one of the winners of the Mark Twain Literary Prize (from the US embassy in Kinshasa) with his short story “Le cauchemardesque de Tabu.” He is also the author of a bestselling novel written entirely in Lingala, *Ebamba: Kinshasa-Makambo*, and translated into French and English under the title *Mr. Fix-It*, published by Phoneme Media. The English version was officially presented in Los Angeles by the great Kenyan author Ngũgĩ wa Thiong’o. Richard Ali is also the founder and CEO of Alibooks.cd, a digital platform dedicated to the sale of books in the DRC. Among his publications are the following:

Le Cauchemardesque de Tabu. Kinshasa/Wavre: Mabiki, 2011.

Short stories.

Ebamba: Kinshasa-Makambo. Wavre: Mabiki, 2014. Novel.

Mr. Fix-It. Los Angeles: Phoneme Media, 2017. English translation of *Ebamba: Kinshasa-Makambo*.

Okozonga Maboko pamba, masolo ya mikuse. Kinshasa/Wavre: Mabiki, 2017. Short stories.

“Ebola ++,” in *Jalada Africa*, 2015.

Génève: Kin 2020 la correspondance. Geneva: BSN Press, 2020. Collective novel.

Et les portes sont des bouches. Kinshasa-Wavre: Mabiki, 2021. Novel.

Salma Khalil is a multidisciplinary artist of committed visual expression who has inherited much from her parents. (Her father, Professor Khalil Alio, is the author of the books *Pour Qui File la Comète* and *Sússúnà: Contes Bidiya*, and the son of a veteran of the French army of the Second World War. Her mother, Khadidja Hamit, is a storyteller and embroiderer, and the daughter of a veteran of the French army of the Indochina War.) She is part of a movement of visual artists who use local materials to create paintings made from recycled products and natural pigments inspired by the know-how of the Kotoko, an ancient civilization of Chad.

Also a graphic designer and photoreporter, with a master's degree in urban geography from the University of N'Djamena, she develops many social subjects with an artist's eye, navigating between human rights and cultural heritages. With the support of the Service de Coopération et d'Action Culturelle of the French embassy in Chad, and in collaboration with the sociologist Aché Ahmat Moustapha, she codirected the book *Portrait de femmes tchadiennes*. She created her company Zarlinga in 2014, through which she sells her photographic work and her talent as a graphic designer.

Khalil is also a published writer. She authored the poetry collection *Passion de la Pensée*, published in 2004 by Éditions le Manuscrit, and in 2020, her storybook *Afaf et l'oeuf doré* was borne of her experience with the organization JRS, working with refugee girls from Sudan (Darfur) and the Central African Republic to highlight the violence experienced and to offer perspectives. Additionally, she has contributed to numerous French-language short story collections in Chad.

Named one of *New African* magazine's 100 Africans of the year in 2017, Khalil seeks to promote women's empowerment, the arts and culture of Chad, and help improve the living conditions of future generations. To learn more about her work, visit artistetchadienne.org.

Sarah Uheida is a twenty-four-year-old Libyan poet and experimental memoirist who received her bachelor of arts in English studies and psychology from Stellenbosch University in South Africa. At the age of thirteen, Sarah and her family escaped the Libyan Civil War and emigrated to South Africa, where she learned English and is currently residing. As the recipient of the international 2021 Miles Morland scholarship, she is currently penning her fictionalized memoir of the Libyan Civil War and the female refugee experience. She was also the winner of the 2020 Dan Veach Prize for Younger Poets. Her work features in or is forthcoming in literary journals such as *New Contrast*, *Eunoia Review*, *The Shore*, *fresh.ink*, *Plume*, the *South African*, *Sonder Midwest*, *Stone Thursday*, *Every Day Fiction*, *Wend*, *Flock*, *SliP*, *Atlanta Review*, and in the anthology *We Call to the Eye and the Night: Love Poems by Writers of Arab Descent*, which Persea Books will publish in 2023.

Vanessa Walters is an author and playwright originally from the UK, now based in the US. She is a fellow and former resident of Tin House and The Millay Colony. Her forthcoming novel, *The Nigerwife*, will be published in June 2023 by Atria Books.

Vivian Solana is an assistant professor at Carleton University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology in Ottawa, Canada. Her long-term ethnographic research in Sahrawi refugee camps and in the diaspora focuses on the forms of labor that socially reproduce a Sahrawi revolutionary nationalism in exile. Her most recent publications can be found in *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*; *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*; *History and Anthropology*; and *MERIP*.

Yejide Kilanko's debut novel, *Daughters Who Walk This Path*, a Canadian national bestseller, was longlisted for the 2016 Nigeria Prize for Literature. Her work includes a novella, *Chasing Butterflies* (2015), and two children's picture books, *There Is an Elephant in My Wardrobe* (2019) and *Juba and the Fireball* (2020). Her latest novel, *A Good Name*, was published in 2021. Born in Ibadan, Nigeria, Kilanko lives in Canada, where she also practices as a therapist in children's mental health.