April 2024

SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023 REPORT



http://sevhage.com sevhageprizes@gmail.com

CONTENTS

| BACKGROUND |
|--|
| SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023 |
| JUDGES FOR THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023 |
| E. E. SULE/SEVHAGE PRIZE FOR AFRICAN CRITICISM 2023 |
| SEVHAGE/LETICIA NYITSE PRIZE FOR SHORT FICTION 2023 |
| SEVHAGE/MARIA AJIMA PRIZE FOR CREATIVE NON-FICTION 2023 |
| SEVHAGE-KSR Hyginus Ekwuazi Poetry Prize6 |
| APPENDICES |
| APPENDIX 1: SEVHAGE PRIZES WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP (2019-2022)7 |
| SEVHAGE Prizes 20197 |
| SEVHAGE Prizes 20207 |
| SEVHAGE Prizes 20217 |
| SEVHAGE Prizes 2022 |
| APPENDIX 2 SHORTLISTS FOR THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 20239 |
| APPENDIX 3: LONGLIST FOR THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023 11 |
| APPENDIX 4: PROFILE OF THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023 HONOUREES |
| Professor Sule E. Egya (aka E. E. Sule)14 |
| Professor Leticia Mbaiver Nyitse14 |
| Professor Maria Ajima15 |
| • Professor Hyginus O. Ekwuazi |

BACKGROUND

The SEVHAGE Literary Prizes are a group of annual literary and art prizes majorly organized, sponsored, and administered by SEVHAGE Literary and Development Initiative and SEVHAGE Publishers (a subset of SEVHAGE Integrated Services Ltd), and in a few instances, with support from partners. Initiated in 2019, the Prizes aim to recognise and celebrate the outstanding contributions of African creatives across various categories including poetry, prose, spoken word, drama, dancing, and general writing. The Prizes succeed various other awards established and independently administered and funded by SEVHAGE on annual basis since 2013.

Past winners and runners-up of the prizes have included [POETRY] Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto, Adedayo Agarau, Pamilerin Jacob; Adenle Iyanuoluwa Deborah, Osi Stanley Chijioke; [SPOKEN WORD] Abbas Suleiman, Hafsat Abdullahi, Younglan Talyoung, and Elizabeth KJ Umoru; [PROSE] Ebuka Prince Okoroafor, Hajaarh Muhammad Bashar, and Olaposi Washington Halim; [CREATIVE NON-FICTION) Odueso Oluwatimilehin Charles, David Iruoje, Samuel Amazing Ayoade, and Nguher Terungwa James.

For details on our prizes and to enter current competitions, kindly visit http://sevhage.com/prizes.

SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023

The SEVHAGE Prizes 2023 were named to honour distinguished professors and teachers in the field of literature, all of them accomplished writers and critics who have contributed to the growth of literature and criticism across the African continent. These figures who have also had a great influence on SEVHAGE are Professor Sule E. Egya (aka E. E. Sule), Professor Leticia Mbaiver Nyitse, Professor Maria Ajima, and Professor Hyginus O. Ekwuazi. Thus, the awards were in the following categories:

- 1. E. E. SULE/SEVHAGE Prize for African Literary Criticism (N100,000.00)
- 2. SEVHAGE-Leticia Mbaiver Nyitse Prize for Short Fiction (N61,700.00)
- 3. SEVHAGE/Maria Ajima Prize for Creative Non-Fiction (N61,700.00)
- 4. SEVHAGE-KSR Hyginus Ekwuazi Prize for Poetry (N61,700.00)

There is also the addition of the SEVHAGE/Agema Founder's Prize in recognition of the runnersup in each category, drawn from the extended shortlist made available by the judges. Over 300 entries were received across the various categories with an extended longlist and shortlist drawn by the judges before the final decision of the category awards.

JUDGES FOR THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023

- Professor Hyginus Ekwuazi (Chair)
- Dr Tayol Raphael
- Romeo Oriogun
- S. Su'eddie Vershima Agema
- Deborah Oluniran

- Carl Terver
- Oko Owoicho
- Blessing Omeiza



E. E. SULE/SEVHAGE PRIZE FOR AFRICAN CRITICISM 2023

WINNER

• A Principle for the New Nigerian Poetry by Arasi Kamolideen Oluwapelumi

"A Principle for the New Nigerian Poetry" tops the list in ranking among the other essays. Yes! The stunning attribute of this article is the fact that it redirects reason to the rising trend of decoloniality that professes, in peculiarity, the sacredness of literary freshness and ownership of the new Nigerian literature.

That said, the entries were critical and show the vastness of scholarship available in the African canon. Kudos to the winner and all nominees, as well as all those who submitted." - Judges

SEVHAGE/Agema-Founder's Prize (Recognitions)

- Gender as Performance, and Androgynous Space Creation in African Literature: Reading Dibia's *Walking with Shadows* and Duiker's *The Quiet Violence* by Eugene Shichet Yakubu
- The Cartography of Human Behavior: Vernacular Theatre in Eastern Africa by Alex Nderitu
- Negotiating Spaces in Western Metropolitan Societies: Focus on Contemporary Nigerian Diasporic Novels by Bizuum Godwill Yadok
- Women and the Boko Haram Terrorists: Reading Trauma in Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani's *Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree* by Abidemi Emman Oguntunji
- Unraveling Familial Ties in the Representations of Wives in Selected Women Authored Zambian Short Stories by Shilika Chisoko.

SEVHAGE/LETICIA NYITSE PRIZE FOR SHORT FICTION 2023

JOINT WINNERS

- The Girl Whose Family Drowned in Her Name by Amanda Ilozumba
- On Most Saturdays, It Doesn't Rain by Ola W. Halim

SEVHAGE/Agema Founder's Prize for Short Fiction 2023 (Recognitions)

- Dial M for Murder by Hajara Hussaina Ashara
- How Lagos Wrings You Dry by Prosper C. Ifeanyi
- Let This Be the Noose That Unties Me by Enit'ayanfe Ayosojumi Akinsanya

SEVHAGE/MARIA AJIMA PRIZE FOR CREATIVE NON-FICTION 2023

WINNER

• Grief: Its Invisible Gerund by Abasi-maenyin Esebre

"Abasi-maenyin Esebre's beautiful, brilliant and heartfelt piece stood out from the other entries. It shows the markings of a fine craftsperson. The other selected entries are chosen for their variety, sensitivity and exploration of the human spirit. Well done to everyone on the list and all who submitted." – Judges' Report.

SEVHAGE/Agema Founder's Prize for Creative Non-Fiction Category (Recognitions)

- Boy, What is the Taste of a Glory that Burns by Mhembeuter Jeremiah Orhemba
- No Tongue of My Own by Mwanabibi Sylvia Sikamo
- It Tastes Like Love by Olajesutofunmi Akinyemi
- Butterflies, Fireflies, & Brotherhood by Hope Joseph
- The Five Stages of Grief is Death by Ejiro Elizabeth Edward
- A Mother Figure by Hajaarh Muhammad Bashar

SEVHAGE-KSR HYGINUS EKWUAZI POETRY PRIZE

Winner

• glossolalia by Sodiq Oyekanmi

"After careful consideration of all entries, we're thrilled to declare Sodiq Oyekanmi as the winner with his incredible poem, 'glossolalia'. This category posed a tough competition, making the selection of a final winner challenging. Every nominated poet showcased incredible talent and class. Heartfelt congratulations to all who made the lists and even those who submitted." – Judge's Report

SEVHAGE/Agema Founder's Prize (Recognitions):

- Riverscape with Seine by Martins Deep
- Self-Innoculation//&the Falsettos of Soft Bruises by Joshua Effiong
- why this poet is addicted to heartbreak songs by Damilola Omotoyinbo
- Here, I Introduced Kotus to the Encyclopedia of My Dolour by Abduljalal Musa Aliyu
- Ujana by Frank Njugi

Signed by:

Professor Hyginus Ekwuazi *Chair, SEVHAGE Literary Prizes 2023 Judges*

Dr Ruth Ehighocho James *Publicity Lead, SEVHAGE Literary Prizes 2023*

S. Su'eddie Vershima Agema

Lead and Founder, SEVHAGE and Administrator, SEVHAGE Prizes

Oko Owoicho

Co-Administrator, SEVHAGE Prizes

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SEVHAGE PRIZES WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP (2019-2022)

SEVHAGE PRIZES 2019

There were several prizes for secondary schools running into hundreds of thousands for various events, majorly supported by the Eunice Spring of Life Foundation (ESLF) as part of the Benue Book and Arts Festival. For this, SEVHAGE is greatly thankful to the organisation, its founder, Dr Eunice Ortom and the Programme Manager, Tine Agernor. The following are the other prizes for literary excellence:

SEVHAGE/ESLF Prize for Short Fiction 2019

- Ebuka Prince Okoroafor 'Cat Boy' [1st Prize]
- Hajaarh Muhammad Bashar '3 Shades of Darkness'
- Olaposi Washington Halim 'The Nigerian Bride'
- Chizoma Emeka Joshua 'What Do you Do When You see a Burning Bush' [4th Prize]
- David Iruoje 'Nineteen Nineteen Eight' [5th Prize]

SEVHAGE Prize for Creative Non-Fiction 2019

- Odueso Oluwatimilehihn Charles 'The Herculean Misconception' [1st Prize]
- Samuel Amazing Ayoade 'Water Drowns' [1st Runner Up]
- Chukwu Emmanuel 'The Weight of Family Secrets' [2nd Runner Up]
- Nguher Terungwa James 'Smoke' [4th Prize]
- Edoziem Miracle 'To Efu Doe' [5th Prize]

SEVHAGE/Angya Poetry Prize 2019

- Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto 'Every month a year' [1st Prize]
- Adedayo Agarau 'the origin of a name' [1st Runner Up]
- Pamilerin Jacob 'Geometry of Sound and Pestilence' [2nd Runner Up]
- Adenle Iyanuoluwa Deborah 'Why I have Flowers Growing from the Corners of my Mouth' [4th Prize]
- Osi, Stanley Chijioke 'Reflections' [5th Prize]

SEVHAGE PRIZES 2020

Suspended due to COVID.

SEVHAGE PRIZES 2021

Slam Championship Abbas Suileman (Winner)

SEVHAGE PRIZES 2022

Slam Championship

- Hafsat Abdullahi (Champion)
- Younglan Talyoung (1st Runner-Up)
- Elizabeth KJ Umoru (2nd Runner-Up)
- Younglan Talyoung (Winner, Audience Favourite)

All Secondary Schools Drama Competition [Makurdi]

- Government Girls' College, Makurdi (Champion)
- Government Secondary School, North Bank (1st Runner-Up)
- Templegate Academy, Makurdi (2nd Runner-Up)
- *Best Actors (Female Category*): Adejo Esther (Government Girls' College, Makurdi); Azenda Dooyum Doris (Government Girls'College, Makurdi); and Abdulkarim Halima
- Best Actors (Male Category): Ukim Patrick (Government Secondary School, North Bank); Modom Jeff Kator (Baptist High School).
- Best Stage Manager: Giddi Vivian Hembafan (Government Secondary School, North Bank)



APPENDIX 2 SHORTLISTS FOR THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023

E.E. SULE/SEVHAGE PRIZE FOR AFRICAN LITERARY CRITICISM '23 SHORTLIST

- Women and the Boko Haram Terrorists: Reading Trauma in Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani's *Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree* by Abidemi Emman Oguntunji
- Egocentrism In Contemporary Literature: A Review of Obari Gomba's *The Lilt Of The Rebel* by Adelana Esther
- The Cartography of Human Behavior: Vernacular Theatre in Eastern Africa by Alex Nderitu
- A Principle for the New Nigerian Poetry by Arasi Kamolideen Oluwapelumi
- Negotiating Spaces in Western Metropolitan Societies: Focus on Contemporary Nigerian Diasporic Novels by Bizuum Godwill Yadok
- Of History and Imaginative Re-Creations in Helon Habila's Waiting for An Angel by Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto
- Gender as Performance, and Androgynous Space Creation in African Literature: Reading Dibia's Walking with Shadows and Duiker's The Quiet Violence by Eugene Shichet Yakubu
- "Chinua Achebe, A Feminist Extraordinaire?: Misogyny, Masculinity, And Victimhood
 in *Things Fall Apart*" by Kasimma
- *"Till Death Do Us Part?"* Unravelling Familial Ties in The Representations of Wives in Selected Women Authored Zambian Short Stories by Shilika Chisoko

SEVHAGE PRIZE FOR CREATIVE NONFICTION '23 SHORTLIST

- Grief: Its Invisible Gerund by Abasi-maenyin Esebre
- Against the Weather by Chimezie Chika
- The Five Stages of Grief is Death by Ejiro Elizabeth Edward
- A Mother Figure by Hajaarh Muhammad Bashar
- Butterflies, Fireflies, & Brotherhood by Hope Joseph
- Everything that Burns by James-Ibe Chinaza
- Boy, What is the Taste of a Glory that Burns by Mhembeuter Jeremiah Orhemba
- No Tongue of My Own by Mwanabibi Sylvia Sikamo
- This is my Story by Ogonna Ochokwu
- It Tastes Like Love by Olajesutofunmi Akinyemi
- In the Furl of Prayers and Miracles by Onyeka Divine

SEVHAGE-LETICIA NYITSE PRIZE FOR SHORT FICTION '23 SHORTLIST

- The Girl Whose Family Drowned in Her Name by Amanda Ilozumba
- Home Is Where the Heart Rests by Chidera Solomon Anikpe
- Fly by Chukwuemeka Famous
- Let This Be the Noose That Unties Me by Enit'ayanfe Ayosojumi Akinsanya

DD SEVHAGE Prizes 2023 Report | 9

- Dial M For Murder by Hajara Hussaini Ashara
- Your Hair Smelled of Something Sour, Like Rancid Milk by Ifeanyichukwu Chidera Onukwube
- The Adventures of Tom the Terror by Mike Ekunno
- On Most Saturdays It Doesn't Rain by Ola W. Halim
- How Lagos Wrings You Dry by Prosper C. Ìféányí

SEVHAGE/KSR HYGINUS EKWUAZI PRIZE FOR POETRY '23 SHORTLIST

- Here, I introduced Kotus to the Encyclopaedia of My Dolour by Abduljalal Musa Aliyu
- Palestine In Recent Times: A Conversation at the Confessional by Chinecherem Enujioke
- chronicles of a place where nothing wets the skin but blood by Chinemerem Prince Nwankwo
- why this poet is addicted to heartbreak songs by Damilola Omotoyinbo
- Ujana by Frank Njugi
- Foreign Gods Hold My Trachea by Frederick Goodness Amarachi
- Self-inoculation//& the Falsettos of Soft Bruise by Joshua Effiong
- Riverscape with Seine by Martins Deep
- In a Poem About Flight My iPhone-XR Autocorrects Father to Feather by Muiz Opeyemi Ajayi
- I Second Guess Religion in Place of Humanity by Nnadi Samuel
- Motion by Okoronkwo Chisom
- In the Call of Ruin by Pacella Chukwuma-Eke
- before the storm came by Saheed Sunday
- glossolalia by Sodiq Oyekanmi
- It Brought Us Here to the Brink by Yarri Kamara

APPENDIX 3: LONGLIST FOR THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023

E.E. SULE/SEVHAGE PRIZE FOR AFRICAN LITERARY CRITICISM

- Women and the Boko Haram Terrorists: Reading Trauma in Adaobi Tricia Nwaubani's *Buried Beneath the Baobab Tree* by Abidemi Emman Oguntunji
- Egocentrism In Contemporary Literature: A Review of Obari Gomba's *The Lilt Of The Rebel* by Adelana Esther
- Disability and the Prosthetic Heritages Of African Democracy in Tiv Praise Songs by Atyev Bem Collins
- The Cartography of Human Behavior: Vernacular Theatre in Eastern Africa by ALEX NDERITU
- A Principle for the New Nigerian Poetry by Arasi Kamolideen Oluwapelumi
- Negotiating Spaces in Western Metropolitan Societies: Focus on Contemporary Nigerian Diasporic Novels by Bizuum Godwill Yadok
- Of History and Imaginative Re-Creations in Helon Habila's *Waiting for An Angel* by Chinua Ezenwa-Ohaeto
- Exploring African Identity and Cultural Resilience in *Half of a Yellow Sun* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie by Emmanuel Braimoh
- Gender as Performance, and Androgynous Space Creation in African Literature by Eugene Shichet Yakubu
- Representation of Psychoses in Helon Habila's *Measuring Time* by Jeff Iwu
- African Ecocriticism, Multispecies Presence and Ben Okri's Songs of Enchantment by John Olorunshola Kehinde
- Nigerian Comics: A Critical Overview by Ifesinachi Nwadike
- "Chinua Achebe, A Feminist Extraordinaire?: Misogyny, Masculinity, And Victimhood in *Things Fall Apart*" by Kasimma
- *"Till' Death Do Us Part?"* Unravelling Familial Ties in The Representations of Wives in Selected Women Authored Zambian Short Stories by Shilika Chisoko (Zambia)
- Multiple Modes of Interpretations and Contradictions in Wole Soyinka's *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth* by Sunday Michael Oyeleke
- Prejudice, Identity and Cultural Reorientation: A Reading of Emeka Aniagolu's *Anyali* by Uthman Qasim

SEVHAGE PRIZE FOR CREATIVE NONFICTION

- Grief: Its Invisible Gerund by Abasi-maenyin Esebre
- The Fervent Wishes of a 'Wanna-Be' Plus Size Sex Worker by Chiamaka Ejindu
- Against the Weather by Chimezie Chika
- The five stages of grief is death by Ejiro Elizabeth Edward
- A Mother Figure by Hajaarh Muhammad Bashar
- Darkness & Logistics by Haruna Solomon Binkam
- Butterflies, fireflies, & brotherhood by Hope Joseph
- Babel by Isaiah Adepoju

- Everything that burns by James-Ibe Chinaza
- Boy, What is the Taste of a Glory that Burns by Mhembeuter Jeremiah Orhemba
- No Tongue of My Own by Mwanabibi Sylvia Sikamo
- Light Through Wet Eyes by NmaHassan Muhammad
- This is my Story by Ogonna Ochokwu
- History in a Hurry by Ojo Olumide Emmanuel
- It Tastes Like Love by Olajesutofunmi Akinyemi
- In the Furl of Prayers and Miracles by Onyeka Divine

SEVHAGE-LETICIA NYITSE PRIZE FOR SHORT FICTION

- The Epistle of a Maid by Abubakar Terkimbi Saidu
- Your Money Bleeds by Alex Abesadu Byanyiko
- The Girl Whose Family Drowned in Her Name by Amanda Ilozumba
- Home Is Where the Heart Rests by Chidera Solomon Anikpe
- Fly by Chukwuemeka Famous
- The Mountains That Birthed Us by Erinola Daranijo
- Let This Be the Noose That Unties Me by Enit'ayanfe Ayosojumi Akinsanya
- Dial M For Murder by Hajara Hussaini Ashara
- Your Hair Smelled of Something Sour, Like Rancid Milk by Ifeanyichukwu Chidera Onukwube
- Beyond Joy by Ifeanyichukwu Eze
- Metaphor for the Thing Called Life by Ikechukwu Henry
- The Adventures of Tom the Terror by Mike Ekunno
- How Lagos Wrings You Dry by Prosper C. Ìféányí
- Owanyi by Nana-Hauwa Sule
- On Most Saturdays It Doesn't Rain by Ola W. Halim
- Ministry Of Animal Affairs by Olúwasúnmisólá Olúdé

SEVHAGE/KSR HYGINUS EKWUAZI PRIZE FOR POETRY

- Here, I introduced Kotus to the Encyclopaedia of My Dolour by Abduljalal Musa Aliyu
- identity crises as a variant of grief by Ajise Vincent
- The Sky God's Wrath by Akumbu Uche
- Grief by Ayiyi Joel
- Palestine In Recent Times: A Conversation At The Confessional by Chinecherem Enujioke
- Dear Son by Chinedu Gospel
- chronicles of a place where nothing wets the skin but blood by Chinemerem Prince Nwankwo
- why this poet is addicted to heartbreak songs by Damilola Omotoyinbo
- Ujana by Frank Njugi
- Foreign Gods Hold My Trachea by Frederick Goodness Amarachi
- Self-inoculation//& the Falsettos of Soft Bruise by Joshua Effiong
- Riverscape with seine by Martins Deep

- How a cancel generation casts a portion of reality—even a poem—in reverse by Mazeed Mukhtar Oyeleye
- In a Poem About Flight My iPhone-XR Autocorrects Father to Feather by Muiz Opeyemi Ajayi
- I Second Guess Religion in Place of Humanity by Nnadi Samuel
- Motion by Okoronkwo Chisom
- Departures by Olalekan Daniel Kehinde
- In The Call of Ruin by Pacella Chukwuma-Eke
- before the storm came by Saheed Sunday
- glossolalia by Sodiq Oyekanmi
- It Brought Us Here to the Brink by Yarri Kamara



APPENDIX 4: PROFILE OF THE SEVHAGE PRIZES 2023 HONOUREES

• PROFESSOR SULE E. EGYA (AKA E. E. SULE)

Professor Sule Emmanuel Egya (aka E. E. Sule) is a prominent professor of African literature and cultural studies who currently primarily works at the Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Lapai, Nigeria. His research interests include the intersection of literature and politics in Africa, feminism, cultural studies, and ecocriticism, in which he has done extensive research and written several essays. He is a recipient of several fellowships and awards including the PER SESH Writing Fellowship; the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship; the African Humanities Fellowship; and the Humboldt Talent Travel Award. He has written over one hundred scholarly articles and literary essays. He is the author of The Writings of Zaynab Alkali (2005); In Their Voices and Visions: Conversations with New Nigerian Writers (2007); Poetics of Rage: A Reading of Remi Raji's Poetry (2011); Nation, Power, and Dissidence in Third Generation Nigerian Poetry (2014); and Niyi Osundare: a Literary Biography (2017). Some of his critical works include Power and Activism in Nigerian Literature (2020). He is also the co-editor of Gender and Power in Contemporary Africa: Essays in Honour of Sophia Obiajulu Ogwude (2014) and Studies in Scientific and Cultural Ecology (2021). evelopment Initiative

Professor Egya is also a multiple award-winning multi-genre creative writer. His first novel *Sterile Sky* (2012) won the 2013 Commonwealth Book Prize for the Africa Region. *Makwala* (2018), his second novel, won the Association of Nigerian Authors Prose Fiction Prize 2019. His poetry volumes include *What the Sea Told Me* (2009, winner of the Association of Nigerian Authors/Gabriel Okara Prize), *Naked Sun* (2006), and *Knifing Tongues* (2005).

• PROFESSOR LETICIA MBAIVER NYITSE

Professor Leticia Mbaiver NYITSE is a poet, essayist, short story writer, scholar and development activist of note. She was born on 12/4/1962 to Mr Simeon Iortim and Mrs Ngoundu Ikowe of Monkwav, Ikyurav-Tiev, Katsina-Ala, Benue State, Nigeria. Her poetry has appeared in various anthologies. She also edited New Short Stories from Nigeria. At various times, Nyitse has been the Secretary of the Association of Nigeria Authors 2006-08, and Ex-officio member (2008-2011). She won the Association of Nigerian Authors/Maria Ajima Poetry Prize (Benue) in 2003.

By 2008, she had her PhD from Benue State University, the same institution she has been working in since 1992 as one of the pioneer lecturers of the Department of English. She has risen through the ranks to become a Professor, a rank she attained in 2014. In her 30 years of teaching, she has also garnered administrative experience as a Registration/Examination Officer, Head of the Department of English, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Arts and Director of the Centre for Gender Studies. She is currently the Deputy Dean, Postgraduate School, Benue State University, Makurdi. Professor Nyitse is currently working on a Novella and a book on gender that explores the dimensions of women's lives as wives, mothers and workers in Tivland. She is married to Mr Gideon lorwuese Nyitse, and the marriage has borne five children: Mnena, Tertsegha, Ana, Luper and Mnenge; and one grandchild, Ternam.

• PROFESSOR MARIA AJIMA

Maria Ajima, a Professor of Literature, lectures in the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Benue State University Makurdi. A laureate of the Association of Nigerian Authors/Spectrum Prose Prize (1996), and runner-up Commonwealth Short Story Competition (Africa Region) (2000), she has published over four volumes of poetry and has creative works in several anthologies. Her critical works have also been published in many journals and books. She was the president of Women Writers of Nigeria from 2000 to 2001 and is currently one of the Trustees of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA).

• PROFESSOR HYGINUS O. EKWUAZI

Hyginus EKWUAZI is a multiple award-winning poet, film critic, scholar and educator. He is the author of four previously published collections of poetry: *Love Apart* (Winner: ANA-Cadbury Prize, 2007; Winner: ANA-NDDC/Gabriel Okara Prize, 2007; Shortlist: [NLNG] Nigeria Prize for Literature, 2009); *Dawn into moonlight: all around me dawning* (Winner: ANA-NDDC/Gabriel Okara Prize, 2008); *The Monkey's Eyes* (Shortlist: ANA-Cadbury Prize, 2009); *That Other Country* (Winner: ANA-Cadbury Prize, 2010; Shortlist: Soyinka/Nigeria Literature Prize) and *One Day I'll Dare to Raise My Middle Finger at the Stork and the Reaper* (Nominee, Nigeria Prize for Literature 2016). Also to his credit are: four stage plays; a couple of screenplays; and two novel: *I've miles to walk before I sleep*.

Ekwuazi has taught broadcasting & film at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and the Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos. Professor Hyginus Ekwuazi was a former Acting Head of the Department of Theatre Arts in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He was also Director General of the Nigerian Film Corporation. Ekwuazi currently acts as a jury in several awards competitions and festivals, including the Africa Movie Academy Awards, and was the Vice Chancellor of the Dominican University, Ibadan, Nigeria.