

# ROMEO OLUWASEGUN ORIOGUN

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## Education

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MFA in Creative Writing, University of Iowa, Iowa Writers' Workshop, 2021

## Books

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### Full Collections

- The Gathering of Bastards, University of Nebraska Press, 2023.
- Nomad, Griots Lounge Press Nigeria, 2021.
- Sacrament of Bodies, University of Nebraska Press, 2020.

### Chapbooks

- The Museum of Silence, Arrowsmith Press, 2019.
- The Origin of Butterflies, Akashic Books, 2018.
- Burnt Men, Praxis Nigeria, 2017.

## Work Experience

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University of Iowa, International Writing Program, Youth Programming Coordinator (2023 – present)

Iowa State University, Creative Writing MFA Program, Postdoctoral Research Associate (2021 – 2023)

- ENGL 556: Graduate Workshop – Poetry (Spring 2023)
- ENGL 306: Creative Writing – Poetry (Fall 2022)
- ENGL 306: Creative Writing – Poetry (Spring 2022)
- ENGL 556: Graduate Workshop – Poetry (Spring 2022)

- ENGL 306: Creative Writing – Poetry (Fall 2021)

University Of Iowa, Graduate Teaching Assistance (2019 – 2021)

- CW 2100: Language and Imagination (Fall 2020)
- CW 2875: Poetry Writing (Spring 2021)

Bissam Group of Schools, Edo State, Nigeria (2005 – 2007)

- Literature in English. Designed curriculum and taught introduction courses to 20<sup>th</sup> Century English Literature, African Literature, and Writing.

Universal Standard Academy, Edo State, Nigeria (2007 – 2009)

- Literature in English. Designed curriculum and taught Introduction to English Literature.

#### Facilitated Workshops

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- University of Benin Creative Writing Club: Poetry Master Class with Romeo Oriogun September 2017, Benin City, Nigeria.
- Korle Gonno Community Poetry Workshop, Ghana, November 2017.
- Lagos International Poetry Festival Poetry Workshop on The Poetry of Place, November, 2022.

#### Guest Lectureship

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- Blackness in Black Imagination, Michigan State University, November 2019.
- The Emergence of Queer Voices in African Literature, Hutchins Center for African and African American Center, April 2019.
- The Story of Our Lives, A Lecture on New Nigerian Poetry, Mother Foucault Bookshop Portland, August 2019.
- Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Nigeria: A Personal Perspective, FXB Center

for Health & Human Rights at Harvard University, October 2018.

- Duke University, English Department Class visit with Prof. Tsitsi Jaji. April 2020.
- University of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Arnett James's Contemporary African Poetry Class, March 2021.
- Black Future in Literature, Michigan State University, November 2021.
- Frontier Collective Nigeria, A Lecture on MFAs and Poetry, May 2022.

## Editorial

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- Editor in Chief, Kabaka Magazine, 2018-2019.
- Guest Editor, Flyway Magazine, 2021.

## Selected Awards & Honors

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- Winner of the 2023 Nebraska Book Award for Poetry.
- Winner of the 2023 Julie Suk Award.
- Finalist for the 2023 Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry.
- Finalist for the 2023 Midwest Book Awards for Poetry.
- Finalist 2023 National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry
- Juror, 2024 Neustadt International Prize for Literature.
- Winner of the Nigeria Prize for Literature, 2022
- Winner of the Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award, 2022.
- Finalist for The Isele Prize for Poetry, 2022.
- April's Poetry Book of the Month for Sacrament of Bodies by Mississauga Library, 2022.
- Open Country Magazine's 50 Most Anticipated Books of 2022 in African Literature for Nomad.
- Africa Center Honk Kong's 2022 Recommended Book for Pride Month for Sacrament of Bodies.
- The Africa Report 15 Must Read Books in 2022 for Nomad.
- The Native Magazine's 8 Books by Nigerian Authors to Read in 2022 for Nomad.
- Business Day Nigerian Newspaper's Poets Changing the Culture, 2022.

- Okay Africa's 10 African LGBTQ+ Books to Read for Pride Month, 2021.
- President, Black Graduate and Professional Students, University of Iowa.
- Narrative Magazine 30 Below 30, 2021.
- Finalist Lambda Literary Award for Gay Poetry for Sacrament of Bodies, 2020
- Winner of the Chukwu Prize for African Poetry, 2020.
- Finalist for The Future Prize for African Literature, 2020.
- Afro Media's 4 Book on African Culture for Sacrament of Bodies, 2020.
- Global Literatures in Libraries' Own Voices, Important Queer Books from African Writers, 2020.
- YNaija: The 99 Most Influential Nigerians in Art, 2020
- Logan Prize for Poetry, Iowa Writers' Workshop Student's Prize, 2019.
- Winner Sundress Best of the Net Poetry Prize, 2019.
- Selected for New Generation African Poetry Chapbook Series, 2018.
- Finalist for the Sillerman First Book Prize for African Poets, 2018.
- Finalist for the Brittle Paper Award for Poetry, 2017.
- Winner of 2017 Brunel International African Poetry Prize.
- YNaija: Inaugural List of 100 People Influencing Nigerian Culture.

#### Fellowships/Grants

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- Postdoctoral Research Associate and Innovation Fellow, Iowa State University, 2021 – 2023.
- University of Iowa, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Fellow, 2020.
- PEN America Writer's Grant, 2020.
- Iowa Writers' Workshop James Patterson Scholarship, 2019.
- Iowa Writers' Workshop Maytag Fellowship, 2019.
- Oregon Institute for Creative Research, 2019 Summer Fellow.
- IIE-Artist Protection Fund Fellow, 2018 - 2019.
- Harvard Scholar at Risk, 2018 – 2019.
- W.E.B. Du Bois Fellow at Harvard University's Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, 2018.
- Freedom House Grant, 2018.
- PEN America, 2018.
- PEN Sweden, 2018.

- PEN International Freedom Grant, 2018.
- Ebedi International Writers' Fellowship, 2017

#### Selected Journal/Magazine/Publications

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- "In August, I Saw the Sky" *Guernica*, 2022
- "Tallahassee" *Poetry Society of America*, 2022
- "Late December in Abidjan" *The Nation*, 2022
- "Walking along Harvard Square, Flyway" *Poetry Magazine*, 2022
- "Echoes, Mist" *Prairie Schooner*, 2022
- "The Sea Dreams of Us" *The Common*, 2022.
- "All Winter I Had No Love" *Oxford Poetry*, UK, 2022
- "Ballet in the Cold" *Plume 10<sup>th</sup> Anthology*, 2022
- "Postcards from Abandoned Places" *Magma Poetry*, UK, 2021
- "Cotonou" *New Yorker*, 2021
- "Those Statues of Old" *Cincinnati Review*, 2021
- "Letters from Exile" *World Literature Today*, 2021
- "The World Demands from us Our Existence" *Transition Magazine*, 2021
- "On the Road to Paradise, From Darkness into Light, Offerings" *Poetry Review*, UK 2021
- "Wake-Keep" *Jalada Africa*, 2021
- "King Jaja" *Columbia Journal*, 2020
- "It Begins with Love" *Poetry London*, UK, 2020
- "Small Hearts of Animals, First Fruits, A Brief History of Becoming" *American Poetry Review*, 2020
- "Nadoba, A River Poem" *Michigan Quarterly Review*, 2020
- "Wishbone" *Chicago Quarterly Review*, 2020
- "The Beginning of Displacement" *Breakwater Review*, 2020
- "Before Your Mama Knew Us as Light" *Harvard Review*, 2019
- "To be Silent is to Say We are not Alive" *PEN Sweden*, 2017.
- "Exile" *McNeese Review*, 2019
- "My Tinder Date Speak of Fruits" *Bayou Magazine*, 2019
- "What the World Won't Tell Us" *Up the Staircase Quarterly*, 2019
- "Genesis, Sacrifice, A Reversed Epithalamium" *Duende*, 2019
- "After a Burning I Came Out to my Father" *Prairie Schooner*, 2019

- “Loneliness” 20.35 *Africa: An Anthology of Contemporary Poets Vol. 2, 2019*

## Nonfiction

- “A Deer from the Past; Except of a Memoir” *Brittle Paper*, 2019
- “Walking into My Fear: On *Orange is the New Black*, Immigrants, and Feeling Unwelcomed.” *Essence Magazine*, 2019.
- “Goodbye for this River, for Binyavanga Wainana” *PEN America*, 2019.
- “For Whom the Bells Toll” *Brittle Paper*, 2020
- “The Intersection of Freedom: A Walk Through Two Photographs” *Arrowsmith Press*, 2020.

## Books (in -progress)

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- Ouroboros (Poetry)
- The Photographer of Lagos (Nonfiction)

## Professional Organizations

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- Pen Nigeria
- Association of Nigerian Authors
- Association of Writers and Writing Programs

## Interview and Features

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- Radio Nigeria: A Community Engagement with the Shortlisted Poets for the Prize for Literature. October 9, 2022.
- Arise Television: A Conversation on Poetry. October 8, 2022.
- A Conversation with the Shortlisted Poets for the Nigerian Prize for Literature, Channels Television Book Club. October 7, 2022.
- Ibadan Books and Arts Festiva. Same Craft, New Path: A Conversation with the Nigerian Prize for Literature 2022 Shortlisted Poets, October 9, 2022.
- In “Nomad,” Romeo Oriogun Earnestly Converses with Time and History, *Olongo Africa*, September 20, 2022.
- In Search of Ferried Nomads in Oriogun’s Poetry, *The New Black Magazine*, September 16, 2022.
- The Sea Dreams of Us – On Life as a Poet in Exile from Nigeria, *The Common Podcast*, 2022

- How Romeo Oriogun Became a Defining Voice in African Poetry, *Open Country Magazine*, 2022.
- Where Does Poetry Fits? An Interview of the Longlisted Poets for the 2022 NLNG Nigeria Prize for Literature, *Olongo Africa*.
- Pink Club, On Being, 2021.
- On Queer Privilege and Music in Sacrament of Bodies, A Conversation with Logan February for YNaija, 2021.
- Sacrament of Bodies; Q & A with Romeo Oriogun, *Africa in Words*, 2021.
- Poetic Traditions in Metamorphosis: Romeo Oriogun Explores New African Poetry, Department of English, Duke University, 2019.
- The Weight of Exile in a Body, *Africa in Dialogue*, 2019.
- Q & A with Arrowsmith Press, 2019.
- The PEN Ten with Romeo Oriogun, 2018.
- Documenting the Beauty and Battles in Queer Bodies, An Interview with *Brittle Paper*, 2017.
- Interview with 2017 Brunel International African Poet Shortlisted Poets, Romeo Oriogun, *Geosi Reads*, 2017.
- Art is Not Snobbish, An Interview with Romeo Oriogun. *Gainsayer Magazine*, 2017.

## Poetry Readings

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- Sokoto Book Festival, Nigeria. November 5, 2022.
- RBC – Nigeria Prize for Literature Book Festival. September 18, 2022.
- CORA-NLNG Book Party, Lagos, Nigeria. August 8, 2022.
- African American Read -In, Penn State Altoona, February 14, 2022
- Scotland International Poetry Festival, A Showcase for Magma’s Obsidian Issue, March 13, 2022.
- Monday Monologues| Sacrament of Bodies, Readings by Romeo Oriogun, University Library, Iowa State University, March 21, 2022.
- Poetry Reading: Saddiq Dzukogi, thabile makue, Cheswayo Mphanza, & Romeo Oriogun. Woodland Pattern, April 14, 2022.
- Conjuring the Sacred: Poets of the Diaspora, A Reading and Conversation Hosted by the City Artists Corps Grant and the New York Foundation for the Arts, October 28, 2021.
- An Unamuno Author Series online at Desperate Literature, Madrid. May 16, 2021.
- Poetry Review’s 2021 Summer Launch with Richard Scot, Romeo Oriogun, Vicki Feaver, and Dean Browne. July 21, 2021.
- A Poetry Reading by Romeo Oriogun, Kansas State University, April 21, 2021.

- (Free!) Verse: A Reading & Roundtable of Queer Nigerian Poets, Purdue MFA, February 27, 2021.
- Reading and Signing: Debra Marquart & Romeo Oriogun, Beaverdale Bookshop, Des Moines, October 12, 2021.
- New Works: Blacqueer Debuts with Jubi Arriola-Headley, Taylor Johnson, and Romeo Oriogun. Cave Canem, December 10, 2020.
- Visiting Writer, Georgia College Department of English. September 23, 2020.
- University of Mississippi's John and Renee Grisham Visiting Writer's Spring Reading, April 8, 2019. Oxford, Mississippi
- Airstream Poetry Festival, An Evening of Poetry. October 26, 2019.
- National Poetry Month Celebration with January Gil O'Neil, Charles Coe, and Romeo Oriogun. Cambridge Public Library April 18, 2019.
- New African Poetry: A Reading by Romeo Oriogun, John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute at Duke University, February 28, 2019.
- 2019 PEN World Voices Festival: It Happened to Me, A Reading and Conversation with Romeo Oriogun, Scholastique Mukasonga, Grace Talusan, Paul Tran, Pajtim Statovci, Édouard Louis, and Shiori Ito. Hosted by Amana Fontanella-Khan.
- Colloquium with Romeo Oriogun, Baker Center, Harvard University. April 10, 2019.
- A Night of Poetry, Lagos International Poetry Festival. 2017.

## Conferences

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- AWP Conference 2022, Philadelphia.
- Goodbye Nigeria: The Construction of Queer Identities in the Nigerian Diaspora, a paper accepted for the 2020 Annual Conference of the African Literature Association.
- Walking into the Past with the Future: The Emergence of Young Nigerian Queer Writers, a paper presented at the 2019 Annual Conference of the African Literature Association, Spring 2019.