

## CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

**Wong Phui Nam** is a poet and playwright. His lifelong passion for poetry was nurtured by his time at Raffles College, Singapore (which later became the University of Malaya) in the 1950s. Most of his early poems appeared in the anthology *Bunga Emas* (1964). His first poetry collection, *How the Hills Are Distant*, was published by Tenggara in 1968. After a long hiatus, he published *Remembering Grandma and Other Poems* (1989), *Ways of Exile* (1993), *Against the Wilderness* (2000), *An Acre of Day's Glass: Collected Poems* (2006), and *The Hidden Papyrus of Hen-tau* (2013). His first play, *Anike*, was published and performed in 2006. A second play, *Aduni*, was published in *Asiatic* the same year.

**Chuah Guat Eng** is a Malaysian fiction writer. She read English Literature at University of Malaya Kuala Lumpur, German Literature at Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany, and she has a PhD from the National University of Malaysia. Her published works include two novels, *Echoes of Silence* (1994) and *Days of Change* (2010), and three collections of short stories, *Tales from the Baram River* (2001), *The Old House and Other Stories* (2008), and *Dream Stuff* (2014). *Echoes of Silence* has been translated into Italian and German. Some of the short stories have been translated into other languages, including Malay, Chinese, Slovene, and Spanish. Currently, while working on her third novel, she occasionally teaches subjects related to literature and creative writing at a local university.

**Kiriti Sengupta** has been awarded the 2018 Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for his contribution to literature. He has published eleven books of poetry and prose, two books of translation, and has edited seven anthologies. Sengupta is the chief editor of the *Ethos Literary Journal*. He lives in New Delhi. More at [www.kiritisengupta.com](http://www.kiritisengupta.com)

**Guna Moran** is an international poet. His poems are published in more than hundred international magazines, journals, webzines, blogs, newspapers, anthologies and have been translated into thirty languages around the world. He has three poetry books to his credit. He lives in Assam, India.

**Saffiyah Edo** is a freelance copy-editor and translator after 7 years as a Senior PR Executive. She also writes op-eds for the local media on various topics including politics, feminism and religion. While she waits for the courage to start her own literary work, she enjoys reading those of others, and derives great pleasure in translating them when the opportunity presents itself.

**Osahon Oka** is a Bini/Kwale poet. He enjoys reading, writing random poems and short stories, listening to music and watching pigeons and all kinds of birds through his window. His work can be found in different literary spaces including but not limited to *Lit Break Magazine*, *Feral Poetry Journal*, *Dust Poetry Magazine*, *Ice Floe Press*, *Down River Road Review*, *Jalada Africa*, *Malarkey Books*, etc. He lives alone in Benin City, Nigeria.

**Paul GnanaSelvam** is an Ipoh-born writer and poet whose work often focuses on the experiences, issues and identity conflicts of those in the Indian diaspora. Writing since 2006, he has published both locally and internationally in anthologies, literary journals and e-magazines. His first collection of short stories *Latha's Christmas & Other Stories* was published in 2013, while *The Elephant Trophy & Other Stories* was published by Penguin Random House SEA in 2021. He currently teaches while undertaking research at University Tunku Abdul Rahman in Kampar, West Malaysia.

**Aneek Chatterjee** is a poet and academic from Kolkata, India. He has been published in reputed literary magazines and anthologies across the globe. He authored 14 books including three poetry collections and a novel. His third poetry collection *of Ashes and Persiflage* (New Delhi and Kolkata, Hawakal) came out in November 2020. Chatterjee has a PhD in International Relations; and has been teaching in leading Indian and foreign universities. He was a Fulbright Visiting faculty at the University of Virginia, USA and a recipient of the prestigious ICCR Chair to teach abroad. His poetry has been archived at Yale University.

**Lawrence Pettener** is a father, husband, son, Liverpool-Irish writer and copy-editor. His poetry has reached journals, live audiences and the BBC since 1979, with nods from Ted Hughes, Philip Gross and others. An M.A. in Creative Writing followed (Bath Spa, UK), then two poetry publications (audio, print). Three collections presently await publication. He edits solo authors' works from his Subang Jaya office and provides individual poetry mentoring, group workshops and Poet in Resonance schemes. [www.facebook.com/lawrencepettenerwriter](http://www.facebook.com/lawrencepettenerwriter)

**Ismim Putera** (he/him) is the author of the poetry chapbook *Tide of Time* (Mug and Paper Publishing, 2021). His work can be found in the recent anthology *Tapestry of Colours: Stories from Asia* (2021) and many online journals.

**Víctor Rodríguez Núñez** (Havana, 1955) is one of Cuba's most outstanding and celebrated contemporary writers, with over fifty collections of his poetry published throughout the world. He has been the recipient of major awards all over the Spanish-speaking region, including, in 2015, the coveted Loewe Prize. His selected poems have been translated into Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Macedonian, Serbian, Swedish, and Vietnamese. He has been a riveting presence at the most important international literary festivals, having read in more than forty countries. In the last decade, his work has developed an enthusiastic readership in the US and the UK, where he has published seven book-length translations. He divides his time between Gambier, Ohio, where he is currently Professor of Spanish at Kenyon College, and Havana, Cuba. More information at: [www.victorrodrigueznuñez.com](http://www.victorrodrigueznuñez.com)

**Katherine M. Hedeem** is a translator, literary critic, and essayist. A specialist in Latin American poetry, she has translated some of the most respected voices from the region. Her publications include book-length collections by Jorgenrique Adoum, Juan Bañuelos, Juan Calzadilla, Juan Gelman, Fayad Jamís, Hugo Mujica, José Emilio Pacheco, Víctor Rodríguez Núñez, and Ida Vitale, among many others. Her work has been a finalist for both the Best Translated Book Award and the National Translation Award. She is a recipient of two NEA Translation grants in the US and a PEN Translates award in the UK. She is a Managing Editor for Action Books and the Poetry in Translation Editor at the *Kenyon Review*. She resides in Ohio, where she is Professor of Spanish at Kenyon College. More information at: [www.katherinemhedeem.com](http://www.katherinemhedeem.com)

**Leon Salam** is an emerging creative writer and performer of mixed Malaysian heritage (Chinese-Peranakan & Indian) based in Perth, Australia. His arts career began through WAYTCO's Devisers Club in 2019, after which he performed in *Body Rights* (WAYTCO) and participated in the inaugural Kolyang Artist Lab by Performing Lines WA in 2020. More recently, he completed the Performers program by Static Drive Co and is developing his first theatre work about Voluntary Assisted Dying in Western Australia.

**William Tham Wai Liang** is the author of two novels. His new novel, *The Last Days*, is set in 1981 and covers the continuing legacy of the Emergency. His first book will be republished as *Kings of Chinatown* in 2022. He has also edited *Paper & Text*, a collection of essays on Malaysian literature and the book trade.

**Viji Krishnamoorthy** was born in Ipoh in 1965 to a Hokkien Chinese mother and a Tamil father who were both in education. Her primary, secondary, and tertiary education were spent between Kuala Lumpur, Madras and London. She returned from the UK in 1988 with an Economics degree and started her working life. She has spent several years as a freelance writer for magazines including *Going Places*, *Marie Claire*, *Her World* and currently contributes to Mynd.Asia (digital magazine). She is co-editor of *The Lockdown Chronicles*, an anthology of 19 Malaysian voices and contributed a story too. Her debut novel, *912 Batu Road* was published in 2020.

**Bissme S** is a former journalist who loves writing short stories and hates giving a bio on his life. The last thing he wants is for his bio to overshadow his work.

**David Lightfoot** identifies as a writer with a disability (Cerebral Palsy), and chose a writing career while still in middle school. He studied creative writing through correspondence from the Stratford Career Institute, located in Eastern Canada; as well as with the Institute for Writers (formerly the Long Ridge Writers Group) headquartered in Connecticut, USA. In addition to self-publishing *Broken Family Portrait* (a novel on disability human rights) through McNally-Robinson (an independent Canadian bookseller), he has also been published in *Scarlet Leaf Review*, *Agape Review*

and *Northwest Indiana Literary Journal*, with fiction upcoming in an anthology entitled *Fusion: Together We Stand*, due to be released in October 2022. An advocate for educational literacy, David lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

**Umar Timol** is a Mauritian author and poet, who has published four collections of poetry and two novels and other miscellaneous articles in national and international journals. He contributed to numerous collective anthologies in Mauritius and abroad. His voice is regularly heard in the local media, where he contributes opinion pieces on current societal issues. His opinion pieces have also been published in *Jeune Afrique* and *Africa Report*. He is a founding member of *Point barre*, a Mauritian cross-disciplinary poetry journal that publishes poets from around the world.

**Otto Fong** wrote Singapore's first R(A)-rated Mandarin play "Another Tribe" in 1992. He wrote "Mr Beng" for the Singapore Arts Festival in 1999. "Herstory", written for the 2011 Arts Festival, was a tribute to his mother. Otto also created the bestselling science comic series called "Sir Fong's Adventures in Science", retitled as "Quantum Bunny" in China in 2018 and also became a tv series called "Totally Totto" in 2019. Otto was also a science teacher in Raffles Institution, and came out publicly in a blog which went viral internationally in 2007.

**Enakshi Samarawickrama** is currently pursuing a PhD in English at the University of Nottingham Malaysia. Her thesis is on the portrayal of female victimhood, villainy and agency as well as the femininities and masculinities in domestic noir novels.

**Shivani Sivagurunathan** teaches creative writing and English literature at the University of Nottingham, Malaysia. Her first book, *Wildlife on Coal Island*, was published by UPM Press in 2011 and republished by HarperCollins India in 2012. Her short stories and poems have been published in numerous international journals including *Cha: An Asian Literary Magazine*, *Agenda*, *Construction Literary Magazine* and many others. Her novel *Yalpanam* was published by Penguin Random House SEA in 2021.

**Alan Durant** is Professor of Communication in the School of Law. He applies a background in linguistics and cultural analysis to a range of legal fields and topics including: how language is used and interpreted in legal procedures and institutions; selected topics in media law; and questions in intellectual property on which further light may be thrown by close linguistic analysis. Previously, he was Professor and Head of the School of English, Cultural and Communication Studies, also at Middlesex (1993-1997). Before joining Middlesex, Alan's posts included Professor and Head of the Department of English at Goldsmiths' College, University of London (1990-1993) and Director of the Programme in Literary Linguistics, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow (1986-1990).

**KS Maniam** (1942 - 2020) was a prolific and critically-acclaimed Indian Malaysian literary scholar, novelist, essayist, poet, and playwright. He was the inaugural recipient of the Raja Rao Award in 2000: a recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Literature of the South Asian Diaspora. He published three novels: *The Return* (1981), *In A Far Country* (1993), and *Between Lives* (2003). His short stories have appeared in numerous anthologies and journals — and in five collections: *Plot, The Aborting, Parablames and Other Stories* (1989), *Arriving and Other Stories* (1995), *Haunting the Tiger* (1996), *faced out* (2004), *The Loved Flaw* (2006), and *A Stranger to Love* (2018). *Two Heartbeats Away* (2019), a compilation of poems, was his last publication.

**Daryl Lim Wei Jie** is a poet, editor, translator and literary critic from Singapore. His first book of poetry is *A Book of Changes* (2016). He is the co-editor of *Food Republic: A Singapore Literary Banquet* (2020), the first definitive anthology of literary food writing from Singapore. His latest collection of poetry is *Anything but Human* (2021). His poems won him the Golden Point Award in English Poetry in 2015, awarded by the National Arts Council, Singapore.

**Shirley Geok-lin Lim**'s first book *Crossing the Peninsula* received the Commonwealth Poetry Prize. Awarded the Multiethnic Literatures of the United States Lifetime Achievement Award and two American Book Awards, she's published ten poetry collections; three short story collections; two novels (*Joss and Gold* and *Sister Swing*).

**Edwin Thumboo**'s oeuvre of poetry and literary criticism has earned him widespread recognition as a pioneering figure in anglophone Singaporean literature and the nation's unofficial poet laureate. He has published three poetry collections – *Rib of Earth* (1956), *Ulysses by the Merlion* (1979) and *A Third Map* (1993) – and two anthologies: *The Best of Edwin Thumboo* (2012) and *A Gathering of Themes* (2018). He has won numerous awards and accolades, including the National Book Development Council of Singapore Book Award for Poetry, the S.E.A. Write Award, the Cultural Medallion for Literature, the ASEAN Cultural and Communication Award (Literature), and the Raja Rao Award. Since retiring from NUS (his alma mater and long-time employer) in 1997, Thumboo has held the position of emeritus professor.