

The OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature 2012

Eligibility and entry guidelines

The **OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature** is an annual award for literary books by Caribbean writers, first presented in 2011. Books are judged in three categories: **poetry, fiction** — both novels and collections of short stories; and **literary non-fiction** — including books of essays, biography and autobiography, history, current affairs, travel, and other genres, which demonstrate literary qualities and use literary techniques, regardless of subject matter. (*Note: textbooks, technical books, coffee-table books, specialist publications and reference works are not eligible.*)

There will be a panel of three judges for each category, who will determine category shortlists and winners.

The three category winners will then be judged by a panel of five judges — consisting of the chairs of the category panels and the prize chair and vice-chair — who will determine the overall winner.

• To be eligible for entry, a book must:

1. Have been first published in the calendar year 2011 (1 January to 31 December);
2. Have been written by a single author who is either a Caribbean citizen or was born in the Caribbean (this must be verified by the publisher), regardless of current place of residence;
3. Have been written by an author who is living on 31 December, 2011;
4. Have been written and first published in English originally (i.e. translations are not eligible);
5. Be a new work, previously unpublished in book form (though collections of poems, stories, essays, or other short pieces that have individually appeared in print in periodicals or anthologies *are* eligible).

See Appendix 1 for definitions of which territories constitute the Caribbean for the purposes of the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.

• Books must be entered by their publishers (though judges may call in further books at their discretion).

• There is no requirement for publishers of eligible books to be located in the Caribbean.

- Each publisher may enter a maximum of five books per category (poetry, fiction, non-fiction). A book may be entered in only one category. Publishers must get authors' consent for entry.
- Self-published books may be accepted at the discretion of the chairs of the judging panels. Authors of self-published titles should contact the prize administrators with details of their books *before* submitting them.
- There is an entry fee of US\$20 per title. We can accept company cheques, certified cheques, banker's drafts, or traveller's cheques made payable to Bocas Lit Fest. (No cash or postal orders.) Payment must accompany the books.
- Each title must be accompanied by a completed entry form.
- Publishers must provide five copies of each title entered, and agree to provide a further five copies of shortlisted titles.
- Each entry should be accompanied by a short biographical note on the author. Publishers must agree to provide digital photos of shortlisted authors.
- Books will be accepted for entry at the discretion of the chairs of the judging panels, who will determine questions of eligibility when necessary. Judges' decisions on eligibility are final.
- The 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature opens for entries on 16 September, 2011. Books published before 31 October, 2011, should be received by the judging panels by 11 November, 2011. Books published between 1 November and 31 December, 2011, must be received by 6 January, 2012. Books that arrive after the deadline dates will not be considered.
- Ineligible books will not be returned to publishers.
- Publishers must send books by courier to the Bocas Lit Fest office for dispatch to judges:

Bocas Lit Fest
Attn: OCM Bocas Prize
38 Coblenz Avenue
Cascade, Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago
Telephone: (868) 625 8328

However, if a publisher is located in the same country as one of the relevant judges, a copy of the relevant title may be sent directly to that judge. See the list of judges and their countries of residence in Appendix 2.

- The 2012 prize longlist will be announced on 12 February, 2012. The shortlist will be announced on 25 March, 2012. The overall winner will be announced on 28 April, 2012

- Publishers must agree that extracts from shortlisted books may be published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Express* (daily or Sunday edition), for purposes of promoting the winning titles. These extracts will appear twice weekly, starting on 1 April, 2012.

- Publishers should notify authors of titles entered for the prize that the three category winners may be invited to attend the award ceremony in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on 28 April, 2012, and/or to record a filmed interview.

- The prize administrators recommend that publishers use a reliable international courier to send entries, to ensure prompt delivery.

- For any queries about eligibility requirements or the submission process, please contact the prize administrators at:

info@bocaslitfest.com or patrice@bocaslitfest.com

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Entry form

Please refer to the eligibility and entry guidelines when completing this form. Each title entered for the prize must be accompanied by a printed and completed copy of this form.

Date: _____

Name of publisher: _____

Address of publisher: _____

Contact name and job title: _____

Contact email address: _____

Contact telephone numbers: _____

Title of book: _____

Category (choose one): poetry fiction non-fiction

Date of first publication: _____

Name of author: _____

Country of birth: _____

Country of current citizenship: _____

I confirm that I have read and will abide by the eligibility guidelines for the 2012 OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature.

I confirm that the above information is accurate.

I confirm that the entry fee of US\$20 per title is enclosed.

I confirm that, if this title is shortlisted, I will make additional copies available for publicity purposes at the Bocas Lit Fest 2012.

I agree to allow the OCM Bocas Prize administrators to disclose that this title has been entered for the 2012 competition, and for extracts of shortlisted titles to be published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Express* for promotional purposes.

Signature of contact at publisher: _____

Appendix 1

Definition of the Caribbean

For the purposes of the OCM Bocas Prize, the Caribbean is defined as including the following countries and territories:

Anguilla
Antigua and Barbuda
Aruba
The Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bermuda
Bonaire
British Virgin Islands
Cayman Islands
Cuba
Curaçao
Dominica
Dominican Republic
French Guiana
Grenada
Guadeloupe
Guyana
Haiti
Jamaica
Martinique
Montserrat
Puerto Rico
Saba
St Barthélemy
St Kitts and Nevis
St Lucia
St Martin/Sint Maarten
St Vincent and the Grenadines
Sint Eustatius
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Turks and Caicos
US Virgin Islands

NB: books entered for the OCM Bocas Prize must be originally written and published in English.

Appendix 2

2012 judges

George Lamming, Chair *Author*
Barbados

Marjorie Thorpe, Vice-Chair *Former academic and Commonwealth Writers' Prize judge*
Trinidad and Tobago

Poetry

Fred D'Aguiar, Chair *Author and academic*
Guyana; based in United States

Nicolette Bethel *Author and editor of tongues of the ocean*
Bahamas

Kendel Hippolyte *Author and theatre director*
St. Lucia

Non-fiction

Frank Birbalsingh, Chair *Academic*
Guyana; based in Canada

Erna Brodber *Author and academic*
Jamaica

Lise Winer *Academic*
Canada

Fiction

Ella Allfrey, Chair *Deputy editor of Granta*
United Kingdom

Rabindranath Maharaj *Author*
Trinidad and Tobago; based in Canada

Achy Obejas *Author and translator*
Cuba/United States; based in US

A publisher located in the same country as one of the relevant judges may send a copy of a relevant title directly to that judge. Please contact the prize administrators for judges' addresses as necessary:
info@bocaslitfest.com