

CB1 Poetry

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'Charged with passion, wit and sheer inventiveness' – New Internationalist

'Thrumming with energy and verve, she brings the stage to the page in her tight rhythms and adherence to rhyme' – Scotland on Sunday

'Agbabi is a fine poet, and her linguistic wit carries satirical fire' – The Telegraph

Patience Agbabi is renowned for her live performances, and her poems have been broadcast on television and radio all over the world. Her work has also appeared on the London Underground and human skin. She has lectured in Creative Writing at several UK universities, and in 2004 she was nominated one of the UK's Next Generation Poets. She recently published *Bloodshot Monochrome*, her third poetry collection. **Martin Figura**, a member of The Joy of Six poetry ensemble, is an engaging performer who has published two collections and won the 2006 Café Writers Poetry Prize. He is also a widely exhibited and published photographer. **Doors open 7:30pm, £5/£3**

Patience Agbabi Martin Figura

Tuesday 11 November 2008
Michaelhouse, Trinity Street, 8pm

www.cb1poetry.org.uk



Patience Agbabi

Patience Agbabi was born in London in 1965 and educated at Oxford and Sussex Universities. Renowned for her live performances, her poems have been broadcast on television and radio all over the world. Her work has also appeared on the London Underground and human skin. She has lectured in Creative Writing at several UK universities including Greenwich, Cardiff and Kent. In 2004 she was nominated one of the UK's Next Generation Poets. Her new book, *Bloodshot Monochrome* is her third poetry collection. She lives in Kent with her partner and two children.

"Still as hard-hitting on contemporary themes of race, sex and identity as she was when she published her first collection . . . combines the mastery of the tools of her poetic trade with contemporary and very personal themes . . . Her words are crisp, clear and beautiful to read." – *Sunday Business Post*

IN INVISIBLE INK

Imagine the tip of my tongue's a full
Needle and your back's my canvas.
I'll tattoo you a secret if you promise
Never to read it aloud, break the spell
Vibrating in its delicate, intimate Braille.
It'll remain laced in your skin. Even fierce
Sunlight won't betray my lemon juice.
In less than a fortnight the scar will heal
But we'll have words, you'll set fire to my love
Letter by letter and I'll imagine somebody
Else, touch-typing the keyboard of your spine,
Imagine our secret smouldering skin and bone.
No. Don't say a word. My blind eye
Knows how to head my tongue, how to forgive.

(from *Bloodshot Monochrome*, Canongate, 2008).



Martin Figura

Martin Figura was born in Liverpool in 1956. He left school at 15 to join the Army. 25 years later, as a Major, he left to become a photographer. His work has been widely published and exhibited, including at the National Portrait Gallery. His book *This Man's Army* was published in 1998 with a foreword by Billy Bragg.

He is a member of The Joy of Six poetry ensemble which has played at festivals across England & Wales, and in New York. His own first collection *The Little Book of Harm* (Firewater Press) was published in 2000 with three subsequent reprints. *Ahem* (Eggbox Publishing) followed in 2005. He won the Café Writers Poetry Prize in 2006 and completed an MA (with distinction) in Writing The Visual at Norwich School of Art and Design in 2007. He has recently completed his third collection *Whistle*.