Simon Tay is a writer and public intellectual whose works span literary, academic and public spheres and revolve around themes of culture, society and politics. He has written or edited five books on international issues including Asia Alone, which had been published worldwide by John Wiley in 2010.

City of Small Blessings is his first novel but he has four preceding literary works of stories and poems. Two of these were highly commended by the NBDCS for poetry (“5” in 1985) and fiction (“Stand Alone” in 1992).

Tay has read at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Writers festival in Singapore as well in the USA and Australia. He has been a Fellow at the Iowa Writers Workshop in the USA in 1989 and 1990. In 1995, soon after Alien Asian was published, he was named a Young Artist of the Year by the NAC. He has collaborated with film makers, painters and dance choreographers. His work has been studied academically in universities and a number of literary studies.

A director of the Ministry and once premier school principal sells his family home and migrates. He joins his son who was sent abroad because he had failed to qualify for university in Singapore. Then the retiree relents, and returns to live in a rented house deep in a historic, unchanged fringe of Singapore. There, he feels secure in his past and present. He and his neighbours suddenly face eviction. The man is saddened. He strategise, he appeals to men of authority, he regrets, he cycles, he discovers!

Simon Tay’s City of Small Blessings is layered and introspective. Telling much more than what first meets the eye, it is a story that exposes the underpinnings of Singapore.
Toh Hsien Min has published three collections of poetry, *Iambus* (Singapore, 1994), *The Enclosure of Love* (Singapore, 2001) and *Means To An End* (Singapore, 2008). His work has also been published in periodicals such as *Acumen*, *Atlanta Review*, *London Magazine*, *the London Review of Books*, *Poetry Ireland Review* and *Poetry Salzburg Review*, as well as anthologies such as the *W.W. Norton Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia, and Beyond*, *Oxford-Cambridge May Anthologies*, *No Other City* and *Over There: Poems from Singapore and Australia*.

He has been invited to international literary festivals such as the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the Ars Interpres Poetry Festival in Sweden, the Festival franco-anglais de poésie in France and Australia, and the Queensland Poetry Festival. His work has been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish and Malay.

Hsien Min is the founding editor of the *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore* (www.qlrss.com), the leading literary journal in Singapore.

“The lyrical voice implicit in the narrative poetry of Toh Hsien Min is that of the modern city state’s Everyman. The familiar and estranged go hand in hand with what is merely seemingly insignificant in this series of finely tuned philosophical observations, while gently mapping out the emotional geographies of modern life on each page. Reminiscent sometimes of Philip Levine or Billy Collins, Toh Hsien Min’s new collection of poetry, brings yet another proof to what is already certain: the continually strong stand of contemporary Singaporean poetry”.

- Henrik C. Enbohm, Sweden
Wena Poon’s first UK-published novel *Alex y Robert* was made by the BBC into a 10 episode Radio 4 series broadcast worldwide.

She is a two-time nominee for the Irish Frank O’Connor Award and the Singapore Literature Prize, for *Lions In Winter* in 2008 and *The Proper Care of Foxes* in 2010. In England, she won the Willesden Herald Short Story Prize and was shortlisted for the Bridport Prize in Poetry.

Her sci-fi series *The Biophilia Omnibus* was voted Best Book Gift of the Year by CNN Singapore.

Wena Poon was born to a large family of Teochews and grew up in Toa Payoh. She attended Nanyang Primary and Raffles Girls, then Harvard University and Harvard Law. When she was growing up in Singapore, she wanted to see the world and write home about it. She is still doing that, one book at a time.
Chia Joo Ming was born in 1959 in Singapore. In 1993, he was presented with the “Young Artist” award for Literature by the National Arts Council. He was also invited to participate in the International Writing Project in 1995.

His novel "Return" (1999) was made into a television drama serial while his short stories compilation "A New Language" won the 1996 Singapore Book Prize. In 2006, his compilation "Reconstructing Nanyang" clinched the Singapore Literature Prize. In 2008 and 2009, he published two books, "Chia Joo Ming's Short Stories" and "m40".

m40 is the sixth work of Chia Joo Ming, which also includes a medium-length novel of the same title written over eight years.

m40 is an abbreviation for "Man in His Forties". The protagonist, a forty-year-old career man trapped in the stifling space of urban living, is entangled in a host of work- and family-related problems. In particular, the novel strikes a chord with middle-aged men confounded by the constraints of life.

《m40》是谢裕民的第六部作品，收录同名中篇小说，是作者以八年的时间完成的力作。

《m40》是“男人四十”的缩语。小说描述四十岁的主角，事业、家庭、个人被压缩并卡在一截狭小的空间里，进退失据，让陷入生活重围的中年男子都能起共鸣。
Born in Singapore in 1965, Gabriel Wu is an academician, poet and fiction writer. Specialised in modern and contemporary Chinese literature, Dr. Wu taught for a few years in NUS and is now assistant professor at the City University of Hong Kong.

He is the editor of the book Contemporary Literature and Humanist Ecology (Taipei, 2003). In Chinese creative writing, Dr. Wu has published three collections of poems - Tender Heart (Singapore, 1988), When Loneliness Becomes A Storm (Taipei, 1995) and A Half-Existence (Taipei, 2008), as well as two collections of short stories and micro-fiction - Delicacy (Singapore, 1990) and Cold As Fire (Hong Kong, 2002). He also won important awards including first runner up in the 1986 National Short Story Competition, first prize in the 1994 ASEAN Youth Literary Award and the 1998 Young Artist Award (in literature).

A Half-Existence comprises poems composed between 1995 and 2007, most of which were published in foreign and local literary magazines and newspapers including the Epoch (Taiwan), Hong Kong Literature (Hong Kong), Sin Chew Daily (Malaysia) and Lianhe Zaobao (Singapore). As always, Gabriel Wu deviates from the mainstream writing with a poetic style of his own.

A Half-Existence is intensely lyrical yet simultaneously calm in contemplating the shape and meaning of being. Couched in a poetic language that demands patient reading, the poems question what is believed to be inevitable or contingent in daily routine and human relation. By unveiling the reality of logic and absurdity of life as one inseparable unity, the poet has not only achieved new height of his poetic career, but also added substantial depth to Singapore Chinese poetry.


《半存在》收录吴耀宗自1995至2007年十二年间创作的新诗。这些新诗曾经发表于国内外重要报章杂志，如台湾《创世纪》诗杂志、香港《香港文学》、马来西亚《星洲日报》及新加坡《联合早报》。一如既往，吴耀宗偏离主流书写的路线，自呈独特不二的诗歌风格。《半存在》以强烈渗透的抒情音韵，以体悟观照存在的状态和意义笔锋，透过考验阅读的诗语言，深层思索和叩问日常规律与人际关系中种种的必然与偶然，揭示生命以荒诞和逻辑互为血肉不可分割的本真，不仅达到吴耀宗诗歌创作的新亮点，也把新华诗歌引向更为丰富深邃的境界。
Wang Wenxian is the elected Secretary of the Singapore Writers Association, appointed Writer of MOE Author-in-Residence Programme and an associate of the Beijing College of Liberal Arts Writer.

A Chinese language teacher, Wang Wenxian knows Singapore students well and has conceived suitable works for Singapore students. Her works are widely published in Lianhe Zaobao, Shinmin Daily, Lianhe Wanbao, Singapore Chinese Literature and various literary publications in China.

This book, comprising 29 short stories, covers a Singapore secondary school student's life, including his studies, friendships, overseas volunteer stint, as well as other activities.

The short stories also illustrate moral and traditional values. Readers will appreciate the beauty of the Chinese language and learn new words, thus helping them to improve their mother tongue.

Wang Wenxian is a Chinese language teacher who is well-known for her suitability for Singapore students. Her works are published in various media such as Lianhe Zaobao, Shinmin Daily, Lianhe Wanbao, Singapore Chinese Literature, and various literary publications in China.

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This book is a collection of 29 short stories tailored for secondary school students in Singapore. It covers various aspects of their lives such as studies, friendships, overseas volunteer work, and other activities. The stories also illustrate moral and traditional values. Readers are expected to appreciate the beauty of the Chinese language and learn new words, thereby improving their mother tongue.
Dr. Wong Meng Voon specialises in fictional writing and has published 11 volumes of short stories and mini-novels. He has also published 40 collections of essays, academic research works and compiled/edited several anthologies including "The History of Singapore Chinese Literature" (2002) which is the first and only "literary history" publication in Singapore.

Dr Wong was awarded the Singapore Cultural Medallion (Literature) by the then Ministry of Culture and South East Asia Write Award in 1981, the Prose Prize by the Beijing Radio in 1994 and the same title by the Chinese national magazine "Chinese Talents" in 1996. In 2008, he was awarded the "Life-long Achievements on Mini-stories" jointly by the World Chinese Mini-fiction Research Association, China's Mini-fiction Association and "Shanghai Literary Publisher".

This book is a compilation of Dr Wong Meng Voon’s mini-novels written from 1980 to 2008. The stories reflect aspects of Singapore’s society during this period, as well as those of ASEAN and others countries. The author presents a variety of writing skills, using realism, Latin America magic realism, western humour, eastern fables and lots of strange and wonderful imaginations.

黄孟文擅长于创作与研究小说, 已出版的小说集有: 《再见惠兰的时候》、《我要活下去》、《昨日的闪现》 (英文版, 获新加坡全国书籍发展理事会翻译奖, 后来还被译成菲律宾文出版)、《安乐窝》、《学府夏冬》、《黄孟文微型小说选评》、《黄孟文微型小说自选集》、《新华文学·世华文学: 评论与史料选集》、《新华文学评论集》、《微型小说微型论》等。此外, 他还出版了散文集《朝阳从我身边掠过》、《啊! 东方城市》、学术著作如《宋代白话小说研究》、《新加坡华文文学史初稿》（首部新加坡文学史, 联合主编）等多种。

Ng Wai Choy, a Singaporean born in 1951, received bilingual education and has written over 20 books including “From My Mother Earth” which won him the National Book Prize, and a travelogue “My Knapsack on My Back”. All anthologies were endorsed by MOE as supplementary reading materials for secondary school students. Essay “Mother & I” won him a Special Jury Prize at the first Singapore Golden Lion Literary Award.

After exploring the South Pole in 1997, he embarked on a study trip to Beijing Film Academy to pursue a specialist diploma in film-making.

Upon his return to Singapore in 1999, he focused his energy on stage performances. His latest productions, which he directed and scripted, include “Friendly Corner”, “I Love Piggy”, “Silent Dear”, “Birdcage” (Mandarin), “Same Time Next Year” and an adaptation of Japanese classic drama “Rashomon”.

"The Gift of Love” is one of my reflective novels in the trilogy Love Series. By sharing some of my mystical, intriguing and at times surprising stories, I have illustrated my revelation of love and life. I sincerely believe there is love despite the poor demonstration of kindness, compassion and tolerance. By writing these stories, I hope to rekindle my hope for mankind”.

- Ng Wai Choy

“《爱的礼物》是我的感悟小说‘爱的系列’其中一本。全套有三本，都是透过一些境界迷离、耐人寻味或出人意料的故事，来阐述爱与人生感悟。我喜欢人间有爱，也一直相信人间有爱。其实在如今现实里，最欠缺的就是善良、慈悲与一份宽容。写这样的故事，或许就是我对这人世仍抱有的憧憬”。

- 吴韦材
Manaf Hamzah has published novels for both adults and children. His adult novels include Dedaun Hijau Di Angin Lalu (1987, translated into Indonesian in 2009), Aylana and Sekeras Waja, Selembut Sutera (2005) and Dalam Kehangatan Dakapan Senja (2009).


In 2007, Manaf Hamzah won the Hadiah Sastera Novel Anugerah Persuratan for Aylana.

Amelia Harun is in dilemma. Her wedding is cancelled by her fiancée at last minute. However, the wedding will still carry on with a different groom, a man full of mystery, Karim Iskandar. At the same time, she wants to be with a Chinese man, Kenneth Chng. She is trapped...

Her life is in turmoil when she encountered secrets and mysteries that surrounded the people she trusted and loved.


Malahan, kehidupan Amelia menjadi lebih tidak menentu apabila berhadapan dengan rahsia dan misteri orang-orang yang dikenali dan disayangi. Sesungguhnya, apabila semua jawapan terhurai, cukup menggegarkan jiwa raga Amelia...
Jaka Budi began writing in 1990. His first book of poems *Di Perhentian Ini...Hijrahkanlah Diri* was published in 2008. Many of his poems were published in the Berita Harian and Berita Minggu.

Since 2003, his voice can be heard over the air on Radio Warna 94.2FM, where he read his poems in a poetry programme.

He is still actively writing and has produced more than 200 poems, quotable quotes and several short stories.

Di *Perhentian Ini...Hijrahkanlah Diri* is the compilations of 77 poems written by Jaka Budi. Since his first poem that was published in Berita Minggu in 1996, “Insaflah Insan”, Jaka Budi managed to write productively and thus this anthology was born.

In this anthology, Jaka Budi highlighted the themes that are relevant to today’s society such as social problems, women and religious imagery. Writer Rohman Munasip says in the introduction, “Attention, views and concerns of the poet to the things that happen around him is a first step that will bring Jaka Budi to the wider literary world”.


Sejak tahun 2003, suara beliau berkumandang di udara Radio Warna 94.2FM dengan mendeklamasikan puisi-puisinya dalam rancangan yang dikelolakan oleh juruhebah bertugas.

Hingga kini, beliau masih aktif menulis dan telah menghasilkan lebih dari 200 kuntum puisi, mutiara kata, madah-madah dan beberapa buah cerpen.


Kumpulan sajak ini mempamerkan sajak-sajak Jaka Budi yang mengetengahkan tema-tema yang relevan dengan masyarakat hari ini seperti gejala sosial, citra wanita dan tentang keagamaan. Seperti kata penulis Rohman Munasip dalam pengantar buku, “Perhatian, pandangan dan keperihatinan penyair kepada perkara-perkara yang terjadi di sekelilingnya menjadi langkah pertama yang akan membawa Jaka Budi ke dunia persuratan yang lebih luas”.

**Author:** Azni Ismail (Jaka Budi)

**Title:** *Di Perhentian Ini...Hijrahkanlah Diri*
Johar Buang has written in several genres since the early 1980s but is reputed as a poet in the Malay Archipelago. Many of his literary works were printed in various publications, anthologies of poetry and short stories in Singapore as well as overseas. His creative writings have been translated into English, Mandarin and Russian.

Johar Buang has won several awards such as Literature Prize (Malay Language Council Singapore), Golden Point Award (National Arts Council), Book Award (National Book Development Council of Singapore) and Recipients of South East Asia Write Award 2010. Among his poetry books that had been published Cahaya Di Negeri Ini (2005), Perahu Melayu Di Lautan Khulzum (2006), Sampai Di Singgahsana Cinta (2009), TUMASIK Contemporary Writing from Singapore (2009), Fifty On 50 (2009) and WORDS: Poems Singapore And Beyond (2010).


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Sampai Di Singgahsana Cinta contains profoundly meaningful poems that were penned over a period of more than three decades by Johar Buang, a suffistic poet. This anthology of poetry takes readers on a journey into the very heart of man with a uniquely different approach to the theme of love that is great and universal.

Johar’s poems reflected man’s challenging life in relation to the Creator and how that divine connection serves as a stronghold for man to search for values, the truth and peace. Johar’s poems displayed strength in the use of words and phrases that were carefully selected to give a fresh meaning which had significantly contributed to a new trend and form in the realm of poetry writing in Singapore.

Sajak-sajak yang terhimpun dalam Sampai Di Singgahsana Cinta merupakan lanjutan pengaryaan Johar Buang selama lebih tiga dekad yang cukup bermakna sebagai penyair sufistik. Antologi sajak ini juga memperlihatkan keunikan dalam usahanya mengharungi lautan kalbu insan dengan mengangkat tema cinta yang bersifat agung dan universal.

Karyanya mencerminkan pengolahan kehidupan manusia yang berhubungan dengan Maha Pencipta alam ini sebagai dasar terkuat dalam memberi nilai, penghayatan kerohanian, cermin kebenaran serta kebangkitan kehidupan manusia dari aspek lahir dan batin dalam menemukan erti kedamaian di alam sejagat. Terdapat pada sajak-sajak Johar kekuatan bahasa, malah pemilihan kata-kata atau kalimat-kalimat yang diberikan makna baru yang segar dan langsung membawa aliran dan bentuk baru dalam persajakan tanah air.
Noor Hasnah has been seriously writing poetry and short stories since 1998 when she joined National Institute of Education – Townsville campus. She has received literature awards: Anugerah Sastera Cerpen – Remaja in 2001, Anugerah Sastera Penghargaan (Cerpen) 2003, Anugerah Sastera Buku Cerpen in 2009. In 2009, she was awarded ‘Penulis Harapan’ (Promising Writer) by Anugerah Persuratan, Majlis Bahasa Singapura.

She has just finished writing a novel based on the story of Moliano Lovehunter, a well-known Singaporean Malay musician. As a freelance writer and illustrator, she also writes and draws for magazines and newspapers Berita Harian and Berita Minggu.


Kelarai is a collection of short stories and contains a variety of themes about suffering and pain in life. From stories about the treacherous and questionable leadership, about the struggle that does not meet its end, the question of wastage of public funds and others.

Some short stories in Kelarai were the winning pieces of the Malay Literature Prizes and Golden Point Award. Kelarai was also the winning book of short stories for the Malay Literature Prize in 2009.

Kelarai mengandungi tema yang pelbagai tentang sekitar kehidupan yang kejang dan sakit. Daripada soal kepimpinan yang curang dan tidak telus, soal perjuangan yang tidak menemui hujungnya, soal pembaziran yang menihilkan dana rakyat dan lain-lain.

Yazid Bin Hussein has written several creative works, such as drama scripts, poems, essay on Malay literature and short stories that were published in Berita Harian and Berita Minggu.

He has won several literary prizes for his creative writing, notably the SPH-NAC Golden Point Award for Malay Short Stories (2009) and Anugerah Persuratan Melayu Singapura (2009). Currently, he is a participant of Mentor Access Programme organised by NAC and a participant in ASAS ‘50 International Residency Programme.


Satu Macam Penyakit contains 15 short-stories. It provides vivid accounts of issues, incidents and hopes that would shake the reader’s mind and ponder on the need for the search of a better life through love and concerns.

The language used is very aesthetic, in tune with the author’s image as an observer, writer, critic, counsellor, human and teacher. The messages are clear, concise and full of values that are much needed today. The book is rich with the image of human, flora and fauna as a form of satire towards the folly of human beings and their social-history. The writer has adopted and used new approaches in creative writing with great success.

Satu Macam Penyakit memuatkan 15 buah cerpen yang banyak menggunakan teknik satira, pencerminan diri dan menilai diri serta sarat dengan unsur-unsur simbolisme yang mengundang banyak interpretasi apabila selesai dihayati.

Jayanthi Sankar has been writing since 1995. She has been contributing to Tamil magazines both in India and many other countries like the US, Sri Lanka, Switzerland and Malaysia. Her fictional writings, with Singapore back-drop, are well known to deal with local issues.

She has authored 20 books which include 6 short story collections, 4 novels and one novelette collection. Her short story collection 'Pin Seat' was shortlisted for Singapore Literature Prize (2008). She has won many prizes and awards including Thisal Ettum Literary Award (2009), Ilakkiya Sindanai (2008), Thiruppoor Arima Sakthi Award (2006, for one of her short story collections) and Thiruppoor Arima Sakthi Award (2008, for one of her novels).

Jayanthi Sankar's Migration is a collection of short stories that are purely Singaporean in nature. She excels in highlighting various issues such as livelihood, wealth, marriage, studies, seeking a job, making money to provide a better life for the family and so forth.

The characters of a maid, a foreign worker, a Singaporean youth going abroad to study and not forgetting the little boy who is stranded because of his parents' marital problems. Her choice of themes and contents are remarkably outstanding. Intricate emotions, interesting incidents and capturing dialogues are all so well knit in a simple language resulting in an out-standing contemporary style of narration.

SINGAPORE LITERATURE PRIZE 2010
Tamil Category

Shortlist

Author: Jayanthi Sankar
Title: Migration
Murugathasan has churned 13 books, the first being “Kavadi Sinthu”. The latest of his 13th book is “Neerum Neruppum”. He has been honoured by several organisations for his literary works. The first among them would be the “Paathendral” (1976) by Sithanantha Adigal of Singapur Tamizhar Iyakkam. This was followed by the “Villisai Venthar” (1993) by the Tamizhavel Nadaga Mandram for his “Villuppaattu” performance.

The prestigious literary award was presented to him by The Centre of Arts along with Mont Blanc in the year 1998. The latest award he received is the Karigaal Sozhan award, a prestigious award given to Tamil writers from all over the world in recognition to the contribution made to Tamil Language and Literature, in Tamil Nadu in 2009.

Sangamam is a tale about a poor poet who came to Singapore from India to earn a living. Set in the early days of Singapore, Sangamam illustrates the difficulties he faced, the ups and downs and the happenings around him, the impact of others had in his own life and in the lives of those closed to him. And this had been presented in a very simple and easy to understand poetic form. Along with it, the author had also incorporated the historical moments of our nation, as it emerged as an independent nation.

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Author: Murgathasan
Title: Sangamam

SINGAPORE LITERATURE PRIZE 2010
Tamil Category
Shortlist

Author: Murgathasan
Title: Sangamam
Pichinikkadu Elango is a regular writer of Tamil Murasu and also a speaker of OLI 96.8. He has published eight books on poetry collection, one poetry drama and three books on prose which includes Editorial of Singai Chudar. He has written two dramas and both was staged by Ravindran Drama Group. Out of which one is the famous "Animal Farm" written by George Orwell, translated into Tamil Drama by him.

His articles were published in almost all leading Magazines like KUMUDAM, JUNIOR VIKADAN in India and also in internet magazines. He presided and participated in nationwide poetry recitations and actively involved in literary activities.

Naanum Naanum is very unique from my other poetry collections. I tried to follow the Principle of "Brevity is the Soul of Wit" for this collection. It is very simple as well as modern in style but deep in meaning and understanding. The urge of understanding of oneself and the society is the bottom line of this poetry. Different thoughts in different way of expression are being followed. Satirical criticism is there, but deep to swallow. To put it in a nutshell it differs in content, style and expression with deep vision.

Author: Marimuthu Arumugam Elango
(Pichinikkadu Elango)
Title: Naanum Naanum
Masilamani Anbalagan has written 16 books on poetry, essays, and stories. Out of which two were translated into English. Some of his books are used as academic text books in some universities in Tamil Nadu. The World’s Poet Organisation granted him a title as “kavimaamani”. As all his creative writings are different, he is called “Puthumaithenee” by the local Literary Tamilians.

The story emphasised on how he had obtained his employment pass, arrived in Singapore and started working to earn his living here. In a later stage, he started his own business with his savings. He desired to implement the same back in his native place, but he failed to accomplish his desire due to ethnicity and politics discrimination and came back to Singapore. This is a guideline for new comers, based on his experiences in Singapore.