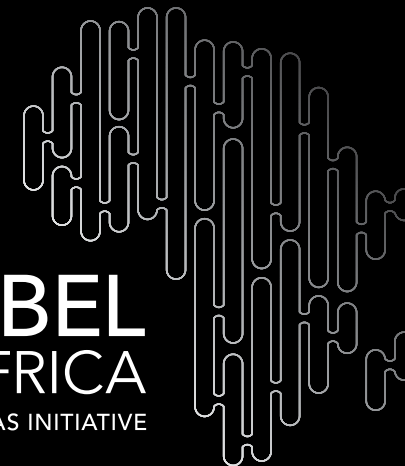


Located Imaginaries: A creative writing masterclass

Wednesday, 5 November 2025 | 10:00 – 14:00
Room 3008, GG Cillie Building, Stellenbosch University

NOBEL
IN AFRICA
A STIAS INITIATIVE



Dinaw Mengestu is the author of four novels, *Someone Like Us* (Knopf 2024), *All Our Names* (Knopf, 2014), *How To Read the Air* (Riverhead, 2010), and *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears* (Riverhead, 2007), all New York Times Notable Books. Mengestu is also a freelance journalist who has reported about life in Darfur, northern Uganda, and eastern Congo. His articles and fiction have appeared in numerous publications, including the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, *Granta*, and *Rolling Stone*. He is a 2012 MacArthur Fellow and recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Lannan Fellowship for Fiction, National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Award, *Guardian* First Book Award, and *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize, among other honours. He was also included in *The New Yorker's* "20 under 40" list in 2010. His work has been translated into more than fifteen languages. He holds a BA from Georgetown University and an MFA from Columbia University. He is the director of the Written Arts Program at Bard College and the director of the Center for Ethics and Writing.



Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor is a Kenyan writer celebrated for her lush, poetic prose and world-summoning imagination. She won the 2003 Caine Prize for her novella *The Weight of Whispers* and is the author of the acclaimed novels *Dust* and *The Dragonfly Sea*, both of which explore the entanglement of history, identity, and belonging in African and global contexts. A former executive director of the Zanzibar International Film Festival, Yvonne has been a TED speaker and a cultural provocateur whose keynotes and essays challenge perceptions of Africa's place in the world. Her work spans literature, film, and environmental storytelling, and she continues to nurture emerging voices through writing workshops and "Writing Rooms" across East Africa. She is currently finalising work on her forthcoming novel, *Nocturne*.



Chris Abani is a novelist and poet. With over 11 books to his name, his most recent is *Smoking the Bible* (Copper Canyon, 2022). He is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the PEN/Hemingway Award, an Edgar Prize, a Ford USA Artists Fellowship, the PEN Beyond the Margins Award, UNT Rilke Prize, a Prince Claus Award, the Hurston Wright Legacy Award, and a Lannan Literary Fellowship, among many honours. Born in Nigeria, he is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a Board of Trustees Professor of English at Northwestern University, where he directs the Program of African Studies.



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