

## discussion on the postcolonial context in belgium



**Gia Abrassart** is an independent journalist and has developed the cultural website Café Congo ([www.cafecongo.be](http://www.cafecongo.be)), that bears witness to the Congolese artistic vitality and invites to (re)consider current Belgo-Congolese relations. She is active in Warrior Poets, a Brussels based collective who aims to create safe spaces to share poetry, spoken word, music and healing discussions. Its main focus is to decolonize knowledge and raise intersectional consciousness. Together with researcher Sarah Demart, Abrassart has coordinated the publication 'Créer en postcolonie 2010-2015. Voix et dissidences belgo-congolaises' (Ed. BOZAR, Africalia, 2016).

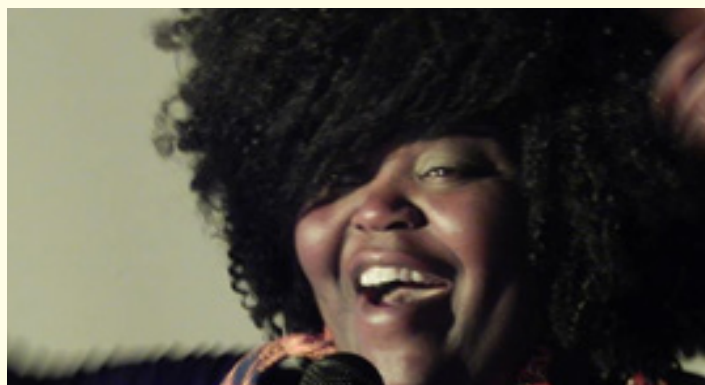


**Heleen Debeuckelaere** is a writer and historian from Brussels. She has written in the past about exoticism in the Belgian cultural world, colonial memory and afro-identity in Europe.

## slam poetry performances selected by warrior poets



Since childhood, **LINDAH** has always been fascinated by storytelling and mythology. Her parents would narrate Zambian folkloric tales. This led her to study ancient Greek and Latin in secondary school which is where her passion for literature and poetry was nurtured and stimulated. Linda has been working as a spokesperson for the non-profit arts organisation De Wolven van La Mancha based in Ghent. Linda already recorded, hosted and edited several shows for their weekly radio program on Urgent.fm, calling her episodes 'Wolvinnen van La Mancha' as she focuses mainly on female poets and artists. Themes that Linda frequently addresses in her shows include gender and race discrimination and freedom from political, religious, cultural and sexual oppression. These themes are often the subject of her spoken word and slam poetry performances. She has been performing as a spoken word artist in English, Dutch and



**LAHYA** (Stefanie-Lahya Aukongo) is an author, poet, photographer, activist, workshop-leader and singer. She traced her Namibian Owambo roots in her best-selling autobiography "Kalungas Kind" (2009). Lahya's poems are available in diverse poetry collections and her own bundle called "United Colours of Seelenkollaps". She curates the monthly event series "One World Poetry Night" in Berlin. In Lahya lives a Black person, affected by society's disabilities, post memory, trauma and love. She's carried by a complex amount of emotions, being a neurodiverse, queer, fat, multiple surviving academic and performance artist with a German passport and a big heart. Self-love and empowerment, as well as knowing her own identities are the foundations of her artistic and activist work. Lahya loves emotive and bodily embracings, turquoise and warm strawberry ice cream.