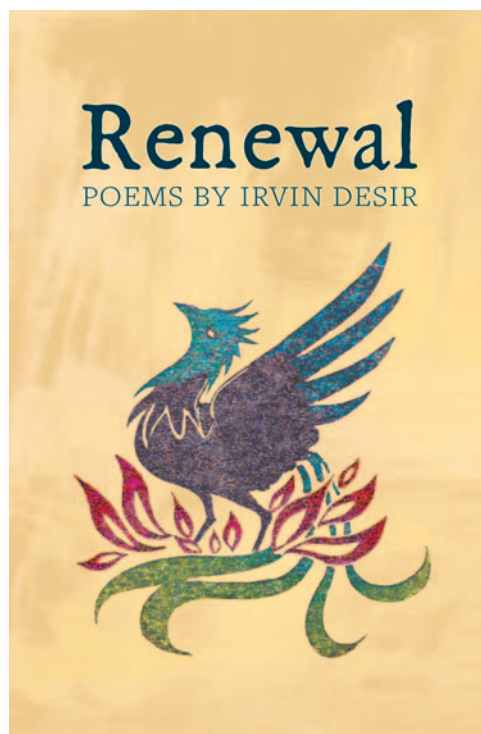


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PRESS RELEASE



Renewal

Poems by Irvin Desir

Introduction by Vladimir Lucien

“Renewal is poetry of rare gifts. It unfurls as hymn and closes as folklore, both personal and transcendent. Desir’s diamantine lines, marked with the sensual largesse of nature and the surreal, extend the poetry of a Saint Lucia belonging at once to no one and everyone, one ‘of shades and shadows’.”

CANISIA LUBRIN, POET AND WINNER OF THE CAROL SHIELDS AWARD FOR FICTION, 2025, FOR *CODE NOIR*

“Bringing Irvin Desir’s poetry back into light is like revealing a hidden gem that never knew its own brilliance. This edition is a great service to Saint Lucian literary history.”

ALISON DONNELL, AUTHOR OF *LOST AND FOUND: AN A-Z OF NEGLECTED WRITERS OF THE ANGLOPHONE CARIBBEAN*

Much admired by Nobel laureate Derek Walcott, the poetry of the Saint Lucian poet Irvin Desir is published here for the first time. Appearing in only a few anthologies during his life, this posthumous collection at last brings to our attention a voice too long unknown.

Irvin Desir was born in Saint Lucia in 1954, the fourth of five children. He was educated at the island’s St Mary’s College. He lived most of life on his home island apart from time spent in Martinique and Barbados. He died in Castries, Saint Lucia, in 2024.

In his introduction to this collection, fellow Saint Lucian poet Vladimir Lucien says: “There is something poignant, real and bracing about such a publication. Its humanity is in the very unfinishedness of such a posthumous putting together of work of one who had virtually disappeared.... We cannot but worship at the altar of a line such as: ‘You filled this cluttered room/like a handful of clove’.”

His niece Laurena Primus has commented that “Irvin’s singular voice and vision will live on, offering readers the chance to engage with the profound, unconventional, and unflinching truths that shaped his work.”

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