

[http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quito\\_Nicolaas](http://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quito_Nicolaas)

### *Quito Nicolaas on Wikipedia*

He was born in his parents' House on the Bernhardstraat in San Nicolas. At home they had a Bruynzeel bookcase, with a twelve-volume encyclopedia, novels and biographies of Indira Gandhi and Moshe Dayan, who invited him to read. At a young age he loved philosophizing and immersed himself in philosophy and psychology. At his weekly visit to the library in San Nicolas, he slipped to the section for adults and he borrowed psychology-books while he still was fourteen.

He was twelve years old when he wrote his first poems on the theme of love and being in love. From then on he wrote love poems, and gave it to his girl friends. He wrote this with a pen and rolled parchment with a ribbon around it. One of the poems, which later made much impression on him, was written in 1917 and was the poem Lament (Edna St. Vincent Millay, 1892-1950) that deals with the theme of poverty.

At the age of seventeen he travelled to the Netherlands to study. He first studied cultural work and then did the studies of Political science and law. Reading has always been his passion and usually he read three books at a time. For a long time he had devoted himself to the scientific pursuit, but after the discovery of literature he decided to explore the new world of writing. It was during his study time and his stay in Europe that he began to write. Many years his poems remained in a folder, which only later were published. In that period he also wrote his first essays and articles. In 1980 he published for the first time in the magazine *Kontakto Antiyano* the poem *E dia di mañan/The day after*, derived from the book title by the French philosopher Michel Foucault.

He gets his inspiration from the many trips in and outside Europe. Furthermore, the developments in his homeland and international politics, are a source of inspiration. An example of this is the poem *Un pueblo* ("One people") from the volume *Destino*, was inspired by the events in Srebrenica. The poem *Kabsa* from the poetry collection *Reasonably Doubts* is based on the release of Nelson Mandela. In his recent book *The yesterdag afternoons* he merges a process between poetry and other artistic expressions, such as ballet, music, theatre, painting and sculpture. During the Art market in 2006 in Amsterdam he launched the first of what is called a duo-poem: two separate poems-by two different poets who in terms of time and location are written-from each other.

With his poems, he performed at Theatre Off-Corso, Cosmic Theatre, theatre The Kubus and during the Winter Nights Festival. He is also known for his short stories and essays in magazines and daily newspapers, such as Dutch and Aruban in *Diario*, *Bon Dia*, *Awe Mainta* and *NRC Handelsblad*, *Trouw*, *Het Parool*. He also reviewed books for the weekly magazine *Contrast* (2002-2004) and the e-zine *Literary Netherlands* (2004-2006). Apart from writer he is reviewer for the e-zine *Caribe* magazine and writes regular columns in *Caribbean Uitzicht*. In addition, he gives lectures at home and abroad about the Aruban-, Antillian and Caribbean literature.

He is the spiritual father of the first Caribbean writers organization-St. Simia Literario-in Netherlands. From 2001-2005 he was Chairman of the Board and is currently Honorary Member. He is well-known for the poem *Scar* that was written specifically for and dedicated during the unveiling of the Slavery monument in the Oosterpark in Amsterdam. In 2006 a section was dedicated to his work in *Kadans*, the manual for the history of literature from Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. During the Reading campaign *Netherlands reads* (2006)

he played a prominent role around the activities in Almere. His poems have appeared in *The World Poets Quarterly* vol. 57, 2010 and on various websites. He is a member of the *Sociedad amigos and Poetas del siglo XXI dos poetas*. In 2010, he wrote the Dictation for the Municipality of Almere. His poem *Prostituting on high heels* is included in the collection of *SONS (Shoes or no shoes)*, the virtual museum in Belgium.

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