



# JACLR

*Journal of Artistic  
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Research*

*JACLR: Journal of Artistic Creation and Literary Research* is a bi-annual, peer-reviewed, full-text, and open-access Graduate Student Journal of the Universidad Complutense Madrid that publishes interdisciplinary research on literary studies, critical theory, applied linguistics and semiotics, and educational issues. The journal also publishes original contributions in artistic creation in order to promote these works.

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**Ndaba Sibanda**

**"A Rude Awakening and Other Poems"**

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### **A rude awakening**

Have you ever been on a rollercoaster?  
Or ever dreamt of winning a big lottery?  
Only to discover that you are actually riding  
An elephant without legs, let alone a rump!  
Such is reverie, the rear mirror sees no hump.

### **As if they didn't know**

Was our unkind king frog  
Nocturnal in nature?  
They asked when  
He had been ferried away

He spent most of the day  
Snoozing in his citadel  
Hidden amongst gold  
And lies and root

Was our unkind king frog  
Gregarious in nature?  
They asked when  
He was unable to croak

He travelled with countless frogs  
To many foreign ponds and lakes  
He liked lounging in the exotic

Meadows and wetlands too

Did our unkind king frog  
Have a sensual soprano voice?  
They asked  
As if they didn't know

He was active in the evenings  
And at night: inflating his throat  
Pouch about the urgent need  
To protect our lakes and ponds

Did our unkind king frog  
Protect our lakes and ponds?  
They asked  
As if they didn't know

### **Inside**

She wanted to uncover and discover something about him. She pursued to x-ray the very person inside him. The person outside was easy to stroke and rub itchiness on his body. He was no saint but a soft ram. Sometimes she rubbed roughness on that ram. His frown was far or faint. Still she wasn't sure of the one inside him. Was he easy to rub or was he too corrosive to graze? She wanted to know, but how?

### **Roar into life**

It's better to give us a plate full of fried bitterness than too much sugar because that causes fat droplets! It was as if I was listening to a team of tough-talking health and fitness experts but those were editors! They ranted: speak rawness into the truth about life stretch our capacity for compassion. Test our understanding, enter the heart of what we cherish or cheapen and interrogate it madly. I knew then that the narrative was never going to be a sleep-inducing affair anymore but a wake-up call.

### **Oh my foot!**

That day they loved the lesson. That time too they laughed. A laughter that seemed to rip apart their ribs and red lips. They talked about types of transport one could think of or use in one's city or country. Many modes of transport were mimicked and mentioned: on water some learners had a boat, on rails others had a train in the rain. They nailed compound nouns, like bus fare big time. On four wheels was a VW, on two one group had *footron*! The teacher sought to bare the meaning of *footron*, an obvious new coinage, one student said "on foot!"

### **Wondering about nocturnal wanderings**

They say he was pollinated by mad moths,  
Polluted by pride and pretensions.  
He lived a life of bats and owls,  
His flowers followed a pattern  
Of opening during the night  
And closing at daylight.

**Bioprofile of the author:** Ndaba Sibanda was a 2005 National Arts Merit Awards (NAMA) nominee. He compiled and edited *Its Time* (2006), and *Free Fall*. The recipient of a Starry Night ART School scholarship in 2015, Sibanda is the author of *Love O'clock*, *The Dead Must Be Sobbing* and *Football of Fools*. He has contributed to more than twenty-five published books.

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