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Africology: The Journal of Pan African Studies, vol.11, no.6, April 2018

Quincy Troupe and Michael Simanga

At the left: poet, teacher, journalist Quincy Troupe is an alumnus of the Watts Writers Workshop and, along with his friends Ishmael Reed, Amiri Baraka, Nikki Giovanni and others, associated with the Black Arts Movement. He was named California's first poet laureate in 2002. Troupe's *Miles: The Autobiography* (1990) is considered a contemporary classic of musical artist biography. Among his many other books are his collaboration on the autobiography of Chris Gardner, *The Pursuit of Happyness* (2006), which became a popular film starring Will Smith. He also wrote *James Baldwin: The Legacy* (1989) and *Earl the Pearl: My Story* (2013) by Earl Monroe and Quincy Troupe. Troupe has published many volumes of his poetry over the years and has also published several children's books. Quincy Troupe is also a professor emeritus of the University of California, San Diego, and editor of *Black Renaissance Noire*, a literary journal of the Institute of Africana Studies at New York University. In 1991, Troupe received the Peabody Award for The Miles Davis Radio Project. His other honors include a fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts (1987); an American Book Award for lifetime achievement (2010); and the Milt Kessler Award for Poetry (2003).

At the right: Michael Simanga is an activist cultural worker, artist and scholar in African American art and culture as expression of identity, forms of resistance and transformation. He is a Lecturer in the Department of African American Studies at Georgia State University; he received his Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the Union Institute & University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has written, edited and published fiction, poetry, drama, essays and memoir about the African American experience. Dr. Simanga has also produced, presented and directed more than 200 artistic projects including plays, exhibitions, concerts, readings and festivals. He has also produced music with Cassandra Wilson, Sonia Sanchez and others. He is also the author of several books including *Amiri Baraka and the Congress of African People: History and Memory* (2016); the critically acclaimed novel *In the Shadow of the Son* (1998); and co-editor of the anthology, *44 on 44: forty-four African American Writers on the Election of the forty-fourth President, Barack Obama* (2011). His recent books include *No One Can be at Peace without Freedom* (2017); *The Identity Imperative and Black Liberation*; and *David Franklin: The Art Politics and Business of Black Empowerment*.