Moonstone Arts Center & The Charles L. Blockson Collection at Temple University Present

**Thursday March 14, 2013 - 3pm**

The Charles L. Blockson Collection, 1330 Polett Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19122, (215) 204-6632

**Kadija (George) Sesay & Trapeta B. Mayson**

 **Kadija (George) Sesay** is a graduate of Birmingham University (Maj. West African Studies). She is the founder/publisher of SABLE LitMag, and SABLE LitFest. She is the editor of several anthologies of work by writers of African and Asian descent, the latest fiction one being, *Dreams Miracles and Jazz: New Adventures in African Fiction* edited with Helon Habila. She is the series editor for the Inscribe imprint for Peepal Tree Press, their first anthology is *Red: Contemporary Black British Poetry*. Other anthologies include, *Dance the Guns to Silence: 100 Poems for Ken Saro-Wiwa* (with Nii Ayikwei Parkes) *and IC3: The Penguin Book of New Black Writing in Britain* (with Courttia Newland) and *Write Black, and Write British: From Post Colonial to Black British Literature*. She has published her own poetry, short stories, essays and articles in magazines, journals, anthologies and encyclopaedias in the UK, USA and Africa and been broadcast on BBC World Service.

Kadija has co-ordinated various literary events, such as ‘Word from Africa’ at the British Museum (2008) and organises international writer’s residencies – the SABLE Writer’s HotSpot to The Gambia, Cuba and New York. She is a fellow of the George Bell Institute, a Fellow of the Kennedy Arts Centre of Performance Arts Management and an associate of Vision Quest International. She has received several awards for her work in the creative arts. Her two poetry collections are *Irki* (which means ‘Homeland’ in the Nubian language) and *She Was Once Herself.*



A pillar in the Philadelphia and national poetry communities since the early 1990s, **Trapeta B. Mayson’s** poems has been described as “rich, powerful and well crafted… an unwavering voice of truth and beauty.” Trapeta is a native of Liberia. She immigrated to the United States in 1975 with her siblings. She grew up in North Philadelphia and currently resides in Germantown as part of the Greene Street Artists Cooperative.

A productive and progressive literary artist, Trapeta has performed for and conducted workshops with individuals and groups from pre-school to the elderly. Described as a poet who skillfully crafts for the page and also ignites on the stage, Trapeta combines her life experiences, observations on the world, and the stories of the unheard as well as her background as a licensed clinical social worker and her natural gift of verse to create poems that relate to one and all. In partnership with highly regarded and supremely talented jazz guitarist Monnette Sudler, Trapeta and Monnette founded Sisters in Music and Poetry. The two have collaborated to blend original poetry and music to create a unique and poignant experience for audiences around the country and beyond through poetry and music workshops, residencies and performances. She is author of *Mocha Melodies* and *She Was Once Herself* and has been published in The American Poetry Review, The Margie Review, and Aesthetica Journal. She is the recipient of A 2002 Pew Fellowship, a 2007 Leeway Transformation Award and Pennsylvania Council on the Arts Grants. Trapeta is a therapist and has worked for and with numerous organizations as a consultant, clinician, educator, and senior level manager. She is developing PeacePoints Arts International, a non-profit organization that will meld her decades of experience in the literary and performance arts with creative therapeutic interventions for presentations, workshops, seminars, performances and consultation to local and international schools, communities and institutions.