Art Gallery of St. Albert presents *Storytelling in the Garden*

ANNA BOROWIECKI
aborowiecki@greatwest.ca

Storytelling is more than just mere entertainment. It's a sharing experience where we discover myths and folklore. It's a teaching tool that creates an emotional connection between strangers.

The Art Gallery of St. Albert's latest exhibit is titled *The Garden*, a tranquil, magical space visual artist Elsa Robinson created from memories of her vibrant Jamaican heritage.

Robinson had always intended for her installation to be a gathering place for people. This coming Saturday, the last day of the exhibition, the gallery will create a public family event titled Storytelling in the Garden.

Robinson is slated to recount two folk and ancestral tales from her heritage. Joining her are author-playwright Marty Chan and former St. Albert Public Library writer-in-residence Tololwa Mollel.

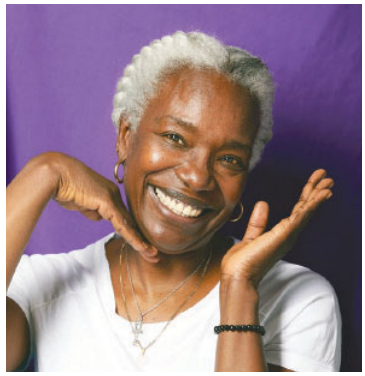
"They are all consummate professionals, and it should be a heartwarming experience," said gallery curator Emily Baker. "After the storytelling, we'll open up the floor to questions."

Robinson will tell two Jamaican folk tales — *Ananse and Brother Tiger* as well as *Ananse and Muzirodinkinah* (Mo-zi-ro-din-kee-naah). Ananse is a spider and the stories are amusing and used to teach important life lessons, she said.

Chan is relating two stories from his Chinese heritage. One is about a snake goddess who repairs the sky and creates the first rainbow. He describes it as a "pourquoi tale," one that aims to explain the origin or reason behind a phenomenon.



Supplied
Author-playwright Marty Chan shares stories from his Chinese cultural heritage at Storytelling in the Garden on Saturday, March 15 at Art Gallery of St. Albert.



Supplied
Elsa Robinson is joining a cast of storytellers at the Art Gallery of St. Albert on Saturday, March 15 to share fables and tales about her Jamaican heritage.

He will also tell a fable about a Chinese magistrate, who could be described as an "Asian Sherlock Holmes." Instead of a magnifying glass, he uses a bronze bell to catch a thief.

Mollel will also share two African-inspired tall tales adapted to his style and creative sensibilities.

In one story, he introduces a brash trickster who originally came out of West Africa and travelled to the Caribbean.

In his second tall tale which is part fable, part riddle tale and part story about death and redemption, Mollel introduces Zeki, a man with six sons and a daughter. A curse has been inflicted on him and his children play a role in rescuing him.



TWYLA LAPOINTE/Contributed
St. Albert Public Library's former writer-in-residence Tololwa Mollel returns to the city for Storytelling in the Garden. He will contribute two fables from his African heritage on Saturday, March 15 at the Art Gallery of St. Albert.

Storytelling in the Garden begins at 1 p.m. at Art Gallery of St. Albert, 19 Perron Street.

The event is free and open to all ages. Visitors are asked to pre-register at https://www.artsandheritage.ca/products/storytelling-in-the-garden. ■

LITTLE WHITE SCHOOL
Enjoy Spring Break with us!
History Explorers Spring Break Edition
Little White School (2 Madonna Drive)
Free drop-in: March 25–27, 10 am–2 pm
arts and heritage ST ALBERT
ARTSANDHERITAGE.CA



Complete Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
Serving St. Albert and area since 1995
New patients always welcome
Dr. Ryan Wittrock
Dr. Ron Beauchamp
#102, 506 St. Albert Road
lacombeparkdental.com
780.458.7040
ZOOM!
invisalign
Services provided by general dentists
Now accepting the Canadian Dental Care Plan