

Calabash

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Bedstuy Notebook

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Calabash: A Journal of Caribbean Arts and Letters is an international literary journal dedicated to publishing works encompassing, but not limited to, the Anglophone, Francophone, Hispanophone and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The Journal is especially dedicated to presenting the arts and letters of those communities that have long been under-represented within the creative discourse of the region, among them: Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles, Maroon societies, and the Asian and Amerindian societies of the region. Calabash has a strong visual arts component.

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Jacqueline Joan Johnson

BEDSTUY NOTEBOOK

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Mr. Faision

The oba of my block
wears a paper hat
at the just-so right angle
a big, triple belly man
his arm the size of a
young girl's waist.
The color of roasted almonds
he wears only a paper hat
thinking cap
his personal gri gri
greasy, sometimes wrinkled
always brown paper
bags.

Crossed mason dixon line in '46
with wife and three sons
started from nothing
started small
saved everything
bought a house, then buildings
a store
and more buildings
wears no jewelry
owns one pin striped grey suit
he owns every corner
in three directions
this black millionaire
wears only brown
paper
hat