The CUNY Haitian Studies Institute, in cooperation with the Ethyle R. Wolfe Institute for the Humanities, Department of Africana Studies, and the Caribbean Studies program at Brooklyn College present writer, musician, painter, and activist Frankétienne, and Asselin Charles, Ph.D., a scholar of Black Atlantic literature, for the launch of the English translation of Kreyòl novel Dézafi.

An outspoken challenger of political oppression, Frankétienne is considered by many to be the “father of Haitian letters.” A candidate for the 2009 Nobel Prize in Literature, he was presented France’s prestigious Commandeur dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2010.

Asselin Charles had a long career as a professor of comparative literature and is now an independent scholar. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Literature in 1988 at Penn State University. A scholar of the literature of Africa and the African diaspora, Charles focused his research on the parallels and intersection of writings from the Caribbean and the Harlem Renaissance. He is known for a number of notable English translations, including Frankétienne’s novel Dézafi, described by its publishers, The University of Virginia Press, as “the tale of a plantation that is run and worked by zombies,” that is “a powerful allegory of political and social liberation.”

The event will be hosted with the co-sponsorship of Black and Latino Male Initiative and Haitian American Student Association.