

**Manitoba Book Awards/Les Prix du livre du Manitoba**  
**2021 Jury Biographies/Biographies des jurés 2021**

**Alexander Kennedy Isbister Award For Non-Fiction / Prix Alexander-Kennedy-Isbister pour les études et essais**

**Michael Elves** is the Program Director at UMF 101.5. In addition to that role, he hosts *Turning Pages*, a series of in-depth conversations with authors about one of their works. While he has served as a Polaris Music Prize juror for several years, this is his first time adjudicating a book award.

**Lisa Quinn** is Director of Wilfrid Laurier University Press in Waterloo, Ontario, where she began her publishing career in editorial, acquiring scholarly and select trade non-fiction titles, notably memoirs and life writing. She currently serves on the board of directors of Livres Canada Books and the Ontario Book Publishers' Organization.

**Uche Peter Umezurike** is a PhD Candidate and Vanier Scholar in the English and Film Studies department of the University of Alberta, Canada. An alumnus of the International Writing Program (USA), he has been a resident writer in India, Switzerland, and Italy. He is a co-editor of *Wreaths for Wayfarers*, an anthology of poems.

**Carol Shields Winnipeg Book Award / Prix littéraire Carol-Shields de la ville de Winnipeg**

**Monica Ball** was born and raised in Winnipeg, and has worked in school, public and government libraries. Her passion for promoting literacy and the love of reading led her to serve on the selection committee of the Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Awards for over a decade. Retirement (and COVID) created time to discover a broader selection of authors and genres.

**Bibi Ukou** is an architect, publisher, and author. He is published online, and in print magazines, such as *Pyramid Magazine* and *Twilight Musings of the International Library of Poetry*. He is publisher at Griots Lounge Publishing Canada and a juror of the 2021 James Currey Prize for African Literature. *THINGS THAT START SMALL BUT SWEET* is his second collection of short stories and won the 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up at the 2018 ANA/Abubakar Gimba Prize for Short Stories.

**Armin Wiebe** is a Winnipeg playwright and fiction writer whose most recent novel is *Grandmother, Laughing* and whose play *Wine and Little Breads* received an Honourable Mention in the 2019 Herman Voaden National Playwriting Competition.

**Chris Johnson Award for Best Play by a Manitoba Playwright / Prix Chris-Johnson pour la meilleure pièce par un dramaturge manitobain**

**Ginny Collins** is a Winnipeg-based playwright who has worked with both the English and French theatre communities. She is the recipient of the 2019 Chris Johnson Award for Best Manitoba Play at the Manitoba Book Awards, and her plays have been produced locally by Prairie Theatre Exchange, Théâtre Cercle Molière, and Winnipeg Jewish Theatre. Her published works include *The Good Daughter* (Breakout Anthology), *Terroristas* (Generation NeXXt) and *The Propeller Moment* (The Long and Short of It), all with Scirocco Drama.

**Djennie Laguerre** is a Haitian-born actor, writer, and storyteller. She is a graduate of The Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting in NYC and the University of Ottawa (Theatre and French Literature). Select theatre credits include: *Espoir/Espwa* (Imaginary Invalid), *Les Zinspirés* (Producer le Théâtre Français de Toronto), and *Rez Sisters* (Factory Theatre). She wrote and performed *Rendez-vous Home/Lakay* at various storytelling festivals and is currently developing a one-woman show, *Mother Sea/Manman la mer*.

**Mike Payette** is an actor, director and educator. He was the co-founding Artistic Director of Tableau D'Hôte Theatre and past Assistant Artistic Director for Black Theatre Workshop. Mike is a two-time Montreal English Theatre Award (META) recipient, and will be the incoming Artistic Director for Tarragon Theatre in Toronto (Sept 2021) after serving as Artistic and Executive Director of Geordie Theatre since 2016.

**Eileen McTavish Sykes Award for Best First Book**

**Jessica Antony** is a Winnipeg-based writer, editor, educator and publishing consultant who runs Anchor Editorial Services.

**Adnan Kahn** has written for *Hazlitt*, *The Walrus*, *The Globe and Mail*, *Maisonneuve*, *The Awl*, and others. His first novel is *There Has to Be a Knife*.

**Oakland Ross** was for many years a newspaper correspondent, based in Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East, respectively. He has written five books, including a collection of short stories, a travel memoir, and three novels.

#### Manitowapow Award / Prix Manitowapow

**Darrel J. McLeod** is Nehiyaw (Cree) from Northern Canada, Treaty 8. He has been a French immersion teacher, school principal in Yekooche First Nation, director of a curriculum centre, executive director of Education and International Affairs at the Assembly of First Nations, and chief negotiator for the Government of Canada. Darrel's memoir, *Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age* (Douglas & McIntyre), won the 2018 Governor General's Literary Award for non-fiction. Darrel is now finishing his first novel. He lives near Sooke, British Columbia.

**Niigaan Sinclair** is Anishinaabe and an associate professor at the University of Manitoba. In addition to being a nationally renowned speaker and educator, he is an award-winning graphic novelist, editor of anthologies, and columnist with the *Winnipeg Free Press*.

**Carolyn Marie Souaid** is a Montreal-based writer, editor and educator, with a decades-long involvement with Inuit communities along the Hudson-Ungava coasts of Nunavik. She is the author of eight poetry collections and the novel *Yasmeen Haddad Loves Joanasi Maqaittik* (2017).

#### Manuela Dias Book Design and Illustration Awards / Prix Manuela-Dias de conception graphique et d'illustration en édition

**Tom Bishop** is a designer, illustrator, and college professor. He studied graphic design in Michigan and theology in Toronto. He now lives in Waterloo, Ontario, and is the author/illustrator of [www.whendidthat happenbook.com](http://www.whendidthat happenbook.com), a science-based history book for kids.

**Alison McCreesh** lives in Yellowknife where she works as a fibre artist, illustrator and graphic novelist. She is the creator of two full-length books '*Ramshackle, A Yellowknife Story*' (2015) as well '*Norths, Two suitcases and a Stroller around the Circumpolar World*' (2018), both published by Conundrum Press. In her spare time, Alison enjoys reading, biking and drawing short comics about her two little kids.

**Nyco Rudolph** is an artist and writer living in the heart of Treaty One Territory with his wife Janelle and their son Jude. Over the past decade he has been active in the local art scene and is currently working on writing and drawing his first graphic novel, *Bear Country*, for Renegade Arts Entertainment.

#### Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction

**Bethlehem Terrefe Gebreyohannes**, author of *Fire Walkers*, was born in Addis Ababa. After her family's escape and arrival in Canada in 1981, they settled first in Lethbridge, Alberta where she finished high school. She is a graduate of the University of Toronto and has studied creative writing at Ryerson University and Humber College.

**K.I Press** is a Winnipeg writer with four books of poetry including *Exquisite Monsters* and *Types of Canadian Women*. She teaches writing at Red River College.

**Thomas Trofimuk** is an Edmonton writer who has four novels out in the world – *The 52nd Poem*, *Doubting Yourself to the Bone*, *Waiting for Columbus*, and *This is All a Lie* – and he has two new novels in the hopper, ready to go. He lives (and writes) in Edmonton, Alberta.

#### Mary Scorer Award for Best Book by a Manitoba Publisher / Prix Mary-Scorer pour le meilleur livre par un éditeur du Manitoba

**Andy Brown** is the sole proprietor of Conundrum Press. Originally based in Montreal, then relocated to Nova Scotia, Conundrum has been dedicated to independent writing and art for 25 years. Brown has an MA in Literature from Concordia University and is the author of *The Mole Chronicles* and *I can see you being invisible*. He has edited and contributed to scores of books, magazines, and journals in a variety of genres. He continues to live in rural Nova Scotia with his three children and wife, the novelist Christy Ann Conlin.

**Kira Koop** (MLIS, BFA) is a settler person of Mennonite descent from Treaty 1 territory. As a librarian with the Winnipeg Public Library and as an artist, her work often focuses on themes of building community and exploring new experiences.

**Cindy Ma** is a publicist at HarperCollins Canada. She previously worked in publicity at Groundwood Books and House of Anansi Press. She graduated from Carleton University with an M.A. in English Language and Literature. Cindy enjoys matching books with readers and drinking excessive amounts of coffee. She lives in Toronto.

#### **McNally Robinson Book for Young People Award (Older Category)**

**Maureen Arnason's** love of reading and writing led her to a career as a teacher-librarian. One of her greatest pleasures has been choosing books for young adult readers. She sits on the Board of the Winnipeg International Writers Festival.

**Naseem Hrab** is a writer and storyteller, and the author of the Ira Crumb series, *Weekend Dad* and *The Sour Cherry Tree*. Naseem is currently the Associate Publisher, Creative at Kids Can Press. She lives in Toronto, Ontario.

**Wesley King** is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of the *Wizenard* series with Kobe Bryant and the Edgar Award-winning *OCDaniel*. He lives in Nova Scotia.

#### **McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award**

**Will Aitken's** last book, *Antigone Undone: Juliette Binoche, Anne Carson, Ivo van Hove and the Art of Resistance* was shortlisted for the Hilary Weston's Writers' Trust Prize for Nonfiction. His monograph, *Death in Venice: A Queer Film Classic*, re-envisions Luchino Visconti's legendary film. Aitken's novels include *Realia*, *A Visit Home* and *Terre Haute*. His satirical novel *The Swells* will be published in 2022. He lives in Montreal.

**Alison Calder** teaches Canadian literature and creative writing at the University of Manitoba. Her poetry has won two Manitoba Book Awards and been a finalist for both the Pat Lowther Award and the Gerald Lampert Award. She's been the poetry reviewer for the *Winnipeg Free Press* and one of the poetry editors of *CV2*. Her next book, *Connectomics and Other Fires*, is forthcoming in the University of Regina Press's Oskana poetry series in 2022.

Based on the unceded territories of the the x̣ṃəθkẉəỵəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples, **C.E. Gatchalian** is a queer Filipinx diasporic author who writes in multiple genres. The author of six books and co-editor of two anthologies, he was the 2013 recipient of the Dayne Ogilvie Prize and is a three-time Lambda Literary Award finalist. His latest book, *Double Melancholy: Art, Beauty and the Making of a Brown Queer Man*, was published in 2019 by Arsenal Pulp Press. He is currently co-editing the first-ever Filipinx-Canadian literary anthology.

#### **Le Prix littéraire Rue-Deschambault**

**Jean Boisjoli**, qui est originaire de la rue Deschambault, publie des romans et de la poésie depuis 25 ans. Il a été journaliste, puis avocat spécialisé en droits de la personne dans un contexte de sécurité nationale. Son roman « La mesure du temps » (2016) s'est mérité le Prix Trillium, tout en étant finaliste à d'autres prix du livre. Son plus récent roman, « Moi, Sam. Elle, Janis » (2019), a été finaliste à divers prix littéraires. En 2018, la France lui a accordé une résidence d'écrivain d'une durée de deux mois en Bourgogne.

**Monia Mazigh** est autrice et militante pour les droits de la personne. Elle a publié un récit autobiographique et trois romans qui ont été tous salués par la critique. Son dernier roman, *Farida*, a été publié chez les éditions David. Monia Mazigh habite Ottawa.

Originaire de la Mauricie, **Karen Olsen** vit maintenant à Kelowna en Colombie-Britannique, où les lacs, les forêts et les montagnes lui rappellent ses origines. Dès l'enfance, sa mère acadienne lui racontait l'histoire d'Évangéline et son père norvégien lui fait découvrir les sagas nordiques. Ces premiers récits et bien d'autres ont coloré sa vision de l'univers.