



Rights Catalog



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IV - RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Alto is an independent and innovative publishing house founded in Québec City in 2005. Very active on both local and international levels, Alto publishes unique and bold literary french fiction from Québec and abroad.

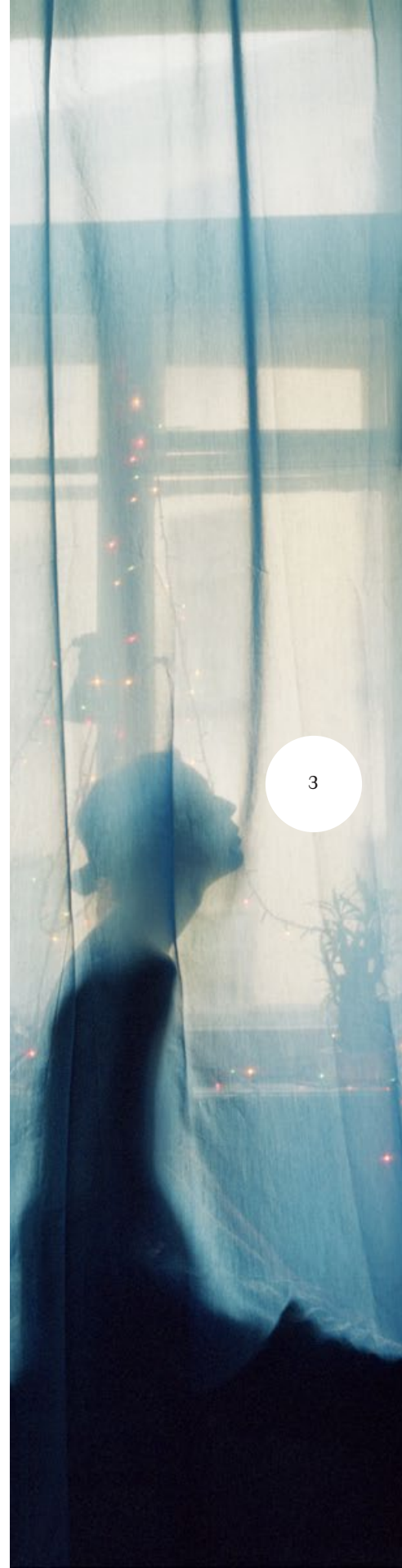
Many of Alto's titles have won prizes over the years (seven Prix des libraires du Québec, six Governor General's Literary Awards, four Prix France-Québec and two Prix littéraires des collégiens) and have been translated into several languages. Briefly said: we publish wonders.

Did you know about translation grants?

Two options :

- The Canada Council for the Arts offers international translation grants (50% of the translation costs).
- SODEC (Société de développement des entreprises culturelles) also provides funds to translate the works of Québec authors in any language (75% of the translation and revision costs).

To know
everything about
our hot new titles,
subscribe to our
Rights Newsletter!





FALL
2022

Bianca JOUBERT

Couleur chair

A woman from a family that has always kept quiet about its past explores the construction of identity around skin color. With help from documentation and genealogy, Bianca Joubert explores different times in the lives of her ancestors. She imagines people, scenes, and events and connects them to such pivotal moments in history as the abolition of slavery, the smallpox epidemic, and world wars.

We're introduced to Adriana, a Mi'kmaq child adopted by a white family after the death of her parents. Adriana crosses paths with a runaway slave, who opens her up to both reading and the concept of otherness.

Meanwhile, the fate of Africans ripped from their homeland and scattered across America plays out in another branch of the family. *Couleur chair* therefore juxtaposes the history of two peoples on whose backs America was built.

This partly autobiographical, partly historical novel examines the quest for identity and roots, the liberation of the body, and the emancipation of the spirit, but it's also a story in which cousins can fly and secret lovers walk up walls. In lucid, poignant prose, the author takes us from the shores of the St. Lawrence River to Gorée Island, a journey that reveals great breadth and diversity and evokes a world in which the blending of cultures can be both painful and luminous.

192 pages

Rights held: World

Bianca Joubert was born in Montmagny in 1972. She grew up near the St. Lawrence River and later moved to Montreal and began traveling the world. A travel writer, she's worked as a freelance journalist and photographer, has a degree in visual arts, and practices dance. She explores otherness, human migration, and issues of identity and colonialism, while merging the poetic and the political. She's won two Radio-Canada Literary Prizes and is the author of *Le brodeur* (2012) and *Le léopard ne se déplace pas sans ses taches* (2016), both published by Marchand de feuilles. *Couleur chair* is her third novel.

Elsa PÉPIN

Le fil du vivant

NEW
TITLE

As torrential rains lash Quebec, Iona, a harried mother of two, is torn between her deep maternal instincts and the need to find herself again. To escape the perfectly ordered but exhausting life imposed on her by her husband, Nils, she reminisces about her youth, her experiences with drugs, and her mad love for a boy who'd do anything to test her limits.

When floodwaters threaten Montreal, Iona is jolted out of her reverie. Nils drives his wife and children up north to take shelter at a luxurious estate belonging to his family. They hole up with friends and relatives far from civilization in a waterlogged forest that's full of surprises. As the food supply dwindles and mayhem breaks out across the province, tensions mount in the opulent old mansion between those who'll fight fiercely to protect their resources and those, like Iona, who put faith in solidarity and embrace the forces of chaos.

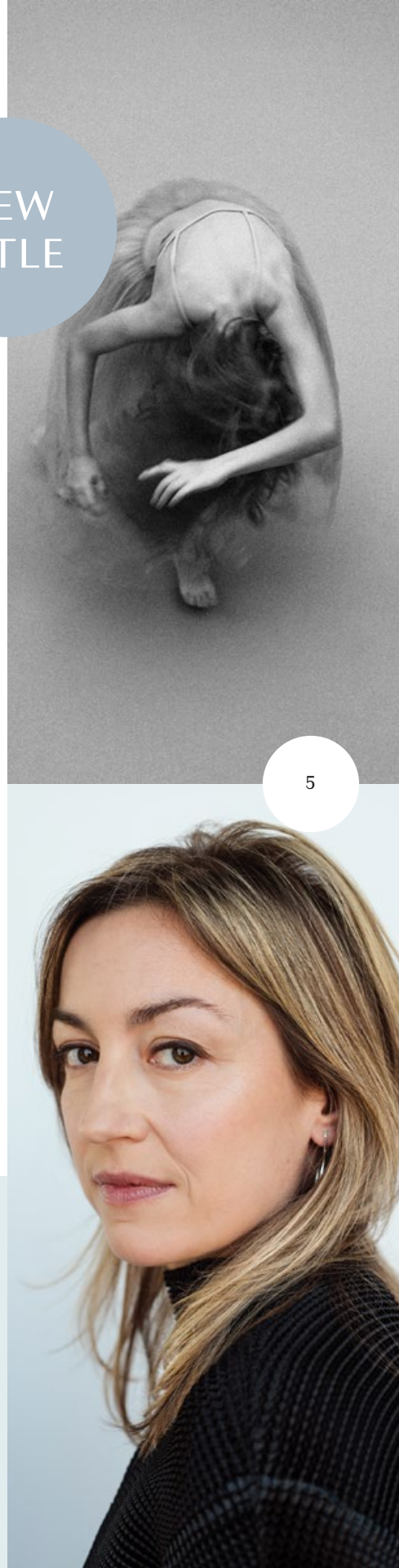
In this lush, lyrical novel, Elsa Pépin conjures up a disaster but laces her story with love and hope. She reveals the extremes governing our lives and shows how startlingly porous the borders are between the self and the world, water and earth, and life and death.

232 pages

Rights held: World

Ongoing negotiations for audiovisual rights

Elsa Pépin was born in Montreal in 1978. A journalist and editor, she's been writing books for the past decade that focus on the body, parent-child relationships, and our connection to the world around us. Published in 2014, her story collection *Quand j'étais l'Amérique* (Éditions XYZ, Quai n° 5) won the Prix littéraire des enseignants AQPF-ANEL and was shortlisted for the Prix France-Québec. *Le fil du vivant* is her second novel.





Dominique FORTIER

Les ombres blanches

It's 1886 and Emily Dickinson has died. She has left our world, but a poetess is about to be born. Rescued by her sister Lavinia, poems scribbled on flaps of envelopes and packages of sugar will forever change the lives of those closest to Emily: her distant and secretive brother Austin, her sister-in-law Susan, their beguiling and ambitious neighbor Mabel (who's also Austin's mistress), and young Millicent, a dreamy, whimsical girl who'll become Emily's spiritual heir.

With finesse and compassion, *Les ombres blanches* chronicles a body of work that was very nearly lost, the loves, sorrows, and devotion of those who brought it to light, and the passing of a reclusive woman known as "the Myth." Dominique Fortier delivers a tender, profound, and poetic tale about grief, legacy, and the mesmerizing power of words.

192 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and USA (Coach House Books), France (Grasset), Italy (Alter Ego), Russia (Ivan Limbakh)

More than 5 500 copies
sold in one week

6



Les villes de papier

(*Paper Houses*)

One of the most important writer of the nineteenth century, a mythical figure of American literature, Emily Dickinson remains an enigma to this day. With *Les villes de papier*, Governor General's Literary Award-winner Dominique Fortier explores the quiet existence of "the lady in white" from the inside, through the books she loved, her garden, her ghosts. Inspired by episodes of both Emily's life and her own, the author gives us a novel as limpid as it is earnest about how the worlds we build within ourselves in turn build us.

192 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Bulgaria (Helikon/Labyrinth), Canada and USA (Coach House Books), China (CITIC Press), Croatia (Disput), Estonia (Loomingu Raamatukogu), France (Grasset/Livre de poche), Germany (btb - Random House Germany), Italy (Alter Ego), Korea (Gimm-Young Publishers), Russia (Ivan Limbakh), Slovenia (Mladinska knjiga), Spain (Minuscula), Sweden (Ramus), Turkey (New Human)

"A masterpiece." – *RDI Matin*

Over 30 000 copies sold

WINNER

Prix Renaudot (Non fiction)

Prix littéraire des lycéens AIEQ
and 2 other literary prizes

FINALIST Prix Femina
(Non fiction)

English PDF
available

Dominique FORTIER

Quand viendra l'aube

FALL
2022

During a stormy summer following her father's death, Dominique Fortier keeps a journal in which she explores the power of memories to outlive us and expand our reality. She records the mysteries, great and small, that surround us and mark our lives: a river flowing backward, birds that speak, a fog that lifts like a curtain rising, a half-broken watch, and enough questions to last a lifetime. *Quand viendra l'aube* summons the voices of François Villon, Emily Dickinson, and Rebecca Solnit to illuminate grief. Within these pages, the author of *Paper Houses* and *Ombres blanches* delivers a deeply personal and moving testimony tinged with shades of blue, the color of nostalgia, emptiness, and the sky at dawn, when shadows fade and ghosts reveal themselves for what they are: memories that refuse to die.

104 pages

Rights held: World

Au péril de la mer (*The Island of Books*)

In its Golden Age, Mont St-Michel's library was known as the Realm of Books. That is where a painter haunted by the memory of his lost love and a novelist searching for this sacred place of literature will meet, 500 hundred years apart, through the pages of an old journal.

Written in the spirit of Pascal Quignard and Alberto Manguel, *Au péril de la mer* is both a novel and a journal. But first and foremost, it is a wonderful homage to books and to those who create them.

184 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Albania (Dritan), Armenia (Guitank), Canada (Coach House Books), France (Les Escales/Pocket), Italy (Alter Ego), Macedonia (Begemot), Spain (Minuscula), Ukraine (Anetta)

Dominique Fortier is a writer and translator living in Outremont, Quebec. Her novel, *The Island of Books* won the Governor General's Award for French fiction. *Paper Houses*, a semi-autobiographical meditation on the life and work of Emily Dickinson, received the prestigious Renaudot prize for non fiction in 2020. *Les ombres blanches* is the continuation of Fortier's exploration of Dickinson's world.



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Over 8 000 copies sold
WINNER Governor General's
Literary Award English
PDF available





FALL
2022

Christian QUESNEL (illustrator)
and Ariane GÉLINAS (author)

La cité oblique

Inspired by the travels of H. P. LOVECRAFT

It isn't widely known that Howard Phillips Lovecraft, a man whose vision left an indelible mark on fantasy literature, made three discreet visits to Quebec City in the early thirties. The American author, who built a rich mythology populated by antediluvian creatures and has inspired some of the top genre writers, even wrote his own history of New France and a walking guide to "the city of a thousand ramparts."

Christian Quesnel and Ariane Gélinas have drawn on this material to create a parallel history of Quebec in which the codes of Lovecraftian mythology govern as terrifying masters. In this oblique city, the Great Old Ones of New France come head-to-head with the Great Old Ones from the pen of the master of cosmic horror. The writer's wanderings through "the city of enigmas walled behind the closed shutters of dream" combine brilliantly with a Lovecraftian tale of the brave deeds of Qartier and Loui Heyber. The result is a highly hallucinatory tribute to the father of the Cthulhu Mythos, as well as a fascinating reworking of the past.

Christian Quesnel spent several years creating this magnum opus, which is enriched by Ariane Gélinas's soaring prose.

168 pages

Rights held: World

Christian Quesnel is the author of graphic novels inspired by historical events, including *Félix Leclerc: l'alouette en liberté* (winner of the Prix du CALQ – Œuvre de l'année en Outaouais 2019), *Vous avez détruit la beauté du monde* (winner of the Grand prix de la Ville de Québec – Bédéis Causa 2021, finalist for the Prix des libraires du Québec 2021), and *A Train in the Night* (winner of the Prix Éco-Fauve Raja at the Angoulême International Comics Festival and the Grand prix de la Ville de Québec – Bédéis Causa 2022).

Ariane Gélinas was born in Grandes-Piles, Quebec, in 1984. She's co-executive and literary director of the publisher Le Sabord. Besides publishing over seventy short stories in magazines, she's the author of seven books, including *L'enfant sans visage* (XYZ) and the trilogy *Les villages assoupis* (winner of Arts Excellence, Jacques Brossard, and Aurora/Boréal awards) published by Marchand de feuilles.





Audrée WILHELMY (Dir.)

Clairvoyantes *A Literary Oracle*

Clairvoyantes is a unique work, a gorgeous literary oracle spotlighting the fascinating world of fifteen female authors and promising readers and players a divination experience like no other.

Audrée Wilhelmy, who heads up this extraordinary project, has brought together a lineup of gifted Quebec writers whose voices blend seamlessly. Their texts, which describe different characters, places, and objects, are complemented by dazzling images created by photographer Justine Latour.

Available as a box set including forty-five playing cards and an interpretation book, *Clairvoyantes* bears Alto's inimitable stamp. After asking the oracle a question, the reader is invited to draw three cards—a character, a place, an object—which link to short texts written in surreal, dreamlike prose with a feminist bent. These texts combine to tell a story.

Players can also draw cards online through a platform specially developed by the design company Deux Huit Huit, making *Clairvoyantes* the first digital literary oracle. The experience will also be recreated at various events thanks to a portable stage set that will go where fate takes it.

This whimsical literary venture is sure to attract fiction lovers, fans of tarot cards, and any curious souls eager to discover the art of divination.

Box set with 45 cards and a 104 page book

Rights held: World

[More details here](#)

clairvoyantes.com



Audrée Wilhelmy was born in Cap-Rouge in 1985. As a writer, she's won the Prix Sade and been nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award, the Prix littéraire des collégiens, the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal, the Prix des libraires du Québec, and the Prix France-Québec. Her work has appeared in France, and two novels, *White Resin* and *The Body of the Beasts*, have been published in English by House of Anansi. She practices portraiture and fine-art photography.

Sébastien CHABOT

Noir métal

A young metalhead, fresh out of foster care, returns to his village on the Gaspé Peninsula. Sebastian won't speak. But his silence is louder than his music, upsetting the delicate balance of St. Florence..

In town, the young man meets the General, a priestly figure who "scandinavizes" members of his flock, and Eva, a girl who refuses to be turned into human currency. Also populating this world are alienated teens, high-class perverts, worn-out women, and righteous pagans, not to mention the deformed, intoxicated wildlife. Over a black metal soundtrack, churches groan, graveyards spit out their secrets, and the truth sets fire to both heart and soul.

With cries and whispers, *Noir métal* tells a surreal tale, à la *Twin Peaks* and *Lords of Chaos*, where nihilism spares neither man nor saint.

272 pages

Rights held: World

Born in Sainte-Florence, on the Gaspé peninsula, **Sébastien Chabot** is the author of *Ma mère est une marmotte, L'angoisse des poulets sans plumes* (Jovette-Bernier Award, 2006). With Alto, he published *Le chant des mouches* (2007), a devastating, carnivalesque and darkly funny novel, and *Noir métal* (2021). Chabot lives and teaches literature in Rimouski.



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FINALIST
Governor General's
Literary Award





12



Marie Hélène POITRAS

La désidérata

Under the blinding skies of Noirax, a long tradition of secrets lies dormant. The men of the Malmaison insist on this silence, feed their broods, and collect a string of ill-fated women (Pampelune, Helena, the Pimparella) known as the desideratas.

Father is content since all's calm on his estate. He's locked the door to the House of Perfume to keep the truth from seeping out. After a failed romance, his son, Jeanty, is back home and exploring a new identity. Soon, Aliénor arrives to seek answers and rock the boat. The Crone also shows up, but isn't who she appears to be. The curtain rises.

La Désidérata pays tribute to stifled voices in graceful, lyrical prose punctuated by dark nursery rhymes. A luminous tale of rebirth, restoration, and revenge.

184 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available [here](#)

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Coach House Books)

Born in 1975, **Marie Hélène Poitras** received the Anne-Hébert Award for her first novel *Soudain le Minotaure. La mort de mignonne et autres histoires* (2005) was short-listed for the Quebec Booksellers Award. In 2012, she published *Griffintown*, a novel inspired by the Montreal neighbourhood of the same name, winner of the France-Quebec Award and a finalist for the Ringuet Prize. *La désidérata* is Poitras' third book with Alto.

Marie Hélène POITRAS

Soudain le Minotaure

(Suddenly the Minotaur)

In this terse, prize-winning novel, Marie Hélène Poitras, with an imagination tutored by the Minotaur myth, offers a controversial tale about a thug who exults in his ferocious urges and is as incorrigible as a primal force. Torrès (the bull) enthusiastically and unapologetically seeks hectic transcendence through rape and recurring fits of epilepsy. Ariane (Ariadne), straying into his twisted, downtown Montreal labyrinth, suffers the consequences of his random sexual predation, though significantly, her refusal to be a terrorized and passive victim haunts him.

Ariane's deliverance from his maze, her conquest of persistent fears, is prolonged past her assailant's capture. Once more she must learn to live and love – in particular, men – to pick up and follow the thread of human trust, to feel sure again about her flat's dark places and her walk-in cupboard's contents. On the site of the Berlin Wall, in a reunified Germany that has survived its own and other regimes' violent perversions, she permits herself to be gently hoisted up and passed from palm-to-palm over a vast and joy-filled crowd.

176 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Phébus), Mexico (Editorial Paraiso Perdido)

Griffintown

A spaghetti western set in contemporary Montreal.

After the long winter, John takes back the reign of his carriage as many other coachmen of the Griffintown district. While newbie Marie tries to establish herself in this rugged and unruly environment, La Mouche prepares her revenge. A story of murder, love and envy set against the backdrop of the modern day cowboys of Montreal.

216 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Cormorant), France (Phébus), Italy (Nuova Frontera), Spain (Algaida)

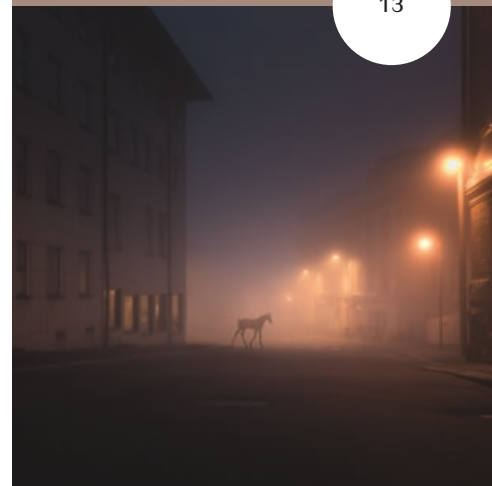


WINNER

Prix Anne-Hébert

English PDF available

13



“Enthralling and
incredibly alive.”

– *Huffington Post*

Over 12 000 copies sold!

WINNER

Prix France-Québec

English PDF available



Annie PERREAULT

Les grands espaces

In the North, Anna sets out across Lake Baikal, a huge stretch of ice twenty-five million years old. When she collapses from fatigue, a man known as the Grizzly goes to her rescue and brings her to his den. The two loners gradually open up to each other, recounting their nomadic lives, loss of friends, and relationship with the great outdoors.

In the West, fiery Eleonore dreams of surfing the waves, gaining some freedom, and having a torrid love affair with Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. It's the early sixties, and the girl's wild spirit will soon be reined in by family obligations and later by the controversial practices of Dr. Walter Freeman.

In the East, back in the nineties, a young Anna shares a compartment aboard the Trans-Siberian with Gaby, a globetrotter from California. The two girls soon form a friendship that will be rocky but life-changing.

In the South, an invisible writer pieces together fragments from her life that have filtered into her novel. The artistic process she reveals is a graceful and subtle form of autofiction that evokes Deborah Levy's writing.

All these characters share a desire to follow their instincts and a need to reconcile their hunger for space and adventure with their roots and the ties that bind them. In this powerful road novel, Annie Perreault has created a fragmentary and polyphonic work, a tale of daring journeys across landscapes too vast to feel at home in.

246 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Héloïse d'Ormesson)

LONGLIST

Québec Booksellers Prize

14



Born in the mid 70's **Annie Perreault** has graduated from McGill University in Russian Studies and French Literature. In 2015, she published *L'occupation des jours* for which she received an Honourable Mention from the Prix Adrienne-Choquette, one of the most renowned prize for short stories in Québec. *La femme de Valence* is her first novel and was shortlisted for the Rendez-vous du premier roman (First Novel Festival).

Annie PERREAULT

La femme de Valence

(The Woman in Valencia)

A magnetic novel, intense and chiseled, a meditation on the defiant act of voluntarily vanishing.

While on vacation in Valencia with her family, Claire witnesses a distraught woman jumping off the roof of her hotel. This event will forever change the way she sees herself and interacts with others. Addressing issues of indifference and empathy, this first novel by Annie Perreault is a striking example of good novel pacing and explores with sensitivity how a single event can ripple through people and time.

216 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Le Nouvel Attila), Canada and US (Baraka Books)

“Her humanity and her prose are extraordinarily truthful. Annie Perrault offers a striking, very promising first novel, an intelligent and measured meditation on the torments of the soul that prompts introspection and touches on the devastating effects of indifference and the power of devotion.”

Le Devoir

“A novel where inertia confronts the impulse to run away, and where the transformative function of fiction on the author’s real-life experience can be felt. Both troubling and beautiful.”

Le Droit

FINALIST
Prix des Rendez-vous
du premier roman

FINALIST
Prix Ringuet
de l’Académie
des lettres du
Québec



16



Charles QUIMPER

Une odeur d'avalanche

St. Sauveur, a neighborhood in the lower part of Quebec City, has seen its share of disasters: earthquakes, floods, frogs raining from the sky. Known for its fervor, camaraderie, and solidarity, this working-class enclave was once even visited by the Virgin Mary herself. One day, however, residents and objects begin to vanish without warning, and though they sometimes reappear, they never come back unchanged.

It's here that Jacob and Pénélope meet. In the late seventies, these two forlorn teenagers discover a mutual love for breaking the speed limit and drinking crème de menthe. As they navigate life with all its wonders and sorrows, the pair must also contend with a dog who spontaneously combusts, a stepfather who's lost his backbone, and a recluse who communicates with Morse code.

Fifty years later, a cowboy arrives back in town and, at a local bar, encounters a lady in a green velvet dress. After one dance, it's like they've known each other forever. But their love is soon tested by illness. Under the watchful eyes of some rare birds, the two older lovers live out their final days together as intensely as they can. As their story unfolds, links emerge between them and the two teenagers, revealing the miracle of second chances.

Reminiscent of Michel Tremblay's beloved novels set on the Plateau in Montreal, *Une odeur d'avalanche* depicts the dizzying highs and agonizing lows of a tight-knit community, while fully embracing the magic realism made famous by Latin American literature.

162 pages

Rights held: World

Born in Quebec City in 1977, **Charles Quimper** is a former bookseller and has contributed to a number of magazines. *Les Libraires* magazine recognized the "tenderness, infinite sadness, and absolute beauty" of his debut novel, while *Le Devoir* hailed "a new literary voice of remarkable density".

Charles QUIMPER

Marée montante

(In Every Wave)

Told by a man who loses his daughter while swimming one summer, *Marée montante* is the story of how he will find her again, on earth or thousands of miles underwater.

It's about a man driven by the will to take the time to say goodbye, like a father who stays by the bed with his child long after the light has been switched off. And when he finds his daughter, he will not let her go.

A little gem of a book, sad yet beautiful and enchanting, a lesson in finding happiness through loss, and an ode to the pleasure of letting yourself be swept away by the fond memories of a time gone by.

72 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Baraka Books)

"Gentle and filled with tenderness [...]
A book that stays with you."

Radio-Canada

"A short novel of great depth, of great beauty."
Plus on est de fous plus on lit!



17

FINALIST
Prix de création littéraire –
Bibliothèque de Québec et
Salon international du livre
de Québec

FINALIST
Prix des Rendez-vous du
premier roman – Lectures
plurielles

FINALIST
ReLit Awards 2021



18

WINNER

Prix Jacques-Brossard

FINALIST

Prix Horizons imaginaires

FINALIST

Québec Booksellers Prize

TV series optioned
by Item 7

An English translation will
be available soon



Catherine LEROUX

L'avenir

(*The Future*)

In a fictionalized French-Canadian Detroit, Gloria moves into her late daughter's house. Hoping to understand what led to her death and to find her missing granddaughters, she starts exploring the puzzling city, its empty streets and urban prairies. In spite of depopulation and neglect, her neighbourhood soon proves to be startlingly alive, re-claimed by wildlife and cultivated through the resilience and solidarity of its inhabitants.

In powerful, resonant prose, *L'avenir* delves into the depth of our collective failures and common ecstasies, the duties of one generation to the next, and the inescapable ferocity of what is to come.

320 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available here

Rights held: World

Rights sold: English World (Biblioasis), France (Asphalte)

Catherine Leroux is the author of three highly praised novels and an innovative sequence of short stories. Her first novel, *La marche en forêt* (2011), was a finalist for Quebec's Booksellers' Prize. Her bestselling second novel, *The Party Wall*, won the France-Quebec Prize, and was a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Dublin IMPAC Award. In the United States, *The Party Wall* was a prestigious Indies Introduce selection. Leroux's story sequence *Madame Victoria* won Quebec's Adrienne Choquette Prize and was a finalist for the Booksellers' Prize. *The Future* won the Jacques Brossard Prize and was a finalist for the Imaginary Horizons Prize.

Catherine Leroux works as a translator and an editor in Montreal. She was awarded the 2016 Governor General's Literary Award for translation.

Catherine LEROUX

Le mur mitoyen (*The Party Wall*)

What makes someone your relative? Blood ties or the experiences we share? A sumptuous variation on our vision of the family. An ensemble novel carried by musical and evocative language, *Le mur mitoyen* unfurls four entangled stories that transport us from the eastern coast of Canada to California and the Southern United States, stories that are so beautiful they can only be true.

328 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available [here](#)

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Denoël), Canada (Biblioasis)

Optioned by audiovisual producer (Zone 3)

“A revelation... an emotionally affecting, intellectually stimulating examination of separation and connection.”

Montreal Gazette

“Catherine Leroux writes with a startling grace. Her vision is clear-eyed and true, her heart is as big as sky and bay. *The Party Wall*’s mothers, orphans, Olympians and prime ministers seem like living, breathing people. And they reveal, beat by beat, that the things that divide us also knit us together”

Sean Michaels, author of the Giller Prize winning *Us Conductors*

Madame Victoria

In the Summer of 2001, human remains are found a few steps away from Montreal’s Royal Victoria Hospital. An investigation begins to uncover the identity of the woman who died in anonymity. But all leads prove to be dead-ends; the one they call Madame Victoria still waits for someone to utter her real name. From there, fiction takes over.

Through a series of portraits of women all named Victoria, Catherine Leroux imagines her heroine’s many potential lives. At first straightforward, her stories push further and further into the realms of imagination.

A tribute to the women forgotten by History.

240 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Biblioasis)



WINNER
Prix France-Québec

FINALIST
Scotiabank Giller Prize

Over 9 000 copies sold

English PDF available

19



WINNER
Prix Adrienne-
Choquette

English PDF available



20

FINALIST
Prix Aurora-Boréal -
Best Novel

FINALIST
Prix Jacques-Brossard

English PDF available



Martine DESJARDINS

Méduse (*Medusa*)

She has been called Medusa for so long she forgot her real name. She walks with her head down, her face hidden behind the wildness of her hair, sparing people the sight of her Deformities – a pair of eyes so horrendous they repulse women and petrify men. She has never dared to look at herself in a mirror. Banished from her family's home, she is locked up at the Athenæum, an institute for misshapen girls that stands on the shores of a jellyfish infested lake.

In this dark and provocative book, Martine Desjardins offers a radical tale of oppression, shame, and female force. With a contemporary, feminist twist on a gothic universe, this novel sheds a crude and refined light on monstrosity.

216 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Talonbooks), Italy (Alter Ego)



“Petrifying”

Le Devoir

Martine Desjardins was born in Mont-Royal, Québec, where she still lives with her fox-terrier Winnie. After studying languages, Russian and Italian, as well as comparative literature, she began free-lancing for several magazines. Lavishly written, her books are often filled with a twisted humor and a touch of quirkyness. She is a Governor General Award finalist (*Maleficium*) and two time Jacques Brossard Prize winner (*Maleficium*, *La chambre verte*).

La chambre verte

(*The Green Chamber*)

The spirit of Scrooge meets the quirkiness of Neil Gaiman in this satirical gothic tale!

Told from the point of view of an old house with secrets of its own, *La chambre verte* reveals how its inhabitants, the Delorme family, built their fortune... and how they lost it. A darkly humorous tragicomic family tale about blinding greed and bitter revenge. Winner of the best SF/Fantastic Fiction of the year in Québec.

272 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Talonbooks), France (Denoël), Spain (Impedimenta)

“Martine Desjardins offers a colorful tale,
a highly entertaining saga.”

Châtelaine

“A fabulous story of family secrets and stolen inheritance,
set in the heart of a posh Mont-Royal neighborhood.”

Le Journal de Québec



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WINNER Prix Jacques-Brossard

FINALIST Prix des
Horizons imaginaires

English PDF available

Hélène DORION

Pas même le bruit d'un fleuve

(Not even the sound of a river)

When Hanna finds notebooks in her mother's belongings, she decides to travel up the St. Lawrence river, to try to find the thread which could tie her life to Simone's, this silent woman who distanced herself from her own life. Along the river, Hanna will meet Antoine, her mother's true love, and will go all the way back to 1914, to the sinking of the *Empress of Ireland*. She will discover how personal tragedies which affect generations sometimes stem from a catastrophe, and how the survivors can be the true castaways. Through this journey, there will be the power of art and that of friendship to escort a luminous and demanding interior quest.

184 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available here

English excerpt and presentation available here

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Book*hug), France (Le Mot et le Reste), Serbia (Prometej)

"This brilliantly written novel is a subtle but powerful reminder that our memory is long, spans generations and centuries, and reveals the echoes of life's dramas, big and small, long after they occur. A book that will stir up a whirlpool of emotion and change you for the better"

Elle Québec

FINALIST
Prix des cinq continents
de la Francophonie

Over 9 000 copies sold



Hélène Dorion has published over thirty works (novels, poetry, essays) for which she has received numerous literary awards such as the prix Mallarmé, the Governor General's Literary Award, the Prix Anne-Hébert, the University of Montreal's Études françaises magazine award, and the Léopold-Senghor award. Her books have been translated and published in over fifteen countries and, in 2012, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France has paid tribute to her career.

www.helenedorion.com

Christine EDDIE

Un beau désastre

Raised in a poor and wilted neighborhood by an optimistic astrologer of an aunt, the young M.-J. is afflicted with the 21st century blues. But in the Summer of his (not so) sweet sixteen, life will surprise him. Love, art and the support of his colorful community will rout even his most somber ideas. Despite all that is wrong in the world, M.-J. will find that hope is the best remedy for disaster. In our modern times wavering between catastrophes and promises, Christine Eddie's lucid coming-of-age novel appears like a glimmer of hope and tells us that, even through the thickest concrete, flowers will always grow.

192 pages

Rights held: World

"Christine Eddie's words are like the rainbow showing in a flood of rain, like a smile amidst the rushing and indifferent crowd."

Le Devoir

"A beautiful allegory about the might of art, the power of solidarity and love. This charming novel is clearly an antidote against the gloom and uncertainties of our time."

La Presse

Christine Eddie was born in Paris and moved to Montreal just a few weeks after that. She grew up in Acadia and turned twenty in Quebec, where she still lives today. She is the author of many articles and short stories, one children's book and four novels, and the recipient of several literary awards (prix Senghor, Prix France-Québec, Prix Arcade au féminin, Concours de nouvelles XYZ).



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WINNER
Governor General's
Literary Award

WINNER
Prix France-Canada

Over 20 000
copies sold

English PDF available



Nicolas DICKNER

Six degrés de liberté (*Six Degrees of Freedom*)

Lisa is a young girl who wants to push the limits of human experience and free herself from the constraints of modern life. Her only problem is that she doesn't have a dime to her name. Her best friend, a computer hacker trying to manipulate international marine traffic, might just have the solution for her: living and traveling as a stowaway in a shipping container.

Demonstrating a wild imagination and sparkling erudition, Nicolas Dickner is in top form here. Considered a unique writer in both Québec and beyond, he is part of an elaborate family tree whose branches include Kurt Vonnegut, Philip K. Dick, William Gibson, Nick Hornby, and Haruki Murakami.

344 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Penguin Random House), China (Haitian Press), France (Seuil/Points), Georgia (Agora), Germany (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt), Holland (Nieuw Amsterdam), Macedonia (Begemot), Slovenia (KUD Sodobnost International), Spain (Txalaparta), Turkey (Everest Yayinlari)

Nicolas Dickner studied visual arts and literature at Laval University in Québec City. Afterwards, he travelled extensively in Europe and Latin America before settling in Montreal, where he now resides. Dickner's first novel, *Nikolski*, soon garnered rave reviews and prestigious awards. With his most recent novel, *Six degrés de liberté*, winner of the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award, Dickner indubitably confirms his unique position in Québec literary landscape.

Nicolas DICKNER

Nikolski

A classic of Québec literature.

In the spring of 1989, three young people, born thousands of miles apart, set out to discover what—or who—might anchor them in their lives. Their stories weave in and out of other wondrous tales—stories about such things as fearsome female pirates, urban archaeologists, unexpected floods, fish of all kinds, a mysterious book without a cover and a dysfunctional compass whose needle obstinately points to the remote Aleutian village of Nikolski.

328 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Vintage Canada), Croatia (Leykam), France (Denoël/Libretto), Germany (Frankfurter Verlagsanstalt), Holland (Ailantus), Israel (Keter Books), Italy (Volland), Macedonia (Antolog Books), Poland (Pauza), Romania (RAO), Russia (Centre Polygraph), Spain (Txalaparta), UK (Portobello), Ukraine (Anetta), USA (Trumpeteer)

“Nikolski offers a breathtakingly original perception of the world, mixing geography, cartography and longing in a language and construction both intellectually sophisticated and emotionally affecting.”

The Globe and Mail

“Despite the preponderance of clues and artefacts scattered throughout the story, Dickner does not tie everything up in a neat package. He lets certain threads dangle, giving Nikolski more substance and nuance. The story lingers in the mind long after the last page has been read, leaving the reader in its strange and wonderful orbit.”

The Gazette

WINNER
Québec Booksellers Prize

Prix littéraire
des collégiens

FINALIST
Governor General's
Literary Award

Over 100 000
copies sold

English PDF available





WINNER — Governor
General's Literary Award

WINNER of 3 other
literary prizes

Over 8 000 copies sold

English PDF available

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FINALIST
Québec Booksellers Prize

English PDF available

Karoline GEORGES

De synthèse (*The Imago Stage*)

An image-obsessed woman, famous on the web through her avatar, is reunited with her dysfunctional family when she learns her mother is terminally ill. She has long lived in the virtual world. Can she stand what awaits in the reality she has escaped for so long? Written with a scalpel-like precision, this is a story about image and about what we choose to show or hide. Set in the past and not-too-distant future of Montreal, *The Imago Stage* is an ominous tale of oppression, suppression, and disembodiment.

240 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available here

Rights held: World

**Rights sold: Canada (Coach House Books),
France (Folio SF), Germany (Secession Verlag),
Macedonia (Begemot), Ukraine (Anetta)**

Sous béton (*Under the Stone*)

Since his birth, all the Child has ever known are the blind walls, and the concrete of the tiny unit he shares with the Mother and the Father. There, on the 5969th Floor of the Building, days are all the same until, slowly, something is changing. While the Father is becoming increasingly violent due to the mind-numbing drink, and the Mother is constantly scared of being expelled from the Building, the Child, motionless in his room, is experiencing a transformation that will open the doors to an unexpected horizon.

Karoline Georges explores what we might be next through a visionary literary experience, part sci-fi and bildungsroman from the future.

184 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available here

Rights held: World

**Rights sold: Canada (Anvil Press), France (Folio SF),
Germany (Secession Verlag)**

Multidisciplinary artist **Karoline Georges** has studied film and art history in Québec. Her body of work includes photography, audio and video performances. Her novel, *Ataraxie* was critically acclaimed and her following title, *Sous béton* confirmed her as a cutting edge author on the literary scene.

Discover her universe : www.karolinegeorges.com

Matthieu SIMARD

Ici, ailleurs

(*The Country Will Bring Us No Peace*)

They erected the tower before we bought the old man's house. Since then, the village has slowly become deserted.

However, a few still linger — Fisher, the handyman who does nothing with his hands; Madeleine, the once sexy waitress — but those who remain don't want anything to do with us. It's not a problem: we didn't come here to get mixed up in their lives, but to forget. To begin anew.

We came here so as not to be elsewhere. We may never leave.

A novel about silence, tinged with the fantastic, *Ici, ailleurs* describes the brutality of absence, sneaking into your memory and embracing you like a lover beneath ice cold sheets.

128 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada (Coach House Books), UK (Influx)

Les écritements

40 years ago, Jeanne promised herself never to look for Suzor, her great love who disappeared one night without a trace. Now a woman of 80 years old, she learns that he has Alzheimer's and her promise holds no longer: she must find him before he loses all recollection of the tragic events that took place in their past.

A tender novel told in an irresistible voice with mordant and subtle humour, *Les écritements* offers up a reflection on the vagaries of human memory, on the things we inadvertently forget and those we chose to dismiss from our minds. A feelgood novel in the spirit of *And the Birds Rained Down* and *The One hundred year old man*.

240 pages

Rights held: World

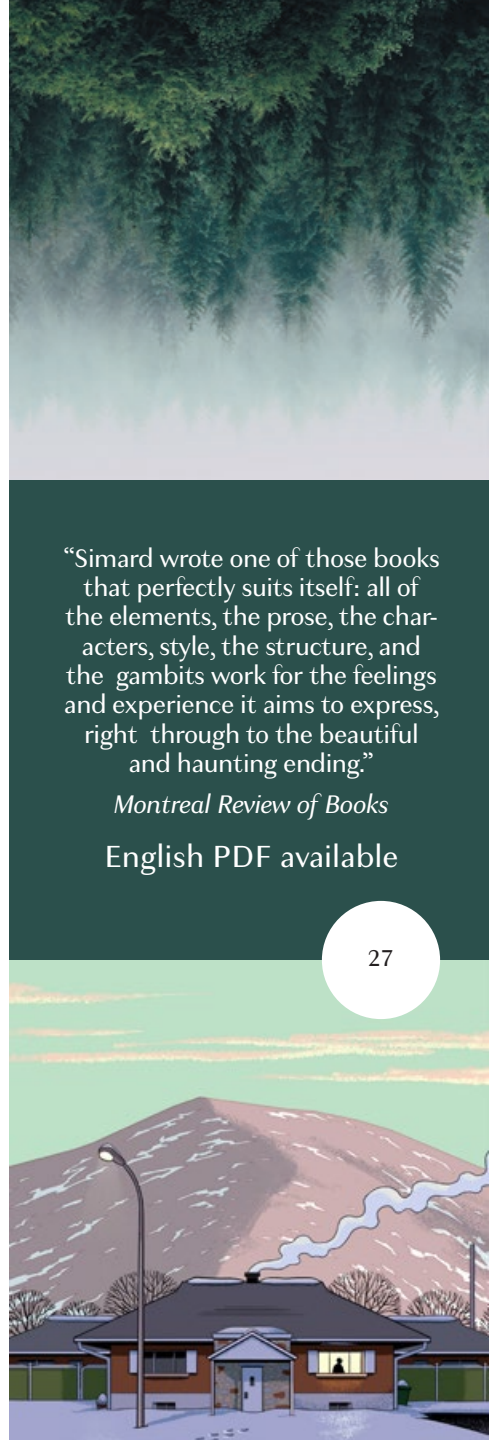
Matthieu Simard is the author of seven novels, including *Llouis qui tombe tout seul* which earned him a nomination for the Grand Prix Littéraire Archambault. The first volume in his series for young adults, *Pavel*, was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award. More recently, he wrote the screenplay for a film adaptation of his bestselling book *Ça sent la coupe*, by Patrice Sauvé. Matthieu Simard lives in Montreal.

"Simard wrote one of those books that perfectly suits itself: all of the elements, the prose, the characters, style, the structure, and the gambits work for the feelings and experience it aims to express, right through to the beautiful and haunting ending."

Montreal Review of Books

English PDF available

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WINNER
Prix France-Québec



“Formidably effective.”

– *La Presse*

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WINNER

Québec Booksellers Prize
Prix Folio des lycéens
and 13 other literary prizes!

Over 150 000 copies sold

Opera adaptation by Nouvel
Ensemble Moderne

Movie rights optioned

Larry TREMBLAY

Le deuxième mari

Samuel knows nothing of the woman he is about to marry. For years his father has spared no effort to make his son attractive, fattening him like a farm bird for the big day. His family is overjoyed. Madam is rich and this union will resolved all their financial problems.

On the island where they live, the husband must obey his wife. Any who attempt to bypass the rules will have to suffer the consequences: armed guards roam the streets. Once married, Samuel will have to satisfy all his wife's desires. He need only be patient and learn to love her.

With characteristic finesse and audacity, the author of *The Orange Grove* delivers an intricate novel like a skewed mirror, which upends social norms, prejudice and willful blindness.

144 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Quattro Books), Ukraine (Anetta)

L'orangerie (*The Orange Grove*)

Somewhere in the Middle East, twin brothers have lived peacefully under the shade of the orange trees until, one day, an explosive crosses the sky, killing their grandparents. The horrors of war seize hold of their childhood and crush their destiny. Men come to take vengeance for the blood that has been shed. One of the brothers must wear an explosive belt over the mountains and into a military camp. Who will be the chosen one?

152 pages

Rights sold: Azerbaijan (Nebula), Canada (Biblioasis), China (Haitan Press), Croatia (HENA), Czech Republic (Argo), Denmark (Holgers Forlag), France (La Table ronde/Folio/Folio+ Collège / Voir de près), Germany (C.H. Beck), Greece (Armos), Holland (Nieuw Amsterdam), Israel (Sendik Books), Italy (Beisler), Macedonia (Antolog Books), Mexico (Penguin Random House/ Nube de Tinta), Saudi Arabia (Page Seven), Slovenia (Druzina), Spain (Penguin Random House/Nube de Tinta), Spain – Catalan (Gregar), South Korea (Openhouse for Publishers), Sweden (Vaktel), Taiwan (New Century Publishing), Turkey (Bilgi), UK (Peirene Press), Ukraine (Anetta), USA (Milkweed)

Larry Tremblay is a writer, stage director, actor and Kathakali specialist. Translated into a dozen languages, his theatrical works have been staged in many countries and have garnered numerous literary prizes. In 2006, Gallimard published *Piercing*, a collection of his short stories. His bestseller, *The Orange Grove*, has been translated in 23 countries and adapted as a play.

larrytremblay.ca/portrait/

Élise TURCOTTE

L'apparition du chevreuil

After receiving threats on social media, a writer takes shelter in the woods. There, instead of the peace she was longing for, she finds herself haunted by her troubled family past and surrounded by a nature as hostile as the civilization she left. The cabin nearby is supposed to be abandoned, but what if someone was hiding there?

Like a roe in the snow, this panting story provokes a necessary clatter and tells a family drama that has to be revealed once and for all.

160 pages

Spanish excerpt and presentation available [here](#)

Rights held: World

Rights sold : France (Le mot et le reste)

English excerpt and presentation available [here](#)



“Breathtaking!”

Le Devoir

An accomplished writer, **Élise Turcotte** has received many literary awards for her poetry, short stories and novels. She won the Grand Prix du livre de Montréal in 2011 as well as two Governor General Literary Awards, for her novel *Guyana* in 2002, and for *Rose: derrière le rideau de la folie*, a poetry book for children, in 2009. In 2011, Élise Turcotte was honoured with the prestigious career grant from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.



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WINNER
Prix Ringuet de l'Académie
des lettres du Québec

LOGLIST
Prix France-Québec

FINALIST
Québec Booksellers Prize





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WINNER — Prix des
Horizons imaginaires

WINNER — Prix de création
littéraire de la ville
de Québec et du SILQ

FINALIST — Les Rendez-vous
du premier roman

English PDF available



Christiane VADNAIS

Faunes

(*Fauna*)

A thick fog rolls in over Shivering Heights. The river overflows, the sky is streaked with toxic green, parasites proliferate in torrential rains and once safely classified species – humans included – are evolving and behaving in unprecedented ways. Against this poetically hostile backdrop, a biologist, Laura, fights to understand the nature and scope of the changes transforming her own body and the world around her.

Ten lush and bracing linked climate fictions depict a world gorgeous and terrifying in its likeness to our own.

144 pages

Rights held: World

**Rights sold: Canada (Coach House Books),
Macedonia (ILI ILI), Spain (Volcano Libros)**

Movie rights optioned

Play adaptation ongoing

★★★★★

“A new novelist you must read.”

La Presse

Born in 1986 in Québec City, **Christiane Vadnais** has a master in literary studies. Her novel *Faunes* received a tremendous amount of positive reviews, both from the readers and the critics, a rare treatment for a first book. Shortlisted for both Prix des Horizons imaginaires and Prix Aurora Boréal, she won the well renowned Prix de creation littéraire de la ville de Québec et du SILQ in 2019.

Recent Acquisitions

ARNOTT, Robbie – *The Rain Heron* – Actes Sud (Arles)

DAUTREMER, Rébecca – *Des souris et des hommes* – Tishina (Paris)

ENRIQUEZ, Mariana – *Notre part de nuit et Les dangers de fumer au lit* – Éditions du sous-sol (Paris)

GAULD, Tom – *The Revenge of the Librarians* – Transatlantic Agency (Toronto)

***GARTNER Zsuzsi** – *The Beguiling* – AJA/Westwood (Paris/Toronto)

GROFF, Lauren – *Matrix* – L'Olivier (Paris)

***HAGE, Rawi** – *Beirut Hellfire Society* – The Wylie Agency (London)

***HOOPER, EMMA** – *We Should Not Be Afraid Of The Sky* – Curtis Brown (New York)

***KAUFMAN, Andrew** – *The Ticking Heart* – The Rights Factory (Toronto)

***LANSENS, Lori** – *This Little Light* – AJA (Paris)

MANDEL, Emily St-John – *The Sea of Tranquility* – Payot & Rivages (Paris)

McDOWELL, Michael – *Blackwater* – Monsieur Toussaint Louverture (Cenon - France)

***MICHAELS, Sean** – *The Wagers* – Andrew Nurnberg Associates (London)

MITCHELL, David – *Utopia Avenue* – L'Olivier (Paris)

***O'NEILL, Heather** – *When We Lost Our Heads* – William Morris (New York)

***SMITH, Neil** – *Jones* – The Cooke McDermid Agency (Toronto)

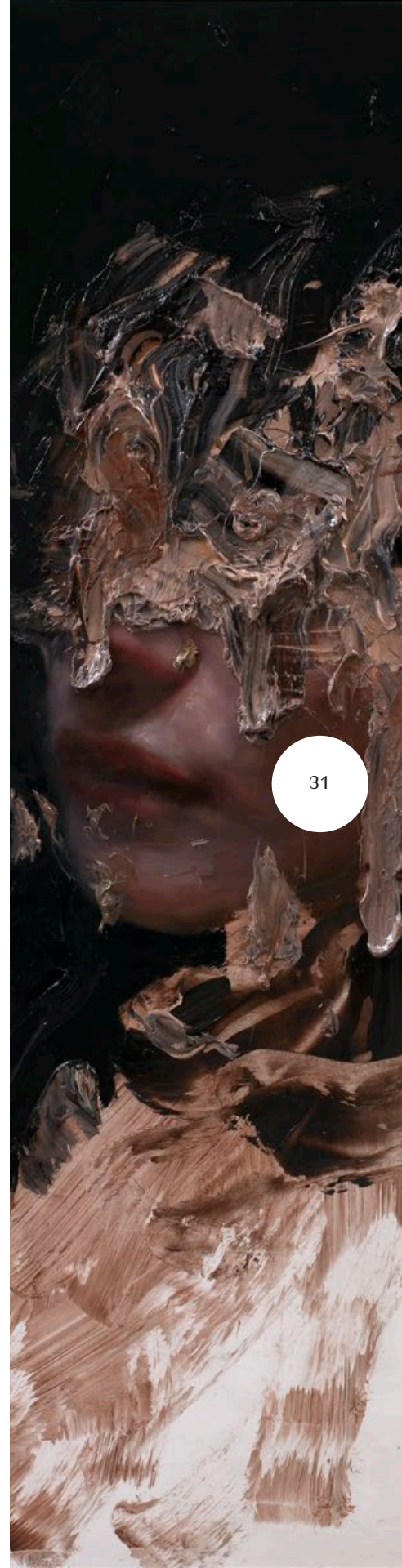
TAGAQ, Tanya – *Split Tooth* – Cooke Agency (Toronto) – French translation sold to Christian Bourgois (Paris)

WHARTON, Thomas – *The Book of Rain* – AJA (Paris)

***WHITEHEAD, Joshua (dir.)** – *Love After The End* – Agence Deborah Druba (Paris)

WINTERSON, Jeanette – *Frankissstein* – Libella (Paris)

* French translation rights available.





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Québec, ville de
LITTÉRATURE

