



alto

We publish
wonders

Rights Catalog



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I - About Alto

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

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

Alto publishes only a few books a year as its mantra is "publish less, publish the best." We like everything that is surprising, often genre-bending, all this in a storytelling tradition that is driven by imagination. We like to be transported by a book. Through its new editorial laboratory, Alea, Alto is also exploring new innovative storytelling.

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 Quebec authors in any language (75% of the translation and revision costs).

For updates on our new titles,
subscribe to our Rights Newsletter!





MARCH
2025

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II - New and upcoming titles

Martine Desjardins

Le temps des sucres

Cultured, sensitive and resolutely urban, Guillaume Lacerte is dumbfounded to learn that the death of his estranged father has made him the beneficiary of a family sugar-bush deep in the Quebec countryside. For his paternal family, the funeral is an opportunity to introduce this young man to his ancestral home—where his progenitor mysteriously lost his life—as well as to a plethora of bizarre rituals and strange traditions centred around the veneration of maple syrup and a hyper-masculine way of life. Forest initiations, orgies of meat and unchecked brawls soon transform the refined bookseller into a raw, virile male. That is, until the secret of the Lacertes' fabulous maple syrup comes to light, revealing to Guillaume just how far these men will go to dominate the nature that surrounds them.

Le temps des sucres is a folk-horror fable as troubling as it is hilarious, skewering both the cult of terroir and contemporary calls for a return to extreme masculinity.

Rights held: World

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

Martine DESJARDINS

Méduse

(*Medusa*)

She has been called Medusa for so long she has forgotten 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),
France (L'Atalante / L'Atalante poche), Italy (Alter Ego)**

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 Quebec.

272 pages

Rights held: World

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

Over 10 000
copies sold

© Marcela Bolívar

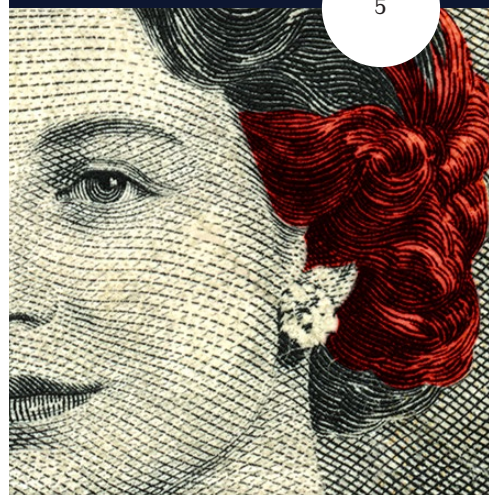
WINNER
Prix Libr'à Nous

FINALIST
Prix Aurora-Boréal -
Best Novel

FINALIST
Prix Jacques-Brossard

English PDF available

5



WINNER
Prix Jacques-Brossard

FINALIST Prix des
Horizons imaginaires

Over 4 000 copies sold

English PDF available



FALL
2025

Christiane VADNAIS

Les ressources naturelles

At Torrents, every ecological challenge has its answer. They transform skyscrapers into forests, they restore extinct species, they send algae to swallow oil-spills and robotic bees to pollinate flowers. Clémence Saint-Pierre, the communications director, believes every word of it, until the day an insoluble problem arises: the Gulf of St. Lawrence has been emptied of any life. Mired in the management of this crisis, Clémence works tirelessly, overseen by an army of drones, a tyrannical boss, and a woman with fox's eyes, while, in the basement of Torrents, an artificial jellyfish pirates her dreams. When she finally cracks, she decides to get to the source of the problem. On the shores of a seemingly dead Gulf, she discovers the scale that a life can take on, her own and others', when it transcends the individual—and she reconciles with ancient powers that bind her to water and mist in an inexplicable way.

In this second novel, Christian Vadnais deepens her exploration of ecofiction through an exuberant story that brings together professional psychosis, trans-humanism, and primordial legend. *Les ressources naturelles* is at once a merciless assault on “green” capitalism and a tribute to that which resists, and persists to live.

Rights held: World

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 that is gorgeous and terrifying in its likeness to our own.

144 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Arabic language (Al Arabi), Canada and US (Coach House), France (L'Atalante), Italy (Codice Edizioni), Macedonia (ILI ILI), Spain (Volcano).

Theatrical adaptation coming soon

Born in 1986 in Quebec City, **Christiane Vadnais** has a master in literary studies. Her novel *Faunes* received a tremendous number of positive reviews from readers and critics alike, a rare response for a first book.

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

© Stéphane Bourgeois

© Martin Wittfooth

Dominique Fortier

La part de l'océan

In August 1850, Herman Melville meets Nathaniel Hawthorne during an excursion to the Berkshire Mountains. This encounter will mark a turning-point in the life of the author who, at the time, is already deep at work on *Moby Dick*. Over the months to follow, he writes feverish letters to Hawthorne, like secret chapters of his epic book, born of his desire for a man whom he can never touch except through a novel. It's from these letters that Dominique Fortier stitches her story—and into which she mixes someone else.

This second storyline follows the paths of two contemporary writers who discover each other through writing and venture to share a real-life moment together, only to come apart again in fiction. By interweaving these two turbulent relationships, more than 170 years apart, Fortier succeeds—as she did previously with Emily Dickinson—to imbue vanished artists with dazzling new life, producing a novel that is both intimate and universal. In *La part de l'océan*, she explores the intricate nature of the links between writers and readers, the human forces that give birth to art, and the wish to incarnate, in a being or a book, the immensity and absolute beauty of the marine, terrestrial and celestial worlds.

328 pages

Rights held: World

“Now more than ever, Dominique Fortier questions the mysteries of creation, writing, reading, as well as the desire between beings, real and imaginary, in a style that proves stronger, novel after novel.»”

La Presse

“Dominique Fortier takes all the intensity encompassed in *Moby Dick* and transfers it to the relationship that she imagines between Herman Melville and Nathaniel Hawthorne.»”

Radio-Canada

Dominique Fortier is a writer and translator living in Outremont, Quebec. Her first novel, *On the Proper Use of Stars*, was nominated for a Governor General's Award, and *The Island of Books* won the Governor General's Award for French fiction. *Paper Houses*, a semiautobiographical meditation on the life and work of Emily Dickinson, received the prestigious Prix Renaudot for nonfiction in 2020. *La part de l'océan* is her tenth novel.



© Murray Fredericks



© Carl Lessard



Over 6 000 copies sold

★★★★

“With her sophisticated writing, the author signs a moving and nuanced reflection on mourning, creation and the power nature holds on the latter.” – *Le Devoir*

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Over 8 000 copies sold
WINNER Governor General's
Literary Awards

English PDF available

Dominique FORTIER

Quand viendra l'aube

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 *Pale Shadows* 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-Saint-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 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), Slovenia (Druzina), Spain (Minuscula), Ukraine (Anetta)

Les villes de papier

(Paper Houses)

One of the most important writers 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 in 16 countries:

Arabic language (Al Arabi), Bulgaria (Helikon/Labyrinth), Canada and US (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)

Les ombres blanches

(Pale Shadows)

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.

248 pages

Rights held: World

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

© Emily Dickinson



"A masterpiece." – *RDI Matin*

Over 34 000 copies sold

WINNER

Prix Renaudot (nonfiction)

Prix littéraire des lycéens AIEQ
and two other literary prizes

FINALIST Prix Femina
(nonfiction)

English PDF available

9

© Rachel Monnier



WINNER Prix Malesherbes

FINALIST Prix Ringuet de
l'Académie des lettres

FINALIST Governor General's
Literary Awards

FINALIST Prix des Libraires
du Québec

Over 8 000 copies sold

English PDF available



HOT
TITLE

Éric CHACOUR

Ce que je sais de toi

In Cairo in the eighties, a young doctor follows the path set out for him. Between the clinic he runs and the prestigious practice he inherited from his father, Tarek leads a life that leaves little room for asking himself questions. But a chance encounter with a person very different from him will jeopardize his marriage, his career, and even his heart and force him into exile.

Between Egypt's Levantine community and Montreal's harsh winters, from the reign of Nasser to the dawn of a new century, Tarek flees, wanders, and reminisces. But does he realize that thousands of miles away, someone is compiling the chapters of his story and discovering the twists and turns of his life?

A poignant look at absence and reconciliation, *Ce que je sais de toi* paints a subtle, witty, and tender portrait of a family being torn apart and a society undergoing dramatic change. Éric Chacour's debut novel reveals the luminous mind and breathtaking humanity of an author who writes in sumptuous, well-crafted prose. A book rich in garlic, anise, and family secrets.

296 pages / English PDF available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Arabic World (Nool) | Brazil (DBA) | Catalonia (Més Llibres) | Czech Republic (Host) | Denmark (Holgers Forlag) | France (Éditions Philippe Rey - Folio/Gallimard) | Germany (Gutkind Verlag) | Greece (Metaichmio) | Japan (Shuei Sha) | Netherlands (Uitgeverij De Bezige Bij) | North America (Coach House) | Spain (Dos Bigotes) | Sweden (Råmus Forlag) | UK and Commonwealth (Gallic Books)

"A first novel that could as easily be a classic. The style, the narration, the story itself commands admiration."

Le Figaro

"With a chiseled and sensual style, Éric Chacour probes the soul of a man torn between two worlds and two eras, thus painting the ardent and luminous portrait of a society in the midst of change. Through bold narrative choices, the author avoids neither pain nor mourning but wraps both in with a welcome tenderness. Dazzling."

Le Devoir

Born in Montreal to Egyptian parents, **Éric Chacour** has lived in both France and Quebec. He has a degree in applied economics and international relations and now works in the financial sector. *Ce que je sais de toi* is his first novel.

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WINNER

Prix des cinq continents Lauréat
Prix des Libraires de France | Prix Femina
des lycéens | Prix des Rendez-vous du
premier roman – Lectures plurielles

SHORTLISTED

Atwood Gibson Writers' Trust Fiction Prize
Prix France-Québec | Prix des collégien-ne-s
Prix des Libraires du Québec | Giller Prize

LOONGLISTED

Prix Renaudot | Prix Femina

Over 100 000 copies sold

© SMITH

© Justine Latour

Steve POUTRÉ

Lait cru

The North American farm is not picturesque or peaceful. It is haunted by the dead, by ghost stories and family secrets, by stillborn chicks trapped inside their shell. Invisible cattle roam here, worn down by the endless grind of feeding the nation.

Among the shadows, a young boy walks between his shy elder brother and his wild younger brother, on the thin line between the fields and the woods. He eventually crosses the border, entering a strange land where eye floaters, tinnitus, and nightmares rule and where his fingerprints are lost. His body frozen, his mind ablaze, he finds himself in a psychiatric ward. But even from his hospital bed, he keeps wandering the farm grounds, looking for what is not yet lost.

Lait cru injects a healthy dose of Gothic into the old rural landscape. Appealing to both the senses and the heart, Steve Poutré's writing unearths skeletons from the fertile soil and demons from the mind. This startling first novel questions the servitude that binds humans and animals together in a twisted and tender way. A glass of raw milk to be drunk in one gulp.

264 pages

English excerpt available

Rights held: World

"This novel proves itself to be simultaneously, instructive, carnal and poetic, and dwells with us a long time."
Le Journal de Québec

"Steve Poutré creates a profoundly olfactory and sensory universe through a hyper- (or hypo-?) sensitive character, who flees alienation by heightening the slightest dizziness, pain or sensation. The process clearly accounts for the overflow invading the farm and its inhabitants, who are suffocating under the cries, the feathers, the grain dust, the defections, the repetition."
Le Devoir

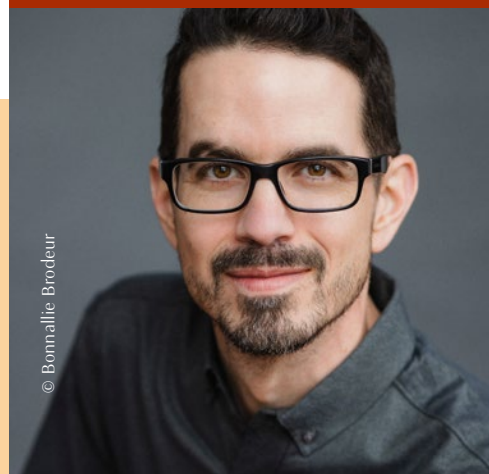
Steve Poutré was born in 1979. He grew up on a dairy farm, located in Saint-Ignace-de-Stanbridge, before moving to Montreal to begin a career as a graphic designer. After more than twenty years spent formatting the words of others, he has now chosen to share his own. *Lait cru* is his first novel. Today, Steve lives and writes in Saint-Mathias-sur-Richelieu, where he has rediscovered his horizons and his roots.



© Marianne Chevalier

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FINALIST
Prix Senghor du premier
roman francophone
Governor General's
Literary Awards



© Bonneallie Brodeur



12

WINNER
Governor General's
Literary Awards

FINALIST
Prix Adrienne-Choquette



Marie Hélène POITRAS

Galumpf

A love is born in the belly of a church and dies at the end of every night. A little girl tries to tame a big dog while her neighbors keep a close watch. A man seduces a woman with help from a horse. A radio host is confronted with utter silence. Islanders struggle with their boredom and rage. A writer recalls her first words.

In her trademark incisive, poetic prose, Marie Hélène Poitras offers up short stories that travel back to the dark frenzy of Montreal at the turn of this century (much like the setting of Stéphane Larue's *The Dishwasher*) and then lead up to the present day. Along the way, she takes a few detours, even visiting the suburban Ottawa of her childhood, a place that permanently shaped her relationship to the world and language.

Whether set in the horse stables Poitras knows so well or on an imaginary island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the stories examine our relationships with one another uncompromisingly and with great curiosity and depth. They also probe the strange, essential thing that is empathy to better grasp its connection to the strange, essential thing that is writing. To wrap up the collection, she includes an essay that explores the foundations of her literary approach and links writing to horseback riding, in the same way Murakami links writing to running.

A powerfully stirring collection that lies at the intersection of desire, pain, compassion, and selfishness, the difficult terrain where humanity takes shape.

192 pages

Rights held: World

"The universe of Marie Hélène Poitras is so vibrant, her themes so full of possibilities and openness that most of the short stories in this book could have been novels. It's wonderful!"

Radio-Canada

"A gem of a book, shining brightly with intelligence and warmth."

Littérature du Québec

"A writer at the top of her art"

La Presse

Marie Hélène POITRAS

La désirata

(*Sing, Nightingale*)

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

184 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: Canada and US (Coach House Books) | France (Cambourakis)

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



© Joel-Peter Witkin

FINALIST
Grand Prix
du Livre audio

Spanish excerpt
available

English PDF
available



© Henrik Uldalen

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 western set in contemporary Montreal.

After the long winter, John once again takes the reins 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)



© Mikko Lagerstedt

“Enthralling and
incredibly alive.”

Huffington Post

Over 12 000 copies sold

WINNER
Prix France-Québec

English PDF available

Élise TURCOTTE

Autoportrait d'une autre

A writer delves into the life of her aunt, who embodied creativity, adventure, beauty, and madness but died tragically in 1986. Denise Brosseau, whose married names and aliases included Denise Brossot, Denise Sorel, Denise Jodorowsky, and Denise Garcia Ponce, moved to Paris at age eighteen to study mime, then later to Mexico, where she turned to philosophy. Despite a life dedicated to art and ideas, she is little remembered today, while her husbands (the first a filmmaker, the second a painter), male friends, and lovers have left their mark on history. Denise was their muse, a woman silenced by her beauty, by the love she inspired, by her era.

Through Denise's correspondence with poet Gaston Miron, the works of art of her friends, and conversations with her aunt's loved ones, Élise Turcotte paints a kaleidoscopic portrait of a woman who was extraordinarily alive but stifled by her position in life. Throughout this journey, the author reveals much about herself, probes the legacy Denise left her, and questions her own relationship to art, freedom, madness, and death. In the same vein as Deborah Levy's living autobiographies and the lives reimaged by Lola Lafon in *The Little Communist Who Never Smiled* and Marie Darrieussecq in *Être ici est une splendeur*, Élise Turcotte has written a poignant, erudite, and stunning book, a true "self-portrait of someone else."

280 pages

Rights held: World

"A 'cathedral of questions' – on madness, shame, the concept of the muse and artistic creation – which is coupled with numerous ethical, intimate and literary questions. Can we talk about someone who existed? Is it appropriate to talk about oneself? And what form should this false investigation take?"

Le Devoir

"*Autoportrait d'une autre* transgresses literary boundaries. Neither an essay, nor an autobiography, nor a novel – but all of that at the same time – the book takes us on a fascinating quest."

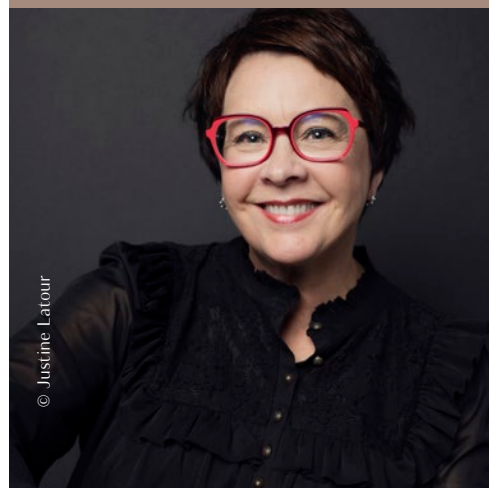
Lettres québécoises



© Paul Cupido

15

FINALIST
Prix des libraires du Québec
Prix international Rotary –
PEN Club
Prix littéraire
Janette-Bertrand



© Justine Latour



16

WINNER
Prix Ringuet de l'Académie
des lettres du Québec

FINALIST
Prix des Libraires
du Québec

LOONGLISTED
Prix France-Québec

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

160 pages

English and Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Le mot et le reste)

★★★★

“Breathtaking!”

Le Devoir

“This novel shines bright with intelligence
and spectacular originality.”

L'Actualité

“Rich and masterful, Élise Turcotte’s prose links the particular
and the systemic with rare fluidity.”

Nouveau Projet

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 honored with the prestigious career grant from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

Hélène DORION

Pas même le bruit d'un fleuve

(Not Even the Sound of a River)

Over 10 000
copies sold

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

English and Spanish excerpt and presentation available

Rights held: World

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

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 Université de Montréal's Études françaises magazine award, and the Prix Léopold-Senghor. Her books have been translated and published in over fifteen countries, and in 2012, the Bibliothèque Nationale de France paid tribute to her career.

www.helenedorion.com

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WINNER

Prix du CALQ - Artiste de l'année

FINALIST

Prix des cinq continents

Prix Alfred-Desrochers

LOONGLISTED

Trophée Folio-ELLE

Over 10 000 copies sold

English PDF available





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FINALIST
Prix littéraire des
collégien-ne-s
FINALIST
Prix des Horizons
imaginaires
FINALIST
Prix Jacques-Brossard



Elsa PÉPIN

Le fil du vivant

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

Spanish and English excerpts available

Rights held: World

Optioned by audiovisual producer

"Elsa Pépin's pursuit of beauty feels like a balm. *Le fil du vivant* is both an apocalyptic tale and a tribute to the women devoted to human survival, those who lose themselves in others. Filled with lucidity, tenderness, realism and violence, this story stays with you for days, well beyond the last page."

Les libraires

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 short-listed for the Prix France-Québec. *Le fil du vivant* is her second novel.

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

★★★★

Le Devoir

"Even those who are not familiar with the dark dwellings of this particular music will appreciate the audacity and the talent at work here."

La Presse

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 Awards





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 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.

246 pages

Rights held: World

Rights sold: France (Héloïse d'Ormesson)

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 great 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)

FINALIST
Prix des Rendez-vous
du premier roman

FINALIST
Prix Ringuet
de l'Académie des lettres
du Québec

Born in the mid-seventies, **Annie Perreault** graduated from McGill University in Russian studies and French literature. In 2015, she published *L'occupation des jours*, for which she received an honorable mention from the Prix Adrienne-Choquette, one of the most renowned prizes for short stories in Quebec. *La femme de Valence* is her first novel and was short-listed for the Rendez-vous du premier roman (First Novel Festival).

Christine EDDIE

Un beau désastre

Raised in a poor and wilting neighborhood by an optimistic astrologer of an aunt, the young MJ is afflicted with the twenty-first 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 quell even his darkest thoughts. Despite all that is wrong in the world, MJ 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 shows us that, even through the thickest concrete, flowers will always grow.

192 pages

Rights held: World

"Christine Eddie's words are like the rainbow shining through the rain clouds, like a smile glimpsed in a bustling, indifferent crowd."

Le Devoir

Les carnets de Douglas (*The Douglas Notebooks*)

On the same day, two teenagers free themselves from a life that would have left them feeling trapped. They chance upon each other two years later, in a village far too remote to be found on any map. In the heart of a bountiful yet savage wilderness, they fall in love, far from the roar of the twentieth century. That is until life takes an unpleasant turn as it so often does. The novel contains the kind of passion found in films and spotlights the fragile beauty of our world.

200 pages

English and Spanish translations available

Rights held: World

**Rights sold: France (Éditions Héloïse d'Ormesson),
France (Paperback - Le Livre de poche), Canada (Goose Lane)**

Christine Eddie was born in Paris and moved to Montreal just a few weeks later. 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
Prix France-Québec,
Prix Senghor for first novel

FINALIST
Prix des Libraires
du Québec

More than
10 000 copies sold

III - Classics

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 goose for the big day. His family is overjoyed. Madam is rich, so this union will resolve all their financial problems.

On the island where they live, the husband must obey his wife. Those who break the rules suffer the consequences in a world where 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 a fascinating novel that resembles a distorted mirror and 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, a bomb falls from the sky and kills their grandparents. The horrors of war destroy their childhood and alter their destiny. Men come to take their revenge 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 in 25 countries:

Albanie (Dritan), 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), India - Tamil language (Kalachuvadu Publications), 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 (Gragal), South Korea (Openhouse for Publishers), Sweden (Vaktel), Taiwan (New Century Publishing), Turkey (Bilgi), UK (Peirene Press), Ukraine (Anetta), US (Milkweed)

WINNER

Prix des Libraires du Québec
Prix Folio des lycéens
and 13 other literary prizes!

Opera adaptation by Nouvel
Ensemble Moderne

Movie rights optioned by
Max Films

Comic book adaptation by
Rue de Sèvres

22

Over 185 000
copies sold

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 Quebec 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.

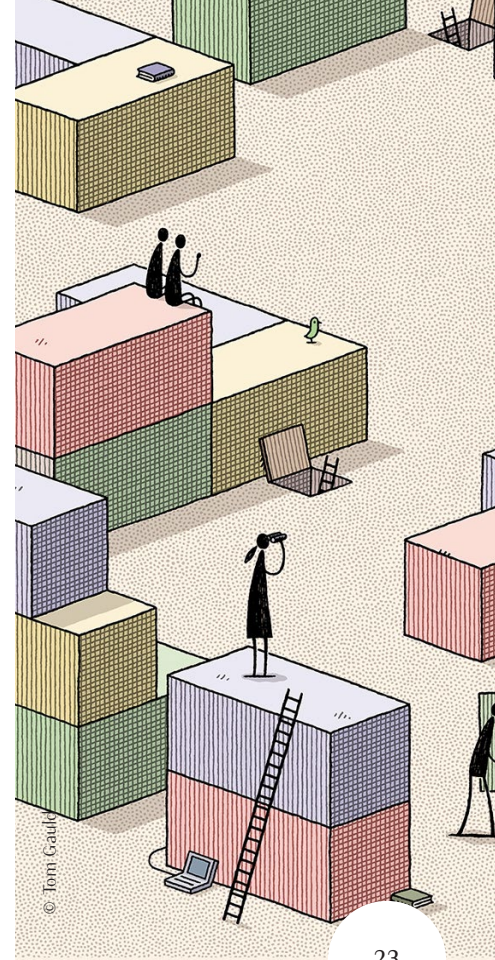
344 pages

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 (Tlalaparta), Turkey (Everest Yayinlari)

Nicolas Dickner studied visual arts and literature at Laval University in Quebec City. Afterwards, he traveled extensively in Europe and Latin America before settling in Montreal, where he now resides. Dickner's first novel, *Nikolski*, 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 irrefutably confirms his unique position in Quebec's literary landscape.



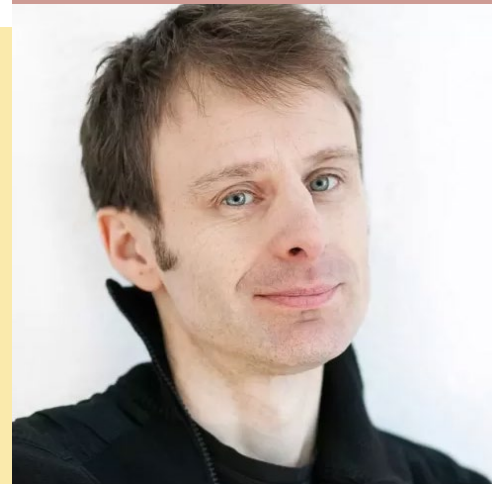
23

WINNER
Governor General's
Literary Awards

WINNER
Prix France-Québec

Over 20 000
copies sold

English PDF available





Nicolas DICKNER

Nikolski

A classic of Quebec 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 (Voland), Macedonia (Antolog Books), Poland (Pauza), Romania (RAO), Russia (Centre Polygraph), Spain (Txalaparta), UK (Portobello), Ukraine (Anetta), US (Trumpeteer)

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WINNER
Prix des Libraires du Québec

Prix littéraire
des collégien·ne·s

FINALIST
Governor General's
Literary Awards

Over 100 000
copies sold

English PDF available

“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

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

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 changes. While the Father becomes increasingly violent due to the mind-numbing drink and the Mother is constantly afraid of being expelled from the Building, the Child, motionless in his room, experiences 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

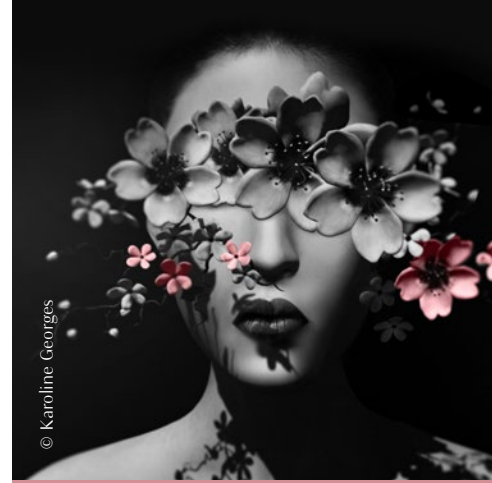
Rights held: World

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

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

www.karolinegeorges.com

© Karoline Georges



WINNER — Governor
General's Literary Awards

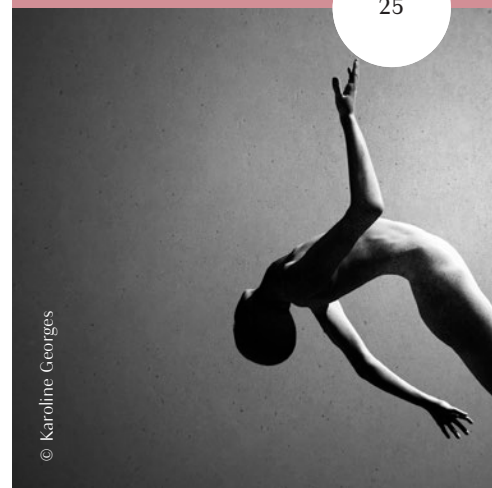
WINNER of three other
literary prizes

Over 8 000 copies sold

English PDF available

25

© Karoline Georges



FINALIST
Prix des Libraires du Québec

English PDF available



© Luke Bird

“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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© Pascale Collin

WINNER
Prix France-Québec

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), Italy (Zona 42), UK (Influx)

Les écritements

Forty years ago, Jeanne promised herself never to look for Suzor, her great love who disappeared one night without a trace. Now eighty 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 humor, *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 feel-good novel in the spirit of *And the Birds Rained Down* and *The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*.

240 pages

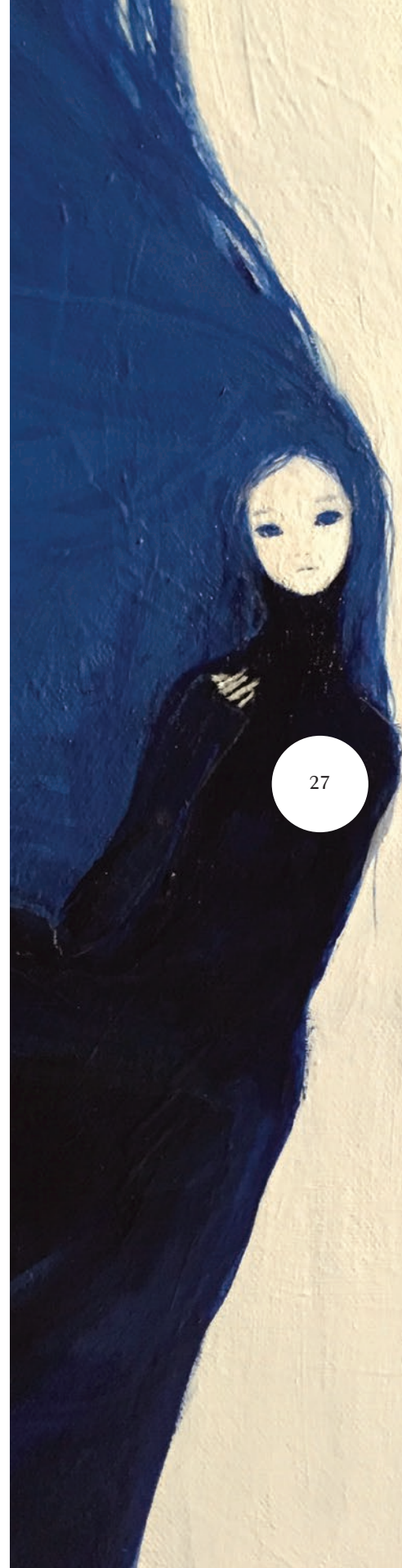
Rights held: World

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 Awards. More recently, he wrote the screenplay for a film adaptation of his bestselling book *Ça sent la coupe* (directed by Patrice Sauvé). Matthieu Simard lives in Montreal.

IV - Recent Acquisitions

- ARNOTT, Robbie** – *The Rain Heron* – Actes Sud (Arles)
- ***BAILLIE, Martha** – *There Is No Blue* – Transatlantic Literary Agency, Toronto
- BERNSTEIN, Sarah** – *Study for Obedience* – Penguin Random House Canada
- ENRIQUEZ, Mariana** – *Notre part de nuit* and *Les dangers de fumer au lit* – Éditions du sous-sol (Paris)
- GAULD, Tom** – *The Revenge of the Librarians* – Transatlantic Agency (Toronto)
- GROFF, Lauren** – *The Vaster Wilds* – The Clegg Agency (New York)
- ***HOOPER, Emma** – *We Should Not Be Afraid Of The Sky* – Curtis Brown (New York)
- JOHNS, Jessica** – *Bad Cree* – The Cooke McDermid Agency (Toronto)
- ***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** – *Gilded Needles*, *Katie*, *Cold Moon Over Babylon* – Monsieur Toussaint Louverture (Cenon - France)
- MICHAELS, Anne** – *Held* – The Wylie Agency, UK
- ***MICHAELS, Sean** – *Do You Remember Being Born ?* – The Gernert Company (New York)
- MITCHELL, David** – *Utopia Avenue* – L'Olivier (Paris)
- ***O'NEILL, Heather** – *The Capital of Dreams* – William Morris (New York)
- ***OKOT BITEK, Otoniya** – *We, The Kindling* – Penguin Random House Canada
- ***RICHARDSON, C S** – *All the Colour in the World* – The Cooke McDermid Agency (Toronto)
- ***SMITH, Neil** – *Jones* – The Cooke McDermid Agency (Toronto)
- WHARTON, Thomas** – *The Book of Rain* – AJA (Paris)
- ***WHITEHEAD, Joshua (dir.)** – *Love After The End* – Agence Deborah Druba (Paris)

* French translation rights available.



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LITTÉRATURE

