

Atwater *poetry project* presents

THE 2012 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARDS FOR LITERATURE

POETRY FINALISTS

reading at the Atwater Library Auditorium (2nd floor)
1200 Atwater Avenue

FREE ADMISSION

Thursday, November 1, 2012

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. | Readings at 7:00 p.m.

Julie Bruck

Monkey Ranch (Brick Books)

Corinne Chevarier

Anatomie de l'objet (Les Herbes rouges)

Fredric Gary Comeau*

Souffles (Écrits des Forges)

Hélène Dorion

Cœurs, comme livres d'amour (Éditions de l'Hexagone)

David McGimpsey

Li'l Bastard (Coach House Books)

A.F. Moritz*

The New Measures (House of Anansi)

Lisa Pasold

Any Bright Horse (Frontenac House)

James Pollock

Sailing to Babylon (Able Muse Press)

Christian Saint-Germain

Tomahawk (Éditions du Noroît)

Maude Smith Gagnon

Un drap. Une place. (Éditions Triptyque)

*A.F. Moritz and Fredric Gary Comeau will be unable to attend. The Atwater Poetry Project congratulates them for their nomination, and looks forward to them reading here in future.

THE ATWATER POETRY PROJECT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ONGOING SUPPORT OF THE *ATWATER LIBRARY*.

THIS READING IS SPONSORED BY THE CANADA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS.

For more information on upcoming readings and poets, or to listen to recordings of previous Atwater Poetry Project readings visit www.atwaterlibrary.ca/events/atwater-poetry-project.

Information: Tanya Mayhew, 514.935.7344

The Governor General's Literary Awards

The Governor General's Literary Awards were established by Governor General Lord Tweedsmuir of Elsfeld (also known as John Buchan, author of *The Thirty-Nine Steps*). The first awards honoured books published in 1936. The GGLAs have since evolved into Canada's pre-eminent national literary awards.

Launched by the Canadian Authors Association, the awards initially included only works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama written in English or translated from French into English. When the Canada Council for the Arts assumed responsibility for funding and administering the awards in 1959, it added prizes for works written in French. In 1987, the Council's Prizes for Children's Literature (text and illustration) and Translation were made Governor General's Literary Awards.

The award was originally a non-monetary prize. Then in 1951 a prize of \$250 was introduced, rising over the years to \$15,000 in the year 2000. In 2007, the value of the prize rose to \$25,000 in honour of the Canada Council's 50th anniversary. The winners are also presented with a handcrafted leather-bound copy of their winning book. Publishers of winning books receive \$3,000 for promotion. Non-winning finalists receive \$1,000 to mark their achievement. Today, the total value of the awards is about \$450,000.

November 1: Bilingual reading by shortlisted poets
at the Atwater Poetry Project

November 13: Announcement of 2012 GG winners

November 28: GG Awards ceremony at Rideau Hall

The Atwater Poetry Project

The Atwater Poetry Project series, now in its ninth season, aims to heighten public awareness and appreciation of poetry, and to bolster the professional opportunities available to Canadian poets. The series runs monthly from fall to spring. Featuring exclusively poetry, the Atwater Poetry Project is unique in Montreal. The series brings together local, national and occasionally international poets, offering audiences a chance to hear their favourite writers live and introducing them to poets whose work they may not have known.

The Atwater Poetry Project is presenting this bilingual event for the second year. Six other literary presenters across the country are joining the Atwater Poetry Project in presenting GG activities this year:

Kingston WritersFest • Festival international de la poésie de Trois-Rivières •
WordFest: Banff-Calgary Writers and Readers Festival • Vancouver International
Writers and Readers Festival • International Festival of Authors • Frye Festival

The Finalists

JULIE BRUCK (shortlisted for *Monkey Ranch*) is the author of two previous books, *The End of Travel* and *The Woman Downstairs*. Her recent work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Walrus*, among other publications. A Montreal native, she now lives in San Francisco.

CORINNE CHEVARIER (shortlisted for *Anatomie de l'objet*) is an actor and poet, and the author of two previous collections of poetry, *Les Recoins inquiets du corps* and *Dehors l'intime*. A selection from this GG-shortlisted book earned her the Prix Félix-Antoine-Savard.

FREDRIC GARY COMEAU (shortlisted for *Souffles*) is the author of 10 collections of poetry, including *Ravages*, which was a finalist for the Prix Émile-Nelligan, as well as four musical albums.

HÉLÈNE DORION (shortlisted for *Cœurs, comme livres d'amour*) is the author of nearly 30 books, which have been translated into more than fifteen languages. She is a member of the Académie des lettres du Québec, and among other distinctions has won the European Léopold-Senghor prize for her body of work.

DAVID MCGIMPSEY (shortlisted for *Li'l Bastard*) is the author of four previous collections of poetry, including *Lardcake* and *Sitcom*, which was a finalist for both the A.M. Klein Prize and the ReLit Award. He teaches creative writing and literature at Concordia University.

A.F. MORITZ (shortlisted for *The New Measures*) has published 16 books and has earned many literary honours. His *The Sentinel* won the 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize and was a finalist for the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry.

LISA PASOLD (shortlisted for *Any Bright Horse*) saw her first book of poetry, *Weave*, called "a masterpiece" by *Geist Magazine*; her second collection, *A Bad Year for Journalists*, was nominated for an Alberta Book Award and turned into a theatre play. Her debut novel, *Rats of Las Vegas*, appeared in 2009.

JAMES POLLOCK (shortlisted for *Sailing to Babylon*) is also the author of the book *You Are Here: Essays on the Art of Poetry in Canada*, forthcoming in November, 2012 from The Porcupine's Quill. He is associate professor at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, where he teaches poetry in the creative writing program.

CHRISTIAN SAINT-GERMAIN (shortlisted for *Tomahawk*) is the author of a number of works, notably on ethics. He teaches philosophy at the Université du Québec à Montréal. *Tomahawk* is his first collection of poetry.

MAUDE SMITH GAGNON (shortlisted for *Un drap. Une place.*) is the author of one previous collection of poems, *Une tonne d'air*, which won the Prix Émile-Nelligan.