

GROWING ROOM

A Feminist Literary Festival

.....
March 8 - 12, 2017 | Vancouver, BC
.....



Vancouver's leading arts source.



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Growing Room:
A Feminist Literary Festival

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Growing Room: A Feminist Literary Festival is operated by the West Coast Feminist Literary Magazine Society, a not-for-profit organization and the publisher of *Room*, a quarterly feminist literary journal.

Room has published fiction, poetry, reviews, artwork, and interviews by writers and artists who identify as women or genderqueer for forty years. Work that originally appeared in *Room* has been anthologized in *The Journey Prize Anthology*, *Best Canadian Poetry*, *Best Canadian Stories*, and *Best Canadian Essays*, and has been nominated for National Magazine Awards. We believe in publishing emerging writers alongside established authors, and approximately 90% of the work we publish comes from unsolicited submissions or contest entries.



Festival Staff

Festival Director: Arielle Spence
Publisher / Marketing and Development: Meghan Bell
Managing Editor / Bookstore Coordinator: Chelene Knight
Festival Intern & Launch Party Planner: Cara Lang
Volunteer Coordinator: Yilin Wang
Distribution Coordinator: Lynn Easton
Hospitality Coordinator: Jessica Johns

Festival Programming Committee

Meghan Bell, Terri Brandmueller, Chelene Knight, Lindsay Glauser Kwan, Mica Lemiski, Nav Nagra, Arielle Spence

Program and Ad Artwork

“Welcome to Wonderland” by Slavka Kolesar

Room Editorial Board and Readers

Wendy Barron, Meghan Bell, Terri Brandmueller, Amber Dawn, Candace Fertile, Sierra Skye Gemma, Leah Golob, Taryn Hubbard, Jónína Kirton, Chelene Knight, Lindsay Glauser Kwan, Cara Lang, Mica Lemiski, Brigid MacAulay, Alissa McArthur, Rose Morris, Nav Nagra, Rebecca Russell, Geffen Semach, Arielle Spence, Rachel Thompson, Yilin Wang, Kayi Wong, Lisa Xing

West Coast Feminist Literary Magazine Society Board of Directors

Terri Brandmueller, Lindsay Glauser Kwan, Nav Nagra, Geffen Semach



To learn more about *Room* magazine and submit your work, visit us online at roommagazine.com or follow us on social media!

Twitter: @roommagazine | Facebook: /roommagazine | Instagram: @roommagazine

#GrowingRoom2017

Welcome

Growing Room is a celebration, a protest, a reflection, a reenvisioning, a gathering, a question, and a dream. It is the culmination of forty years of hard work and creativity and the start of a new era.

Welcome to Growing Room! This event is the first literary festival organized by *Room* magazine, and we couldn't be more thrilled to share the results with you.

While Growing Room may be new, the philosophy behind it is not. In fact, the roots of Growing Room reach back to 1976, when a group of women with a passion for literature came together to create a space where cisgender women (and later, trans women, trans men, and genderqueer folks) could speak and be heard. As with the magazine itself, Growing Room would not have been possible without many readers, volunteers, supporters, advisors and friends—we can't thank you enough for joining us on this journey, and for helping us be better feminists.



Whether you subscribe to *Room*, or have never heard of us, identify as a feminist, or just love great literature, we hope you'll join us for Growing Room. Within this guide, you'll find information about more than twenty readings, panels, workshops and special events featuring over forty emerging and established writers and artists. From the launch party of *Making Room: Forty Years of Room Magazine* (our brand new anthology) on International Women's Day to a live recording of Can't Lit on our closing night, we think this festival has something for you.

So, what are you waiting for? Let's grow together.

Sincerely,

Arielle Spence
Festival Director, Growing Room

A Firehall Arts Centre Production

REFUGE

Written by Mary Vingoe

Directed by Donna Spencer

What happens when you come to Canada from a war-torn country expecting to be welcomed and discover that things are very different from what was imagined? Refuge tells the emotionally riveting story of a former child soldier from Eritrea who seeks out family and sanctuary, within an imperfect immigration system.

“An important, powerful and eye-opening play”

Halifax Chronicle Herald

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arts centre
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firehallartscentre.ca

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| Cartems Donuterie | Pemberton Music Festival | Terra Breads |
| Fiona Tinwei Lam | Prado | Vancouver International Film Festival |
| Firehall Arts Centre | PureBread | |

Room is published with the assistance of the Canada Arts Council and the Government of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council:



Making Room: Forty Years of Room Magazine was published with the support of the Government of Canada:



Free parking for patrons
Only a few blocks away from venues



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(excluding happy hour specials and discounted items)

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How to Register

Cost

All events at Growing Room—with the exception the Launch Party (p 14) and the four workshops in the Boardroom (p 20, p 35)—are free to attend. Making Space for Women (p 15) and Perfect Pairings (p 23) are by donation.

**Please register for events at growingroom.eventbrite.com.
Space is limited so register early.**

EventBrite accepts credit cards (VISA and MasterCard). If you would like to reserve a spot for a paid event but prefer to pay the registration fee with cash or cheque, please contact festival@roommagazine.com.

Please note that two events—Perfect Pairings (p 23) and To My Family, With Love: An Intergenerational Writing Workshop with Fiona Tinwei Lam (p 37)—are drop-in only and do not require registration. The events hosted by Joy Kogawa House (p 15) and Caitlin Press (p 15) request that people RSVP to their organizers.

The pre-festival event at the Vancouver Public Library on February 21 (p 14) is free and does not require registration.

Sold Out Events

If you wanted to attend an event, but it has already sold out, we recommended checking the Artist Biography section (p 41), as many writers may be in multiple events.


Walk-Ups


There will be a limited number of seats available for walk-ups and late-comers. Priority seating will be given to elders and disabled people.

Please register early to ensure you get a seat.



A Free Reading Series
Biweekly January - May
7:30pm • VPL Central Branch • RSVP at writersfest.bc.ca

 **Monday, March 20 | Elan Mastai**

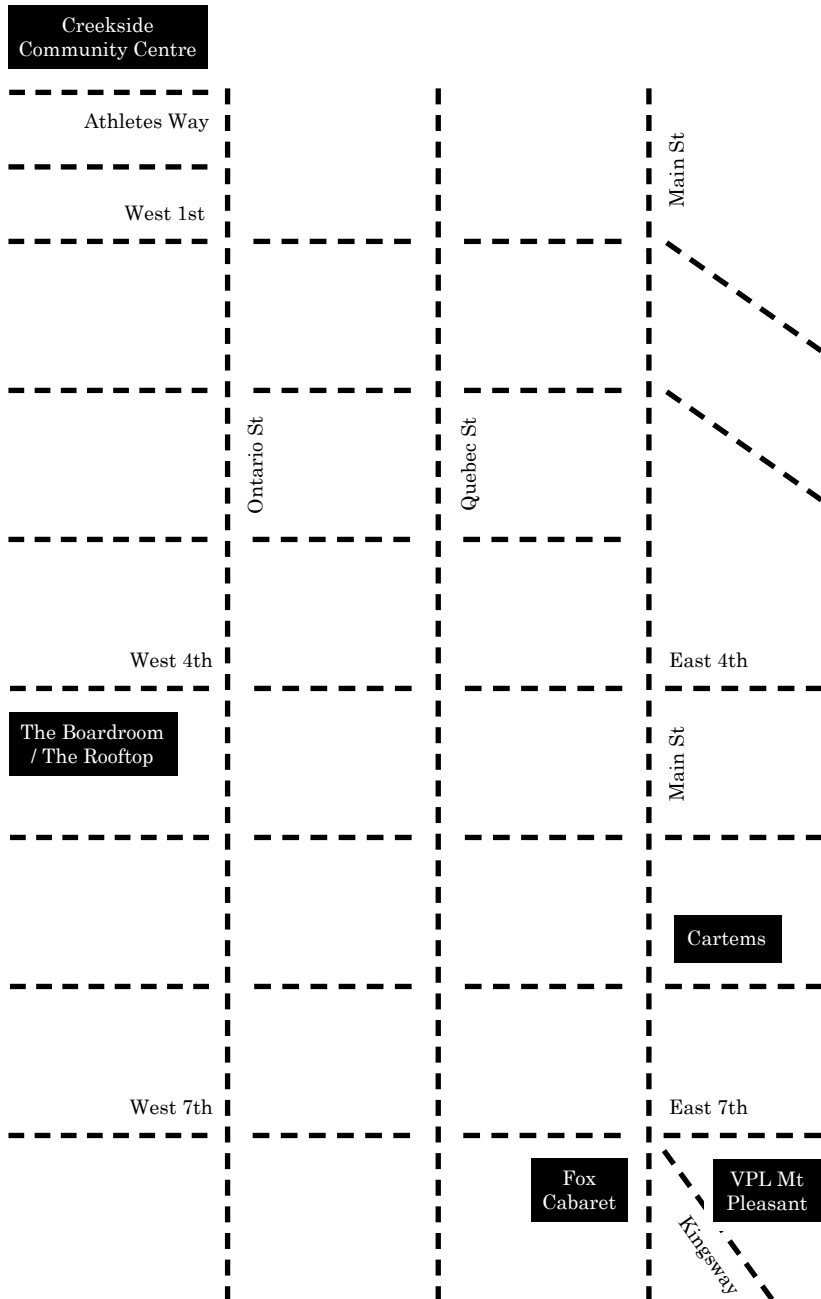
Wednesday, March 29
Rebecca Rosenblum, Lori McNulty, Janet Rogers 

Wednesday, April 12
Sharon Butala, Michael Harris, Robert Moor 

Wednesday, April 26
Lisa See, Michael Kaan, Carys Davies 



Festival Venue Map



Venues

Creekside Community Centre

Multipurpose Rooms 1, 2, and 4
1 Athlete’s Way, Vancouver

The Boardroom and The Rooftop

24 West 4th Avenue @ Ontario Street, Vancouver

Vancouver Public Library—Mount Pleasant Branch

1 Kingsway Avenue, Vancouver

The Fox Cabaret

2321 Main Street, Vancouver

Cartems Donuterie

2190 Main Street, Vancouver

Growing Room takes place on the traditional, unceded and ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish nations.

Getting Here

Creekside Community Centre and 24 West 4th Avenue are easily accessible by **transit**, including the #84 and #3 bus routes and the Olympic Village Station on the Canada Line. Information on bus routes and schedules can be found at translink.ca.

Paid parking is available at Creekside Community Centre for \$2.75 per hour or \$11.00 per day. There is also free street parking on West 4th Avenue, Ontario Street, and surrounding streets within a few blocks of 24 West 4th Avenue.

Get smart (and fearless) about publishing your writing in journals in a six-week course.

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Accessibility

All venues are wheelchair accessible with the exception of The Rooftop, which is located on the third floor (up 38 stairs) of a heritage building with no elevator. All washrooms at festival venues are trans-friendly or non-gendered. **Detailed accessibility information for each venue is available on our website at roommagazine.com/festival.**

ASL Interpretation

ASL interpretation for all events is available upon request. Please contact festival@roommagazine.com by February 28th, 2017 to request an ASL Interpreter to be at any event(s).

Scent-Free Environment

Help us keep Growing Room a scent-reduced space by skipping the perfume, scented shampoo, or other products during festival weekend.

Additional Questions or Concerns?

Contact Arielle Spence, Festival Director, festival@roommagazine.com

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Childcare

Complimentary childcare is available from 10am–5:30pm on Saturday, March 11th and Sunday, March 12th at Creekside Community Centre. To use this service, please email festival@roommagazine.com with the following information:

- Date and time when you'll need childcare
- Name and age of child
- Any food allergies or accessibility needs

Drop-in childcare is also available. Please visit the Growing Room Volunteer Table in Multipurpose Room #4 at Creekside Community Centre prior to your events.

Book and Media Fair

Connect with the Vancouver literary community at the Book and Media Fair! Exhibitors include local publishers, university writing programs, the Vancouver Public Library, and more. Whether you are an aspiring writer, work in publishing, or just love to read, there's something for you.

Book and Media Fair Hours

10:30am–2:30pm on Saturday, March 11th and Sunday, March 12th

Exhibitors

EVENT, *subTerrain*, *PRISM international*, *Ricepaper*, the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia, Vancouver Public Library, Paper Trail Publishers, SFU Creative Writing, LunaPads, Joy Kogawa House, The University Women's Club of Vancouver at Hycroft, and Caitlin Press.

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Festival Bookstore

Intrigued by an author's reading? Our bookstore features the latest books from more than thirty authors from Growing Room. And, if you're lucky, you can snag a signed copy!

Bookstore Hours

10:30am–5:30pm on Saturday, March 11th and Sunday, March 12th

The Festival Bookstore accepts VISA, MasterCard, Cash, and Cheque.

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The **Book and Media Fair** and **Festival Bookstore** are both located in **Multipurpose Room #4** at **Creekside Community Centre** (on the second floor).

Growing Room Art Gallery

Between events at Growing Room, make sure to check out the **Growing Room Art Gallery**, located at **The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue**. Join us as we celebrate just some of the many talented visual artists whose work has found a home in *Room* magazine. Featured artists include Samantha deVries-Hofman, Roxanne Charles, Chantal Gibson, Catherine Mellinger, and more.

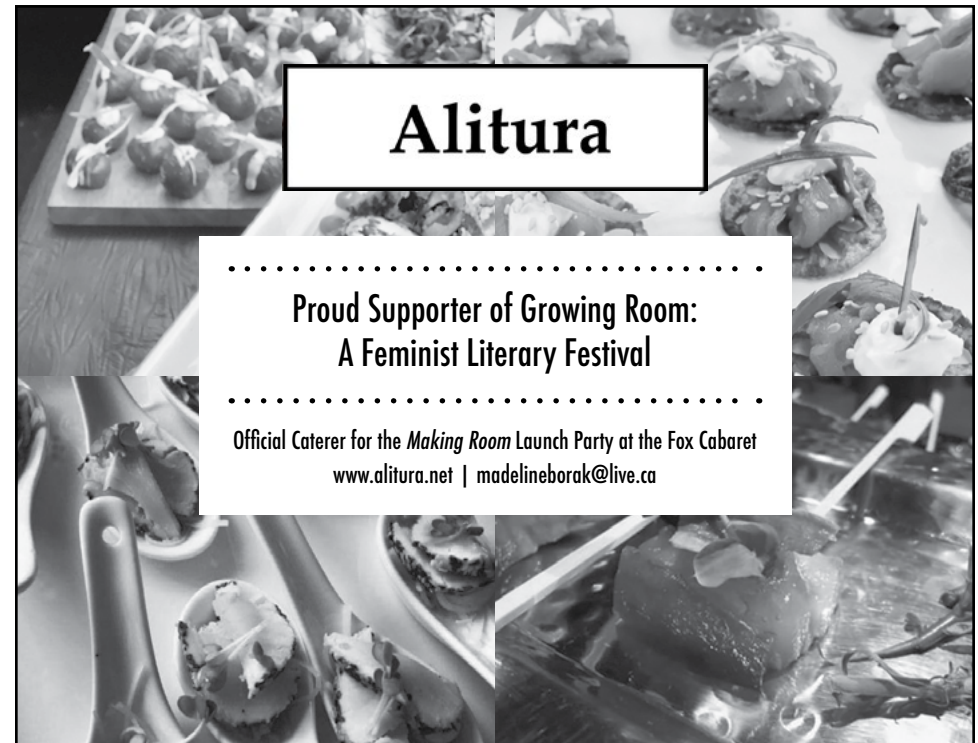
Selected works are available for purchase. Contact the artist for details.

Gallery Hours

Saturday, March 11th: 10:00am–5:30pm

Sunday, March 12th: 10:00am–9:30pm

Events will take place at **The Rooftop** during these hours. We encourage you to stay for a (free) event and check out the gallery before or afterward.



Tuesday, February 21—Room: A History

Room: A History of Canada's Oldest Feminist Literary Magazine

Chelene Knight, Clélie Rich, Lana Okerlund, Cynthia Flood, Juliane Okot Bitek | Moderator: Taryn Hubbard

What does it take to publish *Room*, one of Canada's oldest and most distinguished literary magazines? Join a panel of *Room*'s editors and contributors for an illuminating and inspiring discussion about the forty-year history of *Room* and what's next for this important publication.

7:00pm–8:30pm | Free

Alice McKay Room @ Vancouver Public Library—Central Branch

Presented in partnership with the VPL



Vancouver Public Library

Wednesday, March 8—Launch Party

On March 8th, join *Room* magazine as we celebrate International Women's Day and the launch of *Making Room: Forty Years of Room Magazine* with a cocktail reception at The Fox Cabaret. Mingle with Growing Room authors, enjoy delectable appetizers and drinks, and take a moment to write someone (or yourself) a "Feminist Love Note" to inspire the next forty years of activism, writing, and love. With a live performance by the soulful pop group Sister Says (sistersays.com).

7:30pm–10:00pm | Tickets \$10 at growingroom.eventbrite.com or at the door

The Fox Cabaret, 2321 Main Street, Vancouver

Catering by Alitura (www.alitura.net) | Cash Bar

Presented in partnership with Caitlin Press



WWW.CAITLIN-PRESS.COM

Thursday, March 9—Making Space for Women

Making Space for Women at the Historic Joy Kogawa House

Jónína Kirton and Meredith Quartermain with Rogue Choir

Métis/Icelandic poet Jónína Kirton reads from *An Honest Woman*, poems that unravel norms of femininity and sexuality. Author Meredith Quartermain reads from *U Girl*, a novel set in Vancouver in 1972. With songs of unity through diversity by Rogue Choir, in celebration of International Women's Day.

7:30pm–10:00pm | Entry By Donation, RSVP at info@kogawahouse.com

Historic Joy Kogawa House, 1450 West 64th Avenue, Vancouver

Presented in partnership with Joy Kogawa House



Friday, March 10—Caitlin Press 40th Celebration

Join us in celebrating forty years of feminist publishing with Caitlin Press, and come wish their new imprint, Dagger Editions, a happy first birthday. Mingle with the publishing staff, *Room* magazine editors, and local authors. Browse Caitlin Press' vast selection of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry, available for purchase.

7:00pm–Late | RSVP at www.caitlin-press.com/40

Taste Lounge at Fivesixty, 560 Seymour Street, Vancouver

Presented in partnership with Caitlin Press



WWW.CAITLIN-PRESS.COM

Saturday, March 11—Panels

The Only Way Out is Through: Writing About Trauma

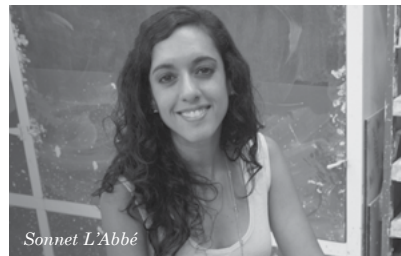
Evelyn Lau, Christine Lowther, Sonnet L'Abbé

Moderator: Elee Kraljii Gardiner

Many of us seek to escape the traumatic memories that haunt us—to heal and move on from the things that have happened to us. Could writing be a way through? Many recommend writing as a method of healing from trauma, but it's easier said than done. Join us for a powerful discussion about sitting with your memories and leaving it all on the page.

10:30am–12:00pm | Free

Multipurpose Room #2 @ Creekside Community Centre



Literary Gatekeepers and Accountability

Carleigh Baker, Meghan Bell, Karla Comanda, Kyla Jamieson, Vici Johnstone | Moderator: Dina Del Bucchia

The concept of 'accountability' in the literary arts has become a hot-button topic, inspiring thousands of tweets, articles, and conversations. And yet, the concept of accountability can be surprisingly difficult to pin down: What does it mean to have the power to publish someone? What role does a literary organization play in the fight against injustice? Following short presentations from representatives from local literary magazines and publishers, we'll open up the floor for a townhall-style discussion to start envisioning what accountability in the literary arts looks like.

1:00pm–2:30pm | Free

Multipurpose Room #2 @ Creekside Community Centre



Leading by Example: What We Can Learn from YA

Hiromi Goto, Rachel Hartman, Carrie Mac, Kellee Ngan

Moderator: Meghan Bell

Often derided in the media for not being “real literature,” young adult literature—and the writers who create it—are at the forefront of the conversation about diversity in publishing. With the popularity of the We Need Diverse Books (#WeNeedDiverseBooks) campaign, and the development of publishing initiatives that focus on representing all teenagers, young adult lit, or “YA,” could teach the rest of CanLit a thing or two. Join four authors who've found success in writing for the YA audience as they share what this genre can teach writers, editors and publishers of all types.

3:30pm–5:00pm | Free

Multipurpose Room #2 @ Creekside Community Centre

Saturday, March 11—Readings

Myths and Legends

Ali Blythe, Hiromi Goto, Rachel Hartman, Aislinn Hunter, Jennifer Zilm

Whether we like it or not, myths and legends shape our lives. These stories, which are part of the foundation of our cultures, can be a source of inspiration or restriction as we are pressured to fit into pre-determined archetypes. Ali Blythe, Jennifer Zilm, Aislinn Hunter, Rachel Hartman, and Hiromi Goto share passages from their latest works about connecting with community through shared stories, bucking tradition, and writing new myths for the 21st century.

10:30am–12:00pm | Free

The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue



Ali Blythe



Adèle Barclay

BFFFs—Best Fictional Friends Forever

Carleigh Baker, Adèle Barclay, Jane Eaton Hamilton, Nilofar Shidmehr

Friendship, like love, is complicated. From the politics of who you gave the other half of your “Best Friends Forever” bracelet to in grade three, to long-distance friendships, to “Friends with Benefits,” friendships can be as tricky to manage as any relationship. When it works, though, friendship can transform us. Explore a range of friendships (from the sublime to the toxic) with writers Carleigh Baker, Adèle Barclay, Nilofar Shidmehr, and Jane Eaton Hamilton.

3:30pm–5:00pm | Free | Cash Bar

The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue



Elizabeth Bachinsky



Lorna Crozier



Dina Del Bucchia



Doretta Lau

Funny Feminists

Elizabeth Bachinsky, Lorna Crozier, Dina Del Bucchia, Doretta Lau, Beni Xiao

“Feminists can’t take a joke?” I don’t know, dude—maybe your jokes just suck.

Get ready for an afternoon of hilarity as five of B.C.’s funniest writers—Dina Del Bucchia, Lorna Crozier, Doretta Lau, Elizabeth Bachinsky, and Beni Xiao—take to the stage and show us how feminist comedy is done. By the end of this event, you’ll have a new appreciation for the power of comedic writing to surprise and delight—not to mention, convey powerful messages about injustice.

3:30pm–5:00pm | Free

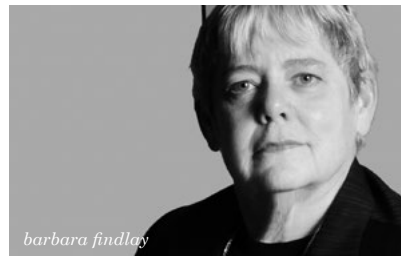
Multipurpose Room #4 @ Creekside Community Centre

Saturday, March 11—Workshops

The Prose Poem with Jen Currin

Perched between poetry and prose, the prose poem occupies a tricky space. It is genre-bending by nature, often musical and densely imagistic. The prose poem encourages flights of fancy, surrealist moments, dreams, wordplay, circular arguments. In this two-and-a-half hour workshop, we will practise writing prose poems, and read and discuss some of the best this genre has to offer. Open to writers of all levels.

10:00am–12:30pm | Cost: \$15 per person
The Boardroom @ 24 West 4th Avenue



writing white*: questioning privilege with barbara findlay

**or able-bodied, or employed, or male, or cisgender, or non-immigrant, or sheltered, or raised christian or . . . any other position of privilege*

All of us experience oppression with respect to some parts of our identity, and privilege with respect to other parts. One of the features of privilege is that it is the part we don't (have to) notice because we are, with respect to that part, part of the norm. In this experiential workshop we will look at how the privileged parts of our identities affect us as writers. Open to writers of all levels.

1:30pm–5:00pm | Cost: \$15 per person
The Boardroom @ 24 West 4th Avenue

Saturday, March 11—Special Events

Words and Pictures (Artist Talk / Presentation)

Elizabeth Bachinsky, Francine Cunningham, Chantal Gibson, Roxanne Charles

Although this is a “literary” festival, most of the writers we know work in at least one other artistic medium—and we think it’s high-time to celebrate that! Art and writing are natural complements, and moving between different media can teach us so much about the other. Multi-talented creators Elizabeth Bachinsky, Francine Cunningham, Chantal Gibson, and Roxanne Charles each share their experience of moving between literary and visual worlds, and how artists can get their feet wet in other art forms.

1:00pm–2:30pm | Free | Cash Bar
The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue



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Saturday, March 11—Special Events

Perfect Pairings: Food and Wine, Poetry and Prose

Marianne Apostolides, Kat Cameron, Rachel Jansen, Sylvia Symons, Nicole Breit, Dora Dueck, Samantha deVries-Hofman, Beni Xiao, Tanis MacDonald

Join *Room* at Cartems Donuterie for an exquisite evening that will feed both body and imagination. At this one-of-a-kind event, we'll celebrate the launch of two recent issues: 39.4 "This Body's Map" (edited by Chelene Knight) and 40.1 "Food" (edited by Kayi Wong and Rose Morris) with readings from local contributors, beer, wine, ice cream, and, of course, DOUGHNUTS!

No registration required.

7:00pm–9:30pm

Entry by Donation (recommended \$5 – \$10, includes an issue of *Room*)

Food and drinks sold separately

Cartems Donuterie @ 2190 Main Street



Proud Supporter of Growing Room: A Feminist Literary Festival

Hey, we're Cartems! Our business is about three key things: smiles, conversation, and donuts. Our ingredients are fresh, and our donuts are never ever frozen. The ingredients are sourced from as close to home as possible, and organic wherever we can. Local ingredients—ethically sourced and sustainable—mean a higher quality donut you can feel better about eating, giving you more reasons to smile. Come find us at one of our three shops!

Downtown—534 West Pender | Mount Pleasant—2190 Main Street | Kits—3040 West Broadway



Festival Weekend at a Glance

Saturday, March 11

Creekside Community Centre—Multipurpose Room #2

- 10:30am–12pm No Way Out But Through: Writing About Trauma (panel)
Christine Lowther • Evelyn Lau • Sonnet L'Abbé
- 1pm–2:30pm Literary Gatekeepers and Accountability (panel)
Carleigh Baker • Meghan Bell • Karla Comanda • Kyla Jamieson • Vici Johnstone
- 3:30pm–5pm Leading by Example: What We Can Learn From YA (panel)
Rachel Hartman • Hiromi Goto • Kellee Ngan • Carrie Mac

Creekside Community Centre— Multipurpose Room #4

- 10:30am–2:30pm Book Fair
- 3:30pm–5pm Funny Feminists (reading)
Dina Del Bucchia • Lorna Crozier • Doretta Lau • Elizabeth Bachinsky • Beni Xiao

24 West 4th Avenue—The Boardroom

- 10am–12:30pm The Prose Poem with Jen Currin (workshop)
- 1:30pm–5pm writing white: questioning privilege with barbara findlay (workshop)

24 West 4th Avenue—The Rooftop

- 10:30am–12pm Myths and Legends (reading)
Ali Blythe • Aislinn Hunter • Hiromi Goto • Jennifer Zilm • Rachel Hartman
- 1pm–2:30pm Words and Pictures (artist talk / presentation)
Elizabeth Bachinsky • Francine Cunningham • Chantal Gibson • Roxanne Charles
- 3:30pm–5pm BFFFs—Best Fictional Friends Forever (reading)
Jane Eaton Hamilton • Adèle Barclay • Nilofar Shidmehr • Carleigh Baker

Cartems Donuterie

- 7pm–9:30pm Perfect Pairings: Food and Wine, Poetry and Prose (special event)
Beni Xiao • Nicole Breit • Rachel Jansen • Marianne Apostolides • Dora Dueck • Samantha deVries-Hofman • Sylvia Symons • Kat Cameron • Tanis MacDonald

Sunday, March 12

Creekside Community Centre— Multipurpose Room #2

- 10:30am–12pm Writing in (the) Community (panel)
Elee Kraljii Gardiner • Amber Dawn • Leah Horlick • Audrey Thomas
- 1pm–2:30pm Just Try to Stop Me (reading)
Juliane Okot Bitek • Doretta Lau • Alessandra Naccarato • June Hutton • Christine Lowther • barbara findlay
- 3:30pm–5pm Character Development: Writing About Pregnancy and Childhood (reading)
Audrey Thomas • Marianne Apostolides • Nicole Breit • Cynthia Flood • Fiona Tinwei Lam

Creekside Community Centre— Multipurpose Room #4

- 10:30am–2:30pm Book Fair
- 3:30pm–5pm Poetry Free For All (reading)
Evelyn Lau • Alex Leslie • Leah Horlick • Chelene Knight • Jónína Kirton • Alessandra Naccarato • Junie Désil • Cyndia Cole • Beni Xiao

24 West 4th Avenue—The Boardroom

- 10am–12:30pm Creative Non-Fiction with Marianne Apostolides (workshop)
- 1:30pm–4pm The Finishing Touches with Betsy Warland (workshop)

24 West 4th Avenue—The Rooftop

- 10:30am–12pm Reflecting on Our Reflections (panel)
Lorna Crozier • Juliane Okot Bitek • Nilofar Shidmehr • Francine Cunningham
- 1pm–2:30pm [Insert Innuendo Here] (reading)
Jane Eaton Hamilton • Jen Sookfong Lee • Amber Dawn • Dina Del Bucchia • Kellee Ngan
- 3:30pm–5pm The Here and Now (panel)
Aislinn Hunter • Carleigh Baker • Christine Lowther • June Hutton
- 7pm–9pm Can't Lit Live! (special event)
Dina Del Bucchia • Daniel Zomparelli • Leah Horlick • Juliane Okot Bitek

VPL Mount Pleasant

- 10:30am–12:15pm To My Family, with Love: An Intergenerational Writing Workshop with Fiona Tinwei Lam (special event / workshop)

WOMEN'S WRITING FOR EVERYONE'S READING

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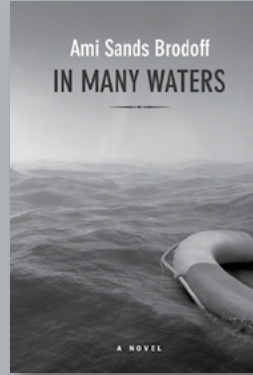
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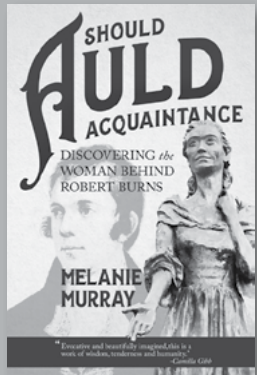
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—Joseph Kertes**



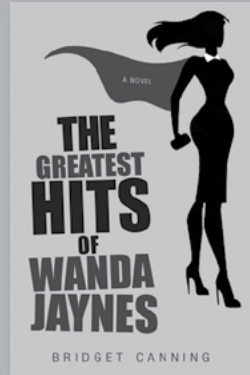
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—Alix Hawley**



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Sunday, March 12—Panels

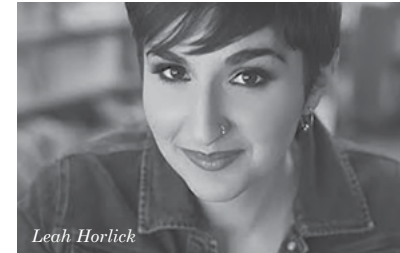
Writing in (the) Community

Leah Horlick, Elee Kraljii Gardiner, Audrey Thomas
Moderator: Amber Dawn

In his acceptance speech for the National Book Award in 2016, Colson Whitehead said, "Be kind to everybody, make art, and fight the power." Writing of all kinds has always been central to the fight against systemic oppression and injustice—and now, more than ever. As we move forward into an uncertain future, and fight to have our voices heard, writers and community activators Elee Kraljii Gardiner, Leah Horlick, Amber Dawn, and Audrey Thomas discuss writing against the grain and creating spaces for everyone to speak their truth.

10:30am–12:00pm | Free

Multipurpose Room #2 @ Creekside Community Centre



OUT NOW OR SOON FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF
THE LITERARY PRESS GROUP | LPG.CA

Sunday, March 12—Panels

Reflecting on our Reflections

Juliane Okot Bitek, Francine Cunningham, Nilofar Shidmehr, Lorna Crozier | Moderator: Aislinn Hunter

Compared to the heavily-photoshopped fashion magazines that line the aisles at grocery stores, we might not think of literature as a source of messaging about women's appearances. But, just like any form of media, the novels, short stories, and poetry we read can be infused with patriarchy and racism. At the same time, our writing can be a place where ideas of beauty and self-image can be broken apart and remade anew. Juliane Okot Bitek, Nilofar Shidmehr, Francine Cunningham, and Lorna Crozier share their experience of rewriting the stories we tell about our bodies.

10:30am–12:00pm | Free

The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue



The Here and Now

Carleigh Baker, Aislinn Hunter, June Hutton, Christine Lowther
Moderator: Tanis MacDonald

How do you capture the character of a particular time and place? The stories in Carleigh Baker's debut collection explore Vancouver and the surrounding wilds; June Hutton's novel takes place in a 1920s mining town; Aislinn Hunter intertwines the lives of an archivist in present day London and a woman who went missing in the 1870s; and Christine Lowther's memoir *Born out of This* is "steeped in the immense beauty of the coastal rainforest." Join them as they discuss writing about the present moment, or reflecting on a bygone era, and how the two approaches may not be that different.

3:30pm–5:00pm | Free | Cash Bar

The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue

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Sunday, March 12—Readings

Just Try to Stop Me

Juliane Okot Bitek, barbara findlay, Doretta Lau, Christine Lowther,
Alessandra Naccarato, June Hutton

When the odds are against you, and everyone's telling you to quit, what do you do? Do you give in to fate, to social expectations, to fear—or do you keep fighting? Meet six writers who, in their careers, their personal lives, and through their writing, have done the unexpected, taken on seemingly impossible challenges, and inspired others to do the same. Spanning different genres, historical periods, and forms of injustice, these readings will leave you fired up and ready to fight the power.

1:00pm–2:30pm | Free

Multipurpose Room #2 @ Creekside Community Centre



Juliane Okot Bitek



Doretta Lau



Alessandra Naccarato



June Hutton

Sunday, March 12—Readings

[Insert Innuendo Here]

Amber Dawn, Dina Del Bucchia, Jane Eaton Hamilton, Kellee Ngan, Jen Sookfong Lee

As the winners of the “Bad Sex in Fiction” award highlight each year, writing about sex can be tricky. The wrong euphemism for a body part, a move that defies the laws of physics—and you’ve lost your readers. But there’s no need to worry about any of that here. Five accomplished writers take us between the sheets (and between the pages), with hilarious, romantic, and steamy readings that embrace the messiness of sex, relationships, and everything in between.

1:00pm–2:30pm | Free | Cash Bar
The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue



Amber Dawn



Jane Eaton Hamilton



Dina Del Bucchia



Jen Sookfong Lee



Nicole Breit



Cynthia Flood



Fiona Tinwei Lam



Audrey Thomas

Character Development:

Writing About Pregnancy and Parenthood

Marianne Apostolides, Nicole Breit, Cynthia Flood, Fiona Tinwei Lam, Audrey Thomas

Writing about the topic of pregnancy and parenthood is just as varied as the people who become pregnant and/or parents, and explores the full gamut of human emotion. Marianne Apostolides, Nicole Breit, Audrey Thomas, Cynthia Flood, and Fiona Tinwei Lam have written about pregnancy and parenthood extensively through the years—and to much acclaim. Join us as they give us a glimpse of the various facets of this simultaneously very private, and very public, experience.

3:30pm–5:00pm | Free

Multipurpose Room #2 @ Creekside Community Centre

Sunday, March 12—Readings

Sponsored by
Creative Writing at SFU



Poetry Free For All

Cyndia Cole, Junie Désil, Leah Horlick, Jónína Kirton, Chelene Knight, Evelyn Lau, Alex Leslie, Alessandra Naccarato, Beni Xiao

Don't read much poetry? That'll change after this event. Say hello to nine of Vancouver's most inspiring poets as they take to the stage for a feminist poetry extravaganza. These wordsmiths will take you to far away places, and reveal the secrets of the human heart, with a kaleidoscopic array of verse that spans various genres and styles.

3:30pm–5:00pm | Free

Multipurpose Room #4 @ Creekside Community Centre



Cyndia Cole



Junie Désil



Jónína Kirton



Chelene Knight



Alex Leslie



Beni Xiao

Sunday, March 12—Workshops

Creative Non-Fiction with Marianne Apostolides

Dive into creative non-fiction with Marianne Apostolides. Together you'll explore the unique pitfalls and opportunities inherent to the genre; techniques a writer can use to optimize the qualities of the genre; fundamental aspects of narrative; and practical strategies for starting (and maintaining) a writing practice. Optional: if you are currently developing a CNF essay or story, submit a partial draft (max 2,000 words) to festival@roommagazine.com by **Tuesday, February 28, 2017** to receive feedback from Marianne Apostolides during the workshop. Open to writers of all levels.

10:00am–12:30pm | Cost: \$30 per person—includes copy of *The Voluptuous*

Pleasure by Marianne Apostolides

The Boardroom @ 24 West 4th Avenue



Marianne Apostolides



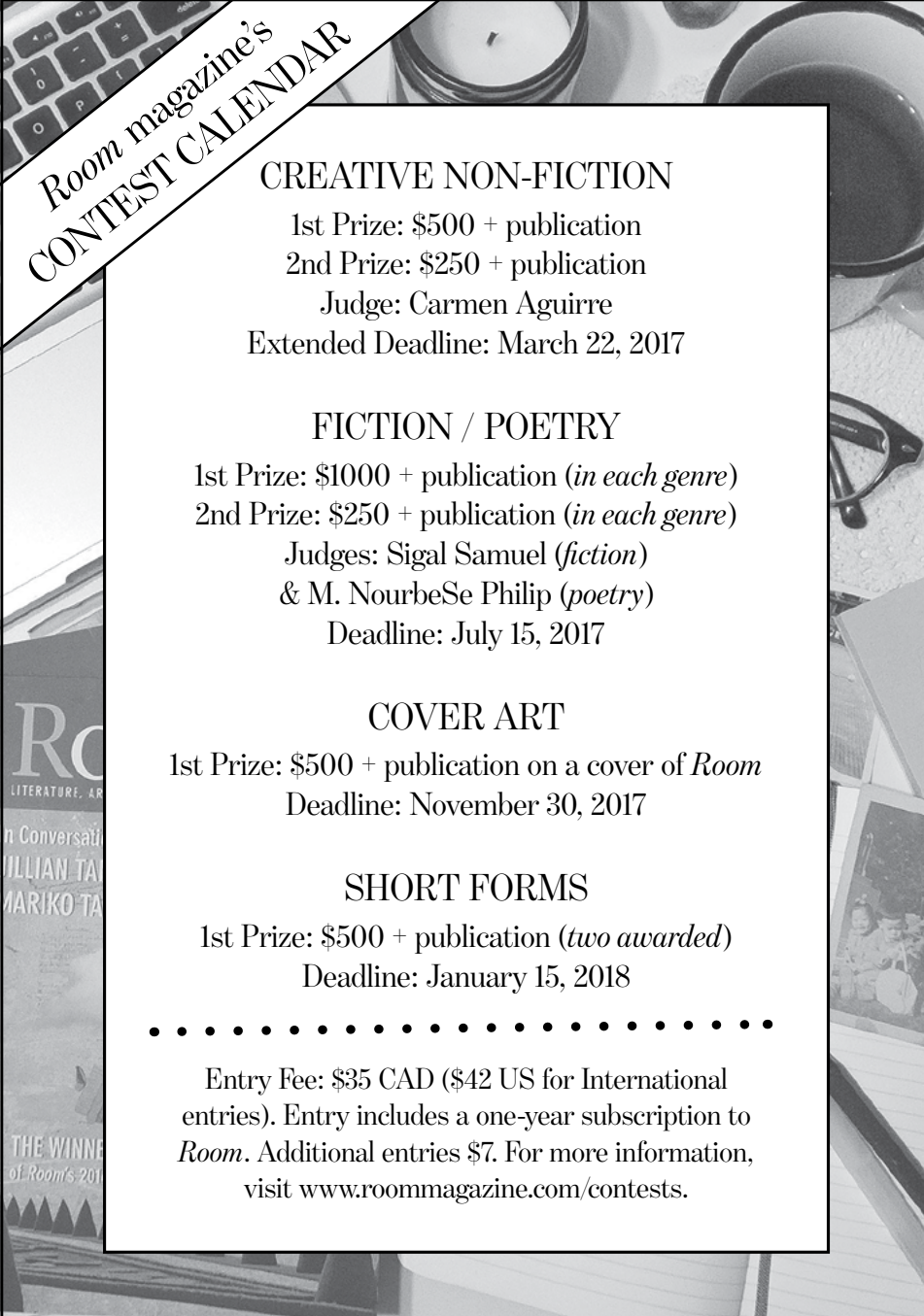
Betsy Warland

The Finishing Touches with Betsy Warland

Two of a writer's most vexing questions are: "Is it finished" and "Who'll publish it?" Because these questions arise throughout our writing lives it's important to find how to navigate them. Learn a method of determining: whether it's finished (or not); which publication is the best fit; top reasons publishers reject or accept work; and how to give publishers a context for your work. The respected option of self or independent publishing, as an interim or final option, will also be discussed. Open to writers of all levels.

1:30pm–4:00pm | Cost: \$15 per person

The Boardroom @ 24 West 4th Avenue



**Room magazine's
CONTEST CALENDAR**

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

1st Prize: \$500 + publication
2nd Prize: \$250 + publication
Judge: Carmen Aguirre
Extended Deadline: March 22, 2017

FICTION / POETRY

1st Prize: \$1000 + publication (*in each genre*)
2nd Prize: \$250 + publication (*in each genre*)
Judges: Sigal Samuel (*fiction*)
& M. NourbeSe Philip (*poetry*)
Deadline: July 15, 2017

COVER ART

1st Prize: \$500 + publication on a cover of *Room*
Deadline: November 30, 2017

SHORT FORMS

1st Prize: \$500 + publication (*two awarded*)
Deadline: January 15, 2018



Entry Fee: \$35 CAD (\$42 US for International entries). Entry includes a one-year subscription to *Room*. Additional entries \$7. For more information, visit www.roommagazine.com/contests.

Sunday, March 12—Special Events

**To My Family, With Love:
An Intergenerational Writing Workshop with Fiona Tinwei Lam**

As evidenced by the dedications of many books, families are a big part of our writing lives. Whether it's reading our first drafts, cheering us on at readings, or helping us through writer's block—our families (whether they be biological or chosen), are so important to our journeys as writers. Join Fiona Tinwei Lam for a free, all-ages workshop celebrating family and writing. Invite your mother, your sibling, grandparent, or child to the library, and create a beautiful piece of prose or poetry for your family that they'll cherish forever.

No previous writing experience required. Open to all ages. Individuals also encouraged to attend. No registration required.



Fiona Tinwei Lam

10:30am–12:15pm | Free
Activity Room—Mount Pleasant Branch, Vancouver Public Library

Presented in partnership with the Vancouver Public Library



Vancouver Public Library

For more information about contests and calls for submissions, visit www.roommagazine.com.

Room
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Sunday, March 12—Special Events

Can't Lit Live!

Dina Del Bucchia and Daniel Zomparelli with guests Juliane Okot Bitek and Leah Horlick

Can't Lit is a podcast on “all things Canadian and Literature” created by Vancouver writers Dina Del Bucchia and Daniel Zomparelli. Each episode, the hosts interview a Canadian writer about their latest book, the best (and worst) parts of being a writer, and the frustrations of dealing with the “CanLit” institution—with hilarious and irreverent results. After the success of their first live recording last fall, Can't Lit is coming to Growing Room! Join Del Bucchia and Zomparelli for an evening of wit and literature as they chat with guests Juliane Okot Bitek and Leah Horlick.



Juliane Okot Bitek



Leah Horlick

**7:00pm–9:00pm | Free | Cash Bar
 The Rooftop @ 24 West 4th Avenue**

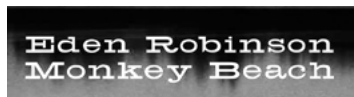
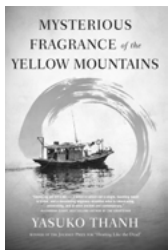
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Author and Artist Biographies

Amber Dawn is a writer living on unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations (Vancouver, Canada). Her memoir *How Poetry Saved My Life: A Hustler's Memoir* won the 2013 Vancouver Book Award.

Events: Writing in (the) Community (p 27); [Insert Innuendo Here] (p 32)

Marianne Apostolides is the author of five books, three of which have been translated. She's also a recipient of the Chalmers Arts Fellowship. A multidisciplinary treatment of her forthcoming memoir, *Deep Salt Water*, is being featured on *Room's* blog until the book's publication in April 2017. Marianne lives in Toronto.

Events: Perfect Pairings (p 23); Character Development (p 33);
Creative Non-Fiction Workshop (p 35)

Elizabeth Bachinsky is an arts administrator and advocate, educator, and the author of five books of poetry including *The Hottest Summer in Recorded History* and *Home of Sudden Service*. She lives in New Westminster, B.C.

Events: Funny Feminists (p 19); Words and Pictures (p 21)

Carleigh Baker is a Cree-Métis/ Icelandic writer. Her work has appeared in *Best Canadian Essays* and *The Journey Prize Anthology*, and her first book, *Bad Endings*, is forthcoming with Anvil Press (March, 2017). She is the current editor of *Joyland* Vancouver.

Events: Literary Gatekeepers (p 16); BFFFs (p 18); The Here and Now (p 29)

Adèle Barclay's debut poetry collection, *If I Were in a Cage I'd Reach Out for You*, was nominated for the 2015 Robert Kroestch Award for Innovative Poetry. She is the 2017 Critic-in-Residence for Canadian Women in Literary Arts.

Events: BFFFs (p 18)

Meghan Bell is the publisher of *Room* magazine. Her writing has appeared in literary journals across Canada, and is forthcoming in *The New Quarterly* and *Carousel*.

Events: Literary Gatekeepers (p 16); Leading by Example (p 17)

Juliane Okot Bitek lives and loves in Vancouver. She is a doctoral candidate at UBC and an avid reader, essayist, poet, and occasionally a short fiction writer. Her poetry collection, *100 Days*, is published by University of Alberta Press.

Events: The History of Room (p 14); Reflecting on our Reflections (p 28);
Just Try to Stop Me (p 31); Can't Lit Live! (p 39)

Ali Blythe completed a writing degree at the University of Victoria, where he received a scholarship from the Lambda Foundation for excellence in writing and support of the queer community. He is the author of *Twoism* (Goose Lane Editions, 2015).

Events: Myths and Legends (p 18)

Nicole Breit is a poet and essayist who lives and writes in the suburbs of Vancouver. Her lyric essay "Spectrum," won the 2016 CNFC/*carte blanche* contest. Her work has been published in *Hippocampus*, *Exhale*, *carte blanche*, and other print and online publications.

Events: Perfect Pairings (p 23); Character Development (p 33)

Kat Cameron is the author of *Strange Labyrinth* (Oolichan Books, 2015) and *Lighting over Wyoming* (Oolichan Books, 2017). Her poetry and fiction have been published in numerous journals and anthologies, including *The Dalhousie Review*, *Grain*, *Forage*, *FreeFall*, and *40 Below: Volume 2*. She lives in Edmonton.

Events: Perfect Pairings (p 23)

Roxanne Charles is an artist of Strait Salish and European descent. An active and proud member of the Semiahmoo First Nation in Surrey, B.C., she currently works in a variety of mediums including digital, jewelry, engraving, painting, cedar weaving, sculpture, performance, and installation. She hopes to create awareness and appreciation for spirituality, culture, and the environment.

Events: Growing Room Art Gallery (p 13); Words and Pictures (p 21)

Cyndia Cole is a member of Quirke, the Queer Imaging and Riting Kollektive for Elders. Her work can be found in Quirke's forthcoming book *Basically Queer: An Inter-generational Guide to LGBTQA Lives*, co-authored with Youth for A Change.

Events: Poetry Free For All (p 34)

Karla Comanda is a Vancouver-based poet and translator. Originally from the Philippines, she is currently the fiction editor for *Ricepaper Magazine*.

Events: Literary Gatekeepers (p 16)

An Officer of the Order of Canada and the winner of the Governor General's Award, **Lorna Crozier's** most recent book of poetry, *The Wrong Cat*, won the Raymond Souster Award and the Pat Lowther Award. She lives on Vancouver Island.

Events: Funny Feminists (p 19); Reflecting on our Reflections (p 28)

Francine Cunningham is an Indigenous writer, artist, and educator originally from Calgary but who currently resides in Vancouver. Francine's writing has appeared in *The Malahat Review*, the anthology *Boobs*, *The Puritan*, *The Maynard*, and elsewhere. She works with Indigenous youth on combining their writing and artistic practice with issues surrounding their identity as Indigenous youth in Canada today.

Events: Words and Pictures (p 21); Reflecting on our Reflections (p 28)

Jen Currin is the author of four collections of poetry: *The Sleep of Four Cities*, *Hagiography*, *The Inquisition Yours*, and *School*, which was a finalist for the 2015 ReLit Award, the Dorothy Livesay Prize, and the Pat Lowther Award. Jen lives in Vancouver and teaches creative writing and English at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Events: The Prose Poem (p 20)

Dina Del Bucchia is a writer, literary event coordinator, and host who has appeared in literary events across Vancouver. In 2012, she was the winner of the RBC Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers and is the author of three books, including the poetry collection *Rom Com*, which was co-authored with Daniel Zomparelli.

Events: Literary Gatekeepers (p 16); Funny Feminists (p 19);

[Insert Innuendo Here] (p 32); Can't Lit Live! (p 39)

Junie Désil is a Haitian-Canadian writer. Junie has performed at Under The Volcano, Vancouver's International Storytelling Festival, and other venues. Her work has appeared on CBC's *Definitely Not the Opera*, *Room*, and in other print media.

Events: Poetry Free For All (p 34)

Samantha DeVries-Hofman is a twenty-five-year-old artist and graphic designer. She works in mixed media, combining materials that change state or colour over time.


Events: Growing Room Art Gallery (p 13); Perfect Pairings (p 23)

Dora Dueck, who recently moved to Delta, B.C. from Winnipeg, is the award-winning author of two novels, a collection of short fiction, as well as stories, essays, and reviews.

Events: Perfect Pairings (p 23)

barbara findlay, QC, is a fat old white cisgender lesbian feminist lawyer with disabilities, raised working class and Christian, who has been fighting for queer legal rights, organizing unlearning oppression work, and writing, for forty-plus years.

Events: writing white (p 20); Just Try To Stop Me (p 31)



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Cynthia Flood's most recent book, *Red Girl Rat Boy* (Biblioasis, 2013), was short-listed for the Ethel Wilson Prize and longlisted for the Frank O'Connor Short Story Award. She lives in Vancouver's west end.

Events: The History of Room (p 14); Character Development (p 33)

Eleee Kraljii Gardiner is the author of the book of poems *serpentine loop*, and *Tunica Intima* (forthcoming 2018). She is the co-editor with John Asfour of *V6A: Writing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*, and the founder of Thursdays Writing Collective, a non-profit organization of more than 150 writers in Vancouver.

Events: The Only Way Out is Through (p 16); Writing in (the) Community (p 27)

Chantal Gibson is a writer and visual artist living in Vancouver. She teaches writing and design communication in the School of Interactive Arts & Technology at SFU.

Events: Words and Pictures (p 21)

Hiromi Goto's first novel, *Chorus of Mushrooms*, was the 1995 regional winner of the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book and co-winner of the Canada-Japan Book Award. She is also the author of *The Water of Possibility*, *The Kappa Child*, *Hopeful Monsters*, the Sunburst Award-winning *Half World* and, most recently, *Darkest Light*.

Events: Leading by Example (p 17); Myths and Legends (p 18)

Jane Eaton Hamilton is the author of nine books of short fiction and poetry. She has been shortlisted for the MIND Book Award, the BC Book Prize, the VanCity Award, the Pat Lowther Award, and the Ferro-Grumley Award. Her memoir was one of *The Guardian's* Best Books of the Year and a *Sunday Times* bestseller.

Events: BFFFs (p 18); [Insert Innuendo Here] (p 32)

As a child, **Rachel Hartman** played cello, lip-synched Mozart operas with her sisters, and fostered the deep love of music that inspired much of *Seraphina* and *Shadow Scale*. Rachel earned a degree in comparative literature but eschewed graduate school in favor of bookselling and drawing comics. Born in Kentucky, she now lives in Vancouver.

Events: Leading by Example (p 17); Myths and Legends (p 18)

Leah Horlick is the author of *Riot Lung*, which was shortlisted for a 2013 ReLit Award and a Saskatchewan Book Award, and *For Your Own Good*, which was named a 2016 Stonewall Honour Book. Along with Esther McPhee, she is the co-curator of REVERB, a queer and anti-oppressive reading series. She was recently awarded the 2016 Dayne Ogilvie Prize for LGBT Emerging Writers.

Events: Writing in (the) Community (p 27); Poetry Free For All (p 34);
Can't Lit Live! (p 39)

Aislinn Hunter is a poet, fiction writer, occasional essayist, and the author of six books. *Linger*, *Still* a new collection of poems will be published by Gaspereau Press in 2017. She lives in North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Events: Myths and Legends (p 18); Reflecting on our Reflections (p 28);
The Here and Now (p 29)

June Hutton was a northern reporter, then inner-city teacher before writing her first novel, *Underground*. Called "taut and lean, elegant and poetic" by the *Globe and Mail*, it was shortlisted for the 2010 OLA Evergreen Award. An instructor for SFU's The Writer's Studio Online and UBC's Writing Centre, June currently lives in Vancouver.

Events: The Here and Now (p 29); Just Try to Stop Me (p 31)

Kyla Jamieson is a poet and nonfiction writer who lives and depends on unceded Coast Salish territory. She edits poetry and prose for *SAD Mag*.

Events: Literary Gatekeepers (p 16)

Rachel Jansen is originally from Mississauga, though she has spent the past seven years living in Vancouver. She is currently completing her MFA at UBC. Her work has appeared in *The Maynard* and is forthcoming in *Hamilton Arts & Letters*.

Events: Perfect Pairings (p 23)

Vici Johnstone has worked in theatre, radio, television, film and digital media. She purchased Caitlin Press in 2008. Since that time, she has published dozens of titles, and in 2015, edited *This Place a Stranger: Canadian Women Travelling Alone*.

Events: Literary Gatekeepers (p 16)

Jónína Kirton is a prairie-born Metis-Icelandic poet and facilitator who currently lives in Vancouver (unceded Coast Salish territory). Her first collection of poetry *page as bone ~ ink as blood* has been described as "restorative, intimate poetry, drawing down ancestral ideas into the current moment's breath."

Events: Making Space for Women (p 15); Poetry Free For All (p 34)

Chelene Knight is the managing editor at *Room*. She has been published in a variety of American and Canadian literary magazines. Chelene is the author of *Braided Skin* and *Dear Current Occupant* (forthcoming from BookThug in 2018).

Events: The History of Room (p 14); Poetry Free For All (p 34)

Sonnet L'Abbé, PhD, is the author of *A Strange Relief* and *Killarnoe*, and was the 2014 guest editor of *Best Canadian Poetry*. Her chapbook, *Anima Canadensis*, was published by Junction Books in 2016. Her next collection, *Sonnet's Shakespeare*, will come out with McClelland and Stewart in 2018. She is a professor at Vancouver Island University.

Events: The Only Way Out is Through (p 16)

Fiona Tinwei Lam has authored two poetry books, *Intimate Distances* and *Enter the Chrysanthemum*, and the children's book, *The Rainbow Rocket*. She co-edited *Double Lives: Writing and Motherhood*, and edited *The Bright Well: Contemporary Canadian Poetry about Facing Cancer*. She teaches at SFU Continuing Studies.

Events: Character Development (p 33); To My Family, With Love (p 37)

Doretta Lau is the author of *How Does a Single Blade of Grass Thank the Sun?* (Nightwood Editions, 2014). She lives and works in Hong Kong and Vancouver.

Events: Funny Feminists (p 19); Just Try to Stop Me (p 31)

Evelyn Lau is a Vancouver writer who has published eleven books, including six volumes of poetry. Her poetry has received the Milton Acorn Award, the Pat Lowther Award, and a National Magazine Award. Evelyn was the 2011–2014 Poet Laureate of Vancouver.

Events: *The Only Way Out is Through* (p 16); *Poetry Free For All* (p 34)

Jen Sookfong Lee lives with her son and dog in North Burnaby. Her books include *The Conjoined*, *The Better Mother*, a finalist for the City of Vancouver Book Award, *The End of East*, and *Shelter*, a novel for young adults. Jen appears as a contributor on *The Next Chapter* and is a frequent co-host of the *Studio One Book Club*.

Events: [Insert Innuendo Here] (p 32)

Alex Leslie is a cross-genre writer and workshop facilitator. Alex's collection of prose poems *The things I heard about you*, was shortlisted for the 2014 Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry. Alex's writing has been included in several anthologies, and has been recognized by the National Magazine Awards and the CBC Literary Awards.

Events: *Poetry Free For All* (p 34)

Christine Lowther has been a lifelong activist and a resident of Clayoquot Sound since 1992. She is the co-editor of two essay collections, *Living Artfully: Reflections from the Far West Coast* and *Writing the West Coast: In Love with Place*, and the author of three books of poetry, *My Nature*, *Half-Blood Poems*, and *New Power*. Her first collection of essays, *Born Out of This*, was a finalist for the 2015 Roderick Haig-Brown Regional Prize.

Events: *The Only Way Out is Through* (p 16); *The Here and Now* (p 29); *Just Try To Stop Me* (p 31)

Carrie Mac is the author of *The Opposite of Tidy*, *Jacked*, *The Gryphon Project*, *The Beckoners*, *Charmed*, *Crush*, *Pain & Wastings*, and the Triskelia Series: *The Droughtlanders*, *Retribution*, and *Storm*. Her latest YA novel is *10 Things I Can See From Here*.

Events: *Leading by Example* (p 17)

Tanis MacDonald is the author of three poetry books, including *Rue the Day* (Turnstone Press, 2008), and has recent work in *Prairie Fire*, *CV2*, *The Puritan*, and *In Fine Form 2* (Caitlin Press, 2016). She is co-editing an anthology of menstruation writing (Frontenac Press, 2017). She lives in Waterloo, Ontario. @PoetTanis

Events: *Perfect Pairings* (p 23); *The Here and Now* (p 29)

Alessandra Naccarato is a writer, performer, and teacher based on Salt Spring Island, B.C. Winner of the Bronwen Wallace Award for Emerging Writers, the Reader's Choice Award for the CBC Poetry Prize, her writing has appeared across North America. She has toured nationally and internationally as a spoken word artist.

Events: *Just Try To Stop Me* (p 31); *Poetry Free For All* (p 34)

Kellee Ngan lives and works in Vancouver, B.C. Her writing has been published in such literary magazines as *Geist*, *Grain*, *Room*, *Witness*, and *Poetry Is Dead*. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia.

Events: *Leading by Example* (p 17); [Insert Innuendo Here] (p 32)

Nilofar Shidmehr, PhD, MFA, is a British Columbia Book Prize-nominated poet with four books. Nilofar was the 2015-2016 Writer-in-Residence at Regina Public Library. She lives in Vancouver and teaches in the Continuing Education Program at SFU.

Events: *BFFFs* (p 18); *Reflecting on our Reflections* (p 28)

Sylvia Symons grew up in Prince George, B.C. She now lives with her husband and sons in Vancouver where she teaches ESL at Langara College and attends The Writer's Studio at SFU. Her poetry was published in *EVENT* and is forthcoming in *Geist* and *Best Canadian Poetry in English*, 2016.

Events: *Perfect Pairings* (p 23)

Audrey Thomas was born in Western New York, but has lived on Canada's West Coast since 1959. She has published eighteen books and is working on two others. She is a past chair of the Writers' Union of Canada and a recipient of the Order of Canada.

Events: *Writing in (the) Community* (p 27); *Character Development* (p 33)

Betsy Warland is a Vancouver author of twelve books, most recently of *Oscar of Between—A Memoir of Identity and Ideas* (Caitlin Press, 2016). Betsy received the Vancouver Mayor's Award for Literary Achievement in 2016. She is also a creative writing teacher and manuscript consultant: see betsywarland.com and vancouvermanuscriptintensive.com.

Events: *The Finishing Touches* (p 35)

Beni Xiao is a twenty-year-old writer. They enjoy drinking fruit juice, napping in the sun, and being beautifully Chinese. You can find them on twitter @verysmallbear.

Events: *Funny Feminists* (p 19); *Perfect Pairings* (p 23); *Poetry Free For All* (p 34)

Jennifer Zilm received a MA in Religious Studies from UBC and was a doctoral fellow at McMaster University. Zilm's writing has been published in numerous journals, including *PRISM international*, *Prairie Fire*, and *Grain*. Her debut book of poetry, *Waiting Room*, was shortlisted for the 2014 Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry.

Events: *Myths and Legends* (p 18)

Daniel Zomparelli is the Editor-in-Chief of *Poetry Is Dead*, co-podcaster at Can't Lit, and the author of the poetry collections *Davie Street Translations* and *Rom Com*, (co-authored with Dina Del Bucchia). His first collection of short stories, *Everything is Awful and You're a Terrible Person* is forthcoming from Arsenal Pulp Press in Spring 2017.

Events: *Can't Lit Live!* (p 39)

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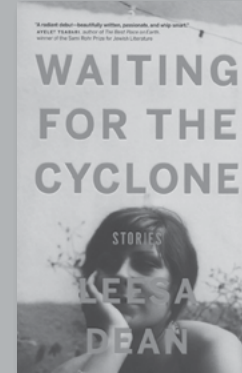
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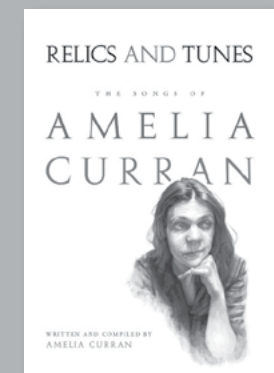
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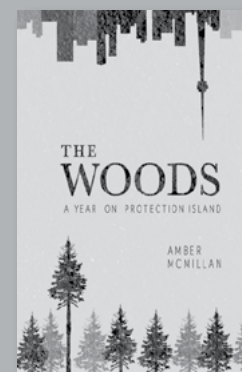
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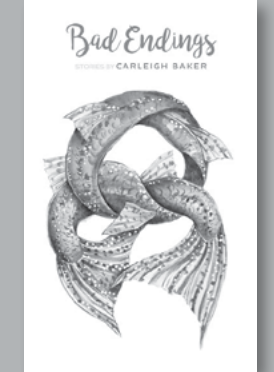
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