

GERALD LAMPERT MEMORIAL AWARD

Awarded annually since 1981, the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award is given in the memory of Gerald Lampert, an arts administrator who organized author tours and took a particular interest in the work of new writers. The award recognizes a first book of poetry published by a Canadian writer in the preceding year.

2016 JURORS: JIM JOHNSTONE, MICHELINE MAYLOR, DWAYNE MORGAN

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2016 SHORTLIST

Rue by Melissa Bull (Anvil Press)

Laws & Locks by Chad Campbell (Véhicule Press)

Transmitter and Receiver by Raoul Fernandez (Nightwood Editions)

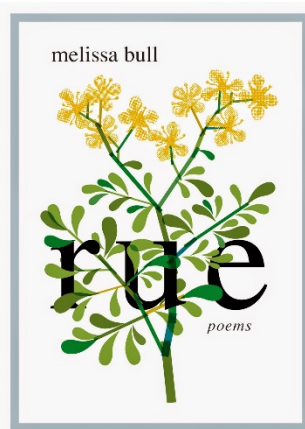
Otter by Ben Ladouceur (Coach House Books)

Hacker Packer by Cassidy MacFadzean (McClelland & Stewart)

Mockingbird by Derek Webster (Véhicule Press)

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JUDGES' COMMENTS



***Rue* by Melissa Bull**

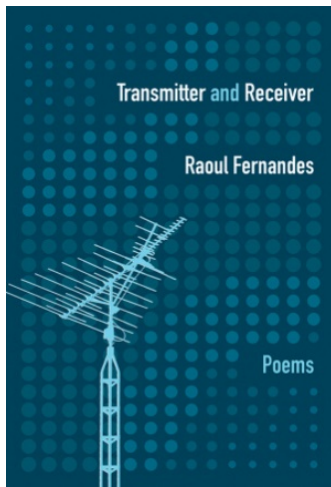
Full of alternate meanings created by code switching between English and French, Melissa Bull's *Rue* scatters coming-to-age stories in Montreal with travelogues based in North America, Europe, and Russia. The collection's title (meaning "road" in French, and "regret" in English) acts as a key that unlocks the author's intentions in poems transmute between narrative and lyric forms. *Rue* is compulsively readable, and will reward those who spend the time to parse its multilinguistic cypher.

Melissa Bull is the editor of *Maisonneuve's* "Writing from Quebec" column. Her poetry collection, *Rue*, and her translation of Nelly Arcan's *Burqa de chair* were published in 2015 with Anvil Press. She lives in Montreal.

Laws & Locks by Chad Campbell

In *Laws & Locks*, Chad Campbell meticulously reconstructs his family history in poems that are both harrowing and tender. From the emigration of the Campbell clan to Canada in 1827 to the author's own experiences in the present day, the specter of metal illness looms over the book, colouring "the red tailed hawks... wheeling half coloured overhead." *Laws & Locks* is a must read debut for its hubris, commitment to craft, and emotional resonance.

A finalist for the 2013 Malahat Long Poem Prize, **Chad Campbell's** poetry has appeared in *Maisonneuve*, *Arc*, and *The Puritan*, among other magazines. His first collection, *Laws & Locks*, was published with Signal Editions in 2015. Originally from Toronto, he is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and lives and teaches in Iowa.



Transmitter and Receiver by Raoul Fernandes

Transmitter and Receiver speaks with an original voice, and claims surprising turns of phrase with each poem. This first collection by Raoul Fernandes calls extraordinary perspective to everyday settings where Gods appear in playgrounds and where a bed becomes a reset button. His tribute to Amanda Todd is rife with profundity, and love is symbolized as amplifier. Fernandes is aware and tender, a captive of the human condition, an artist of expression, an adept handler of word and experience. This is a collection to return to, for a first reading will not do it justice, and become a favoured companion.

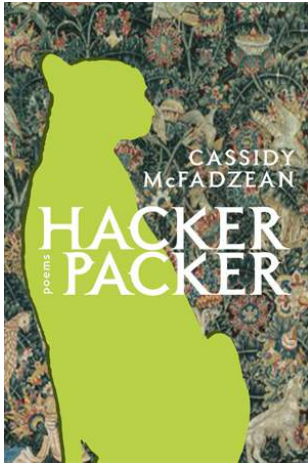
Raoul Fernandes lives and writes in Vancouver, BC. He completed the Writer's Studio at SFU in 2009 and was a finalist for the 2010 Bronwen Wallace Award for emerging writers and a runner up in *subTerrain's* Lush Triumphant Awards in 2013. He has been published in numerous literary journals and is an editor for the online poetry magazine *The Maynard*. His first collection of poems, *Transmitter and Receiver*, was published in 2015 with Nightwood Editions.

Otter by Ben Ladouceur

Otter's relevant and finely honed skill shows exceptional attention and craft. His voice is edgy with honesty and originality. Elegies for things lost and weighted infuse the book with a tone of sorrowful yearning. Friends, lovers, and family are portrayed with linguistic and syntactical care, such as in "I Am In Love With Your Brother," or "Armadillo." Ladouceur's gritty perspective allows access to the world of a gay man, his loves, lusts, and fears laid bare with raw clarity and unabashed eroticism. This sort of bravery is rarely found in a first collection.

Ben Ladouceur is a writer living in Ottawa. His first collection of poems, *Otter* (Coach House Books), was selected as a best book of 2015 by the *National Post*. Ben is also the prose editor for *Arc Poetry Magazine*.





***Hacker Packer* by Cassidy McFadzean**

Cassidy McFadzean's *Hacker Packer* packs a linguistic punch. In poems that are both baroque and contemporary, McFadzean demonstrates a knack for contrasting high and low culture to evoke a rich cultural ethos. Whether it's Agamemnon's tomb "swarming with Beliebers" or Selena Gomez lyrics dotting a poem that celebrates the night sky, *Hacker Packer* is guaranteed to keep readers off-balance with an irresistible mix of myth, history, and popular culture.

Cassidy McFadzean is the author of *Hacker Packer* (McClelland & Stewart 2015), shortlisted for two Saskatchewan Book Awards. Her work has appeared in magazines in Canada and the US including *Prelude*, *The Malahat Review*, *The Walrus*, and *The Fiddlehead*, and has been a finalist for the CBC Poetry Prize and the Walrus Poetry Prize. Cassidy graduated from the Iowa Writers' Workshop in 2015 and now teaches composition and creative writing at Luther College in Regina.

***Mockingbird* by Derek Webster**

With attention to sound and lament, in *Mockingbird*, Derek Webster plays with traditional form in order to find a modern voice. His poems conceptualize emotion through imagery and new kinds of expression of the old experiences of divorce and heartbreak. He creates a sense of play and connection. Webster looks at his own mind as a cage in poems such as "Bird Catcher." He says, "Your small life wants to live in you."

Born in Richmond, Virginia, **Derek Webster** grew up in Beijing, Toronto and London. He received an MFA in Poetry from Washington University in St. Louis, where he studied with Carl Phillips, Erin Belieu, and Yusef Komunyakaa. His poetry and prose have appeared in *The Fiddlehead*, *The Malahat Review*, *The Walrus*, and *Boston Review*. The founding editor of *Maisonneuve* magazine, he lives in Montreal.

