

2018 Pat Lowther Memorial Award Shortlist

Indianland by Lesley Belleau (ARP Books)

Lesley Belleau is an Anishnaabekwe writer from Ketegaunseebee Garden River First Nation (Ojibwe), near Bawating/Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Lesley lives in Peterborough where she is completing her PhD in Indigenous Studies at Trent. She also has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Windsor. She has sat on arts juries and won numerous writing grants and academic awards, including from the Canada Council and Ontario Arts Council. In interviews, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson lists Lesley as a talented emerging Indigenous writer.



From the Jurors: “The howl of Indian Land” is a haunting echo through Lesley Belleau’s *Indianland* raising the unease at a longstanding injustice impossible to make right. These poems present a passion that goes beyond words, a deep-seated duende that expresses a powerful range of emotions. This is a truly moving and outstanding collection and a work that will prove its lasting value to Canadian literature for years to come.

Bicycle Thieves by Mary di Michele (EWC Press)

Poet, novelist, and member of the collaborative writing group, Yoko's Dogs, Mary di Michele is the author of 12 books. She has won numerous awards, including the Confederation Poets Prize and the *Malahat Review's* Long Poem Prize, and has appeared on shortlists for many others. Mary has been living in Montreal and teaching at Concordia University in the creative writing program for more than 25 years.



From the Jurors: Mary di Michele's *Bicycle Thieves* rises above specificity in place and period to touch the soul of human experience. Beautifully crafted verse.

Museum of Kindness by Susan Elmslie (Brick Books)

Susan Elmslie's first trade collection of poetry, *I, Nadja, and Other Poems* (Brick, 2006), won the A.M. Klein Poetry Prize and was shortlisted for the McAuslan First Book Prize, the Pat Lowther Award, and a ReLit Award. Her poems have also appeared in several journals and anthologies—including the *Best Canadian Poetry in English* (2008, 2015)—and were collected in a prize-winning chapbook, *When Your Body Takes to Trembling* (Cranberry Tree, 1996). She lives in Montreal and teaches English literature and creative writing at Dawson College. *Museum of Kindness* is her second poetry collection.



From the Jurors: In *Museum of Kindness*, Susan Elmslie's insightful, painful personal reflection on two difficult situations—a school shooting and raising a special needs child is therapeutic and, sadly, timely.

breathing at dusk by Beth Goobie (Coteau Books)

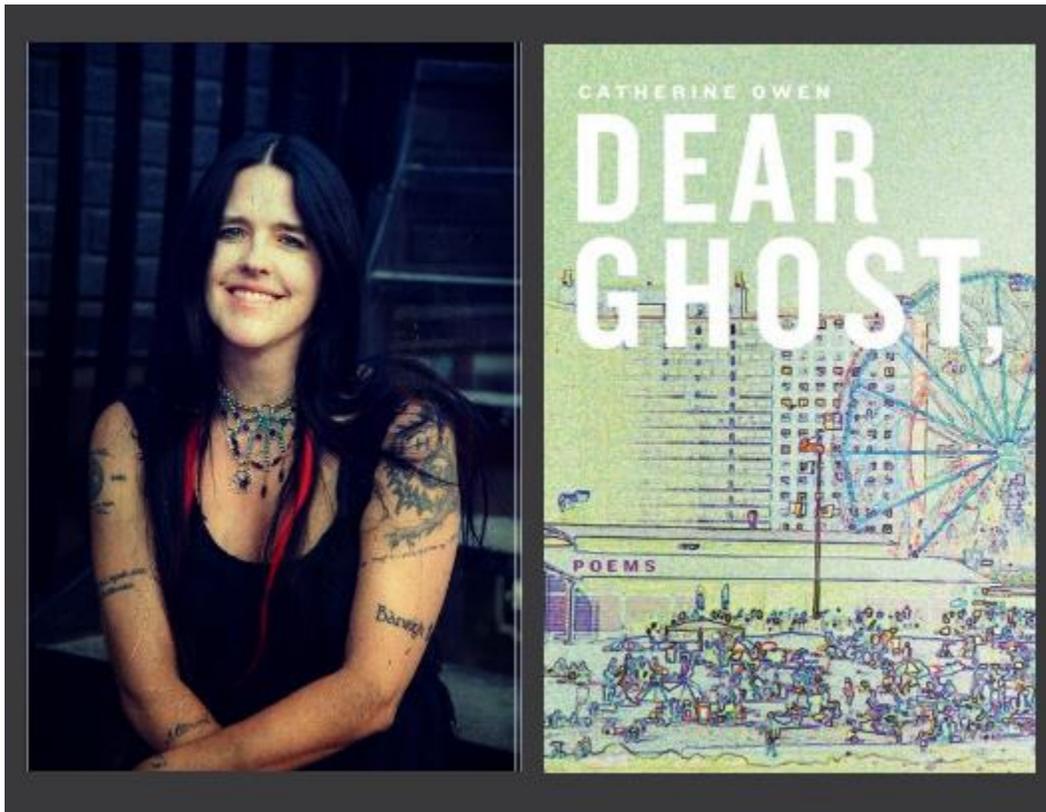
Beth Goobie is the author of 25 books. *breathing at dusk* is her third poetry collection. Her first poetry collection, *Scars of Light*, won the 1995 Pat Lowther Memorial Award. Beth is an enthusiastic Saskatoon Food Bank volunteer, poetry slammer, and a percussionist in a community band.



From the Jurors: Beth Goobie's *breathing at dusk* is a heartbreakingly heavy read, a surreal awakening to unspeakable childhood abuse, mercifully long-buried in the psyche.

Dear Ghost, by Catherine Owen (Wolsak & Wynn)

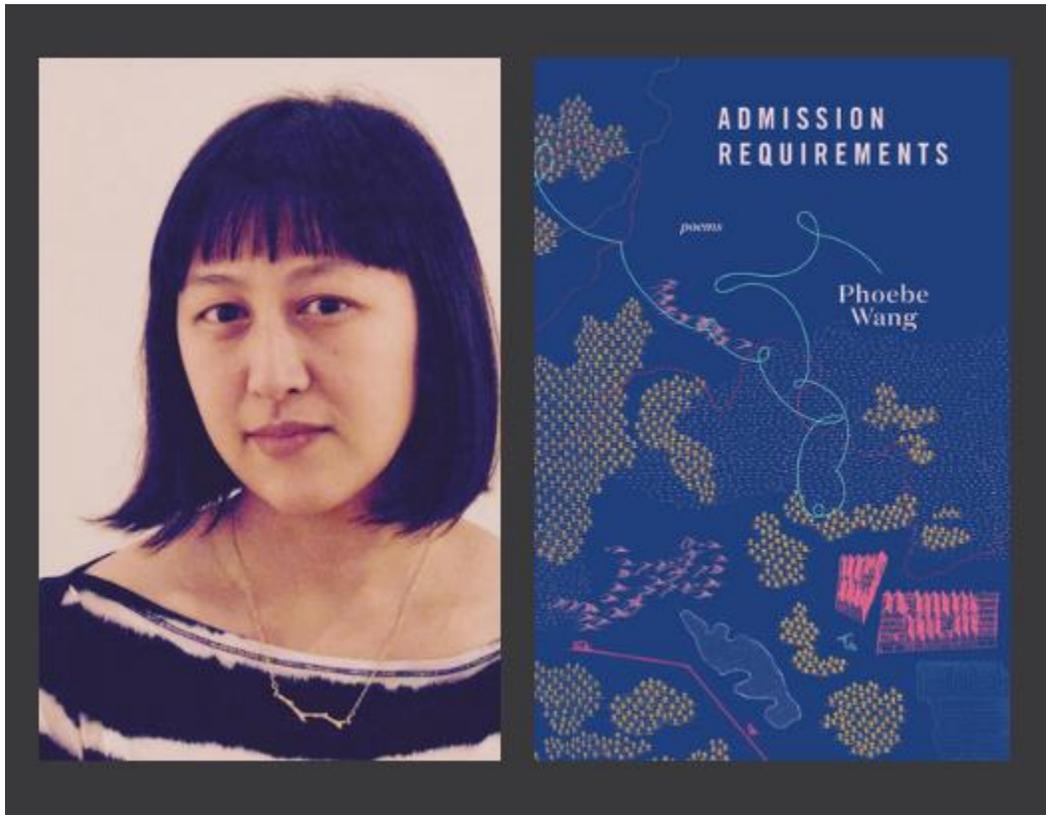
Catherine Owen is the author of ten collections of poetry and three of prose, including her compilation of interviews on writing called *The Other 23 & a Half Hours: Or Everything You Wanted to Know that Your MFA Didn't Teach You* (Wolsak & Wynn, 2015) and her short story collection, *The Day of the Dead* (Caitlin Press, 2016). Her work has been nominated for awards, she has toured Canada eight times and appeared in anthologies, as well as translations. She has been employed by both the Locations and the Props department in TV land, plays metal bass and has two cats: Solstice and Equinox.



From the Jurors: Owen's deft handling of everyday, even mundane, subjects renders them surreal, witty, tragic. The language is in turns pragmatic and whimsical, combining into a revelatory book that feels disarmingly honest, like your best friend wrote them for you. *Dear Ghost*, is tightrope walk between hazy takes on the real world with all the trappings that hold us in our places, and pragmatic assertions on that which haunts us.

Admission Requirements by Phoebe Wang (McClelland & Stewart)

Phoebe Wang was born in Ottawa and currently lives in Toronto, where she writes and teaches. She holds a BA in English from York University and a MA in Creative Writing from the University of Toronto. She is the author of two chapbooks, *Occasional Emergencies* (2013) and *Hanging Exhibits* (2016), and was the 2015 winner of *Prism International's* Poetry Contest. *Admission Requirements* is her debut collection of poetry.



From the Jurors: Phoebe Wang's *Admission Requirements* pokes at the newcomer's inevitable comparisons, doubts and insecurities with a candour that resonates universally. The poems in this collection are beautifully crafted, resonant, and expressive in layers of language, idea, and experience. This is a collection that a reader will want to read and reread. It delivers so much that speaks well for Canadian poetry.