

# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award

## Shortlist

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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. The award carries a \$2000 prize and is sponsored by the LCP.



# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award

## Shortlist

*MONUMENT* by Manahil Bandukwala (Brick Books)

*Transcribing Moonlight* by Skylar Kay (Frontenac House)

*Orion Sweeping* by Anne Marie Todkill (Brick Books)

*Shapeshifters* by Délani Valin (Nightwood Editions)

*My Grief, the Sun* by Sanna Wani (House of Anansi)

*Whitemud Walking* by Matthew James Weigel (Coach House Books)

## Jurors

Jannie Edwards

Alvy Carragher

Greg Santos

# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist

*MONUMENT* by Manahil Bandukwala

Brick Books



**From the jurors:** In its against-the-grain scrutiny of the story of the woman who inspired the world-famous Taj Mahal, *Monument* subverts prevailing notions of empire, history, myth and love. Bandukwala challenges us to dismantle the false narrative of a spectacular monument with lyric poems that push the boundaries of the form. This is an intimate and compelling debut.

**Manahil Bandukwala** is a writer and visual artist originally from Pakistan and now settled in Canada. In 2021, she was shortlisted for the bpNichol Chapbook Award. She works as Coordinating Editor for *Arc Poetry Magazine*, and is Digital Content Editor for *Canthius*. She is a member of Ottawa-based collaborative writing group VII. Her project *Reth aur Reghistan* is a multidisciplinary exploration of folklore from Pakistan interpreted through poetry and sculpture. She holds an MA in English from the University of Waterloo. Her debut poetry collection is *MONUMENT* (Brick Books). See her work at [manahilbandukwala.com](https://manahilbandukwala.com)

# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist

*Transcribing Moonlight* by Skylar Kay

Frontenac House



**From the jurors:** Kay journals a profoundly transformative year of transition as a trans woman. Reinvigorating the ancient Japanese form of the haibun in the twenty-first century, these tightly knit prose pieces track phases of the moon and seasons to open to exquisitely distilled haiku. In turns funny and achingly tender, Kay's language attunes to even the gentlest shift of spirit and leaves one feeling they've experienced something quite remarkable.

**Skylar Kay** is an Albertan poet whose lyric poetry explores how the natural world can reflect and mirror general human experiences, as well as her own personal experiences as a transgender woman. Her debut collection, *Transcribing Moonlight*, released with Frontenac House in April 2022, and she continues to write to give her voice to marginalized communities, and to provide a better life for her cat.

# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist

*Orion Sweeping* by Anne Marie Todkill

Brick Books



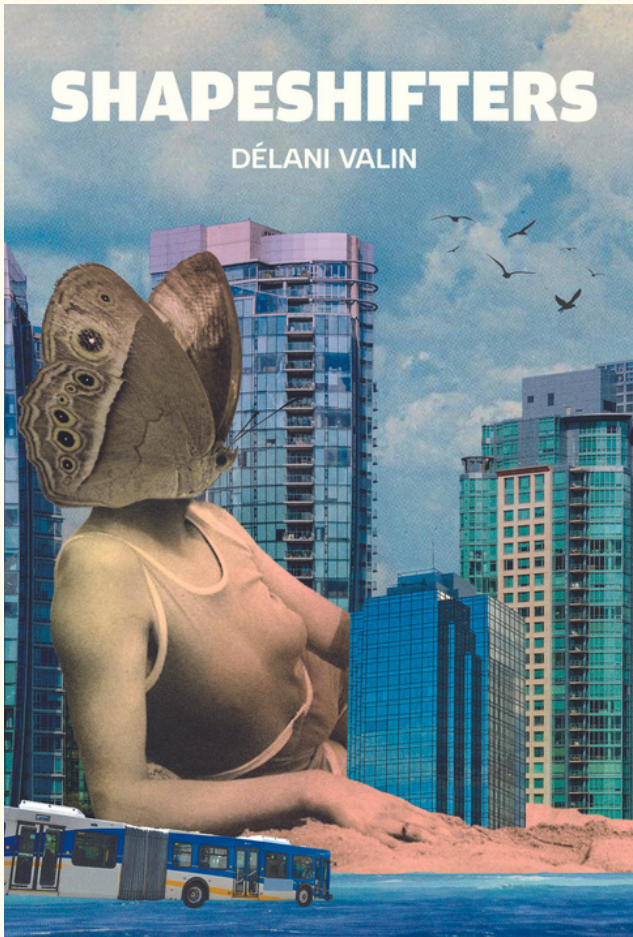
**From the jurors:** Beautiful and tender, these poems invoke a species of perception that is intimately attentive to wildness, nature, aging and loss. Todkill's language always leaves room for the reader, giving breadth and dignity to even its most personal moments. This is the work of a mature poet at the height of their craft.

**Anne Marie Todkill** poems have appeared in various Canadian literary magazines and in the *Best Canadian Poetry* series. A recipient of *Arc Poetry Magazine's* Diana Brebner Prize, she has also won *Arc's* Poem of the Year contest, *The New Quarterly's* Nick Blatchford occasional verse contest, *The Malahat Review's* novella contest and Constance Rooke creative nonfiction prize, and *The Fiddlehead's* fiction contest. Originally from Ottawa, she now lives off-grid in Wollaston Township, Ontario, within traditional Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg territory and the ecotone known as The Land Between.

# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist

*Shapeshifters* by Délani Valin

Nightwood Editions



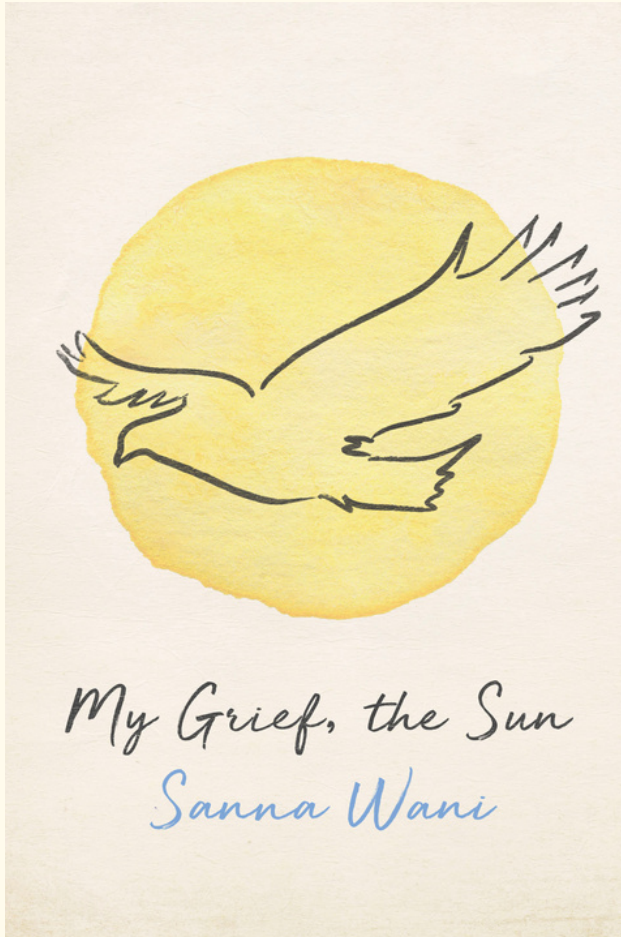
**From the jurors:** This is a bold, surreal, and energetic debut. *Shapeshifters* is the perfect name for a collection which surprises and delights in positioning pop culture persona poems featuring the likes of Barbie and the Michelin Man next to confessional pieces that muse on the complexity of identity. It's impossible to know where one will end up on any given page, and the voice bursts forth, demanding your attention with impeccable lines that never compromise and provide insights which feel both vital and honest.

**Délani Valin** is Métis with Nehiyaw, Saulteaux, French-Canadian and Czech ancestry. She studies for her master's in professional communications at Royal Roads University, and has a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing from Vancouver Island University. Her poetry has been awarded *The Malahat Review's* Long Poem Prize and *subTerrain's* Lush Triumphant Award. Her work has appeared in *PRISM International*, *Adbusters*, *Room*, and in the anthologies *Those Who Make Us* and *Barwaajigan*. She is on the editorial board of *Room* and *The Malahat Review*, and lives on traditional and unceded Snuneymuxw territory (Nanaimo, BC).

# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist

*My Grief, the Sun* by Sanna Wani

House of Anansi



**From the jurors:** These are attentive, prayerful poems that remind us that spiritual reaching is both a gesture and a longing for home. Introspective and meditative, the collection employs a dazzling array of forms, including visual poetry, maps, erasures and concrete poems that interrogate and illuminate a seeker's journey. Throughout, these poems reach out to the reader with this generous invitation: "I want to listen with you for whatever makes anything new."

Sanna Wani is the author of *My Grief, the Sun* (House of Anansi Press, 2022) and the poetry editor at Fernwood Publishing.

# Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist

*Whitemud Walking* by Matthew James Weigel Coach House Books



**From the jurors:** A remarkable work of resistance historiography, *Whitemud Walking* tracks the poet’s deeply personal investigation of colonial violence and erasure. The book is a masterclass in experimental form that tracks an “all-or-nothing calling” of witness through the literal deconstruction of colonial archival documents, the uncovering and re-visioning of family stories and the poet’s loving and attentive relationship with a particular place. You do not just read this book but experience it with your mind, heart, and spirit.

**Matthew James Weigel** is a Dene and Métis poet and artist. He is the designer for Moon Jelly House press and his words and art have been published in *Arc*, *The Polyglot*, and *The Mamawi Project*. Matthew is a National Magazine Award finalist, a Cécile E. Mactaggart Award winner, and winner of the 2020 *Vallum* Chapbook Award. His chapbook *It Was Treaty / It Was Me* is available now. *Whitemud Walking* is his debut collection.



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## Photo credits:

- Photo of Manahil Bandukwala by Liam Burke
- Photo of Sanna Wani by Hamzah Amin



Established in 1966, the League of Canadian Poets is Canada's largest professional organization for established and emerging Canadian poets. The League of Canadian Poets' mandate is to enhance the status of poets and foster professional poetry communities. The League works to enlarge the audience for poetry by encouraging publication, performance, education, and recognition of Canadian poetry locally, nationally, and internationally, and supports equitable and inclusive freedom of expression in Canada.