

Small Walker Press BOOK LIST (Fall 2023)

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The Small Walker Press is an initiative of the Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture (STAC) at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, Brock University.

We engage with authors, artists, and academics alike to produce small, innovative publications. We value interdisciplinary cooperation and publish collaborative projects in creative writing and the arts. We celebrate creative and analytical thinking, the pleasures of text and image, and design.

SWP books are art objects for a public interested in esthetically pleasing books and creative expression.

Small Walker Press

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BOOK LIST (Fall 2023)

**Bernhard Cella (artist) and Seth Weiner (artist). *Handmade*.
2023 / ISBN 978-1-990208-28-7**

Handmade is the product of a reflection between two artists whose practice includes book design and curatorial projects. For *Handmade*, Bernhard Cella and Seth Weiner wrote together short creative-writing pieces. Each is the facetious description of contents in an imaginary book. They then used these descriptions to generate images of book covers through AI. The images look like photographs of books, although none of these books (none of these covers) actually exists. The book descriptions refer to content that was never written. The result is a catalogue of books that do not exist. *Handmade* points to the importance of book design and marketing (book descriptions, catalogues).

Books and archives; Book design and marketing; Imaginary books

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Brandon LaBelle (text) and Annette le Fort (photography). *Touch, and Tender Readings. Books as Archives.*

2023 / ISBN 978-1-990208-30-0

Two artists – Brandon LaBelle and Annette le Fort – visit their local public library, check out a few books, keep these for a few days then return them. The text and black-and-white photographs included in *Touch, and Tender Readings. Books As Archives* document this trip to the library. They evoke a sensory experience – tactile, visual, and olfactive – and a meditative performance – walking through the stacks, touching book covers, turning the pages of a book. LaBelle and le Fort present the library as an organic space and the destination of an intellectual and sensuous journey during which thoughts expand quickly beyond the books displayed on the shelves.

Books and archives; Sensory Experience

(Im)mobilités. Editor/Directeur: Nicholas Hauck.

2023 / ISBN 978-1-990208-20-1 / E-book; free access / Livre numérique ; accès libre

Five authors of fiction-criticism – Paul Savoie, Angela Cozea, Thomas Ayouti, Alexander Christie, and Nicholas Hauck – explore motifs – urban life, travel, seascapes, illness – developed in a creative-writing piece by Catherine Parayre. The book illustrations show artworks from a series titled *Pseudo-fiction* by Canadian artist Shawn Serfas and Catherine Parayre. In French.

Fiction-criticism; Art and text; Illness; Urban life

Cinq auteurs de critique-fiction – Paul Savoie, Angela Cozea, Thomas Ayouti, Alexander Christie et Nicholas Hauck – explorent des thèmes – la vie urbaine, les voyages, les paysages marins, la maladie – développés dans un texte d'écriture créative de Catherine Parayre. Les illustrations proviennent d'une série de tableaux intitulée *Pseudo-fiction* de l'artiste canadien Shawn Serfas et Catherine Parayre.

Critique-fiction ; Art et texte ; Maladie ; Vie urbaine

Adrian Blackwell and Bonnie Devine (text and art). *Possible Grounds. Redrawing Relations in Toronto.*

2022 / ISBN 978-1-990208-13-3

The North shore of Lake Ontario – Toronto, nearby Mississauga, and the traditional territories of the Michi Saagiig (Mississauga) and the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations of the Grand River) – is undergoing unprecedented urban growth. In this book, the artists Adrian Blackwell (settler) and Bonnie Devine (Anishinaabe) share their thoughts on and experiences of mapping the complex colonial histories of these lands, and question the region's historical records. Blackwell and Devine also offer commentary on their works exhibited in 2018 and 2019.

Art and urbanism; Toronto; Maps; Colonial history; Michi Saagiig; Haudenosaunee

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E. Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake (poetry) and Landon Mackenzie (painting). *Beneath a Velvet Moon. Early Love Poems.*

2022 / ISBN 978-1-990208-08-9

In *Beneath a Velvet Moon*, Canadian artist Landon Mackenzie, whose large format canvases are ethereal investigations of painterly cosmological phenomena or topographical structures viewed from a bird's eye perspective, selects nine poems by E. Pauline Johnson Tekahionwake, and reimagines the amorous relationship between the Mohawk poet and the artist's settler great-grandfather, Michael Mackenzie, in the 1880s. For these explorations into autofiction, Mackenzie takes her title from one of Johnson's early love poems in *The White Wampum*, first published in 1895 by John Lane's Bodley Head publishing house.

Art and autofiction; Topography; Canada

Paul Savoie (short story), Marjorie Kaniehtonkie Skidders (photography), Jason Stefanik (poetry), and the Toronto Experimental Translation Collective (creative writing).

Tewaaraton. Lacrosse / La crosse.

2022 / ISBN 978-1-990208-04-1

In 2022 the Niagara Region welcomes the Canada Games; 2022 also marks the reintroduction of the Indigenous game of lacrosse. By thematizing lacrosse, this book celebrates the role sport plays in promoting cultural diversity. It features work by poet Jason Stefanik / Jay Stafinak, who grew up and lives in a Métis / mixed environment; photographer Marjorie Kaniehtonkie Skidders of the Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne; Franco-Ontarian author Paul Savoie; and the Toronto Experimental Translation Collective (TETC). They invite us to discover lacrosse from a creative perspective. Their talent and their enthusiastic participation to this volume in French and English are a poignant demonstration of kindness and mutual appreciation. The book reflects our diversity.

Art and sport; Literature and sport; Lacrosse

En 2022, la Région du Niagara accueille les Jeux du Canada ; 2022 marque aussi la réintroduction du jeu autochtone de la crosse. Par cette thématique, le présent ouvrage veut célébrer le rôle du sport dans la promotion d'une plus grande diversité culturelle. Il inclut des contributions du poète Jason Stefanik (Jay Stafinak), qui a grandi et vit dans un environnement mixte et métis ; de la photographe Marjorie Kaniehtonkie Skidders de la Nation Mohawk à Akwesasne ; de l'auteur franco-ontarien Paul Savoie ; et du Collectif torontois de traduction expérimentale. Elles nous invitent à découvrir le jeu de la crosse d'une perspective créative. Leur talent et leur participation enthousiaste à ce volume en français et en anglais nous proposent une généreuse expérience d'appréciation mutuelle. Ce livre reflète notre diversité.

Art et sport ; Littérature et sport ; La crosse

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Adrian Blackwell, Bonnie Devine, Tiffany Kaewen Dang, David Fortin, and luugigyoo patrick reid stewart. *Rethinking property in c\an\ad* 2022 / ISBN 978-1-990208-15-7 / E-book; free access

Indigenous and settler architects and urbanists reimagine Canadian cities and discuss property division as the hinge between settler colonialism and architecture/urban form. The conversation is informed by the issue 12-13 of the journal *Scapegoat: Architecture / Landscape / Political Economy* titled *c\an\ad*: delineating nation state capitalism edited by David Fortin and Adrian Blackwell. *Rethinking property in c\an\ad* transcribes a virtual round table conversation co-hosted by the Research Centre in Interdisciplinary Arts and Creative Culture (Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture, Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, Brock University) and the Salon für Kunstbuch (Vienna, Austria) on 10 November 2021.

Architecture and urbanism; Colonial History

Donna Szőke (artist), with essays by Stuart Reid (curator) and Emily Rosamond. *Cloud*. 2022 / ISBN 978-1-990208-19-5

“Cloud” (10 Oct. 2015–17 Jan. 2016) and “Satellite” (19 Oct.–28 Nov. 2015) were two parallel exhibitions by artist Donna Szőke, held respectively at Rodman Hall Art Centre and, on the other bank of Twelve Mile Creek, at the Art Gallery of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, Brock University. Curated by Stuart Reid, they echoed each other, but were also conceived as two independent projects. The present catalogue focuses on “Cloud,” an exhibition whose apparent simplicity or incongruity elicits an adroit treatment of complex facts.

Exhibition catalogue

Paul Savoie (poetry) and Mélanie Mesager (choreography). *Arc, a choreographed poem*. 2021 / ISBN 978-1-7771450-5-7

“Arc” by award-winning author Paul Savoie is a poem which captures the pensive impressions of a moment and is suffused with a quiet musicality. Savoie’s passion for and practice of music inform this long melancholy song. Mélanie Mesager, a French dancer and scholar in contemporary dance, selected a few passages (in bold in Savoie’s text) and, for these, invented a choreography to accompany the poem. Mesager’s choreographic marks do not belong to existing systems of choreographic notation; they are a distinct creation that preserves her personal reaction to an intimate text. Her notes, translated by Nicholas Hauck, provide insight into her approach. A dancer responds to a poem, translates it into embodied movement, in a language as secret as the poet’s.

Choreographic notation; Poetry and Dance; Translation

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Devon Fornelli (music notation) and Thomas Ayouti (creative writing). *Improvising Places / Improvising Time*, with essays by Derek Knight and Matthew Royal.

2021 / ISBN 978-1-7771450-6-4

Dance and musical improvisation are ephemeral expressions urging us to embrace the moment in thoughtful joy. Devon Fornelli's improvisations documented here are two performances: his CitySounds, created on 18 September 2015 for the opening of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in downtown St. Catharines, Ontario; and his Garden Performance, five years later, on 9 May 2020, offered as a reflection on the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary lockdown of the MIWSFPA. This documentation includes music notations, three short essays and the only remaining photograph of Fornelli's improv' in September 2015. Thomas Ayouti's short story 'Aux corps cassés' – roughly translated, 'broken bodies' – offers a counterpoint to Fornelli's practice. Thematizing the creation of a dance performance, the narrative grows, gains speed, intertwines the dancers' movements and the narrator's loving characterization of his friend. Whereas Fornelli's improvisations express the persisting flow of our environment, Ayouti's piece follows the fervid crescendo of emotions.

Music notation; Dance; Covid-19 pandemic

Derek Knight, Curator. *Industrial Niagara*.

2021 / ISBN 978-1-990208-02-7

In March 2020, the Rodman Hall Art Centre showed *Industrial Niagara*, an exhibition curated by Derek Knight, that brought together key works by members of the Research Centre in Interdisciplinary Arts and Creative Culture, Brock University. The catalogue documents the artists' responses to the natural environs and the features that distinguish the presence, loss, or history of industry in Niagara's landscape. Reflecting on the meaning of locale, these artists observe and interpret the region's combination of hinterland, cataract and escarpment, waterways and canals, hydro-electric generators and high-tension wires, manufacturing facilities, factories, subdivisions, and farmland.

Art and Landscape; Industrial landscape; Niagara Region; Rodman Hall Art Centre

L'impact du numérique : textes/images en littérature et dans les arts – Engaging with Digital Texts/Images in Literatures and the Arts. Editors/Directors: Carmela Colella, Tamara El-Hoss, Catherine Parayre.

2021 / ISBN 978-1-990208-06-5 / E-book; free access / Livre numérique, accès libre

New digital tools continue to transform the way artists and writers think about, engage with, and create works. In the last decades, advances in technology have facilitated the design and writing process, allowing the creation of countless virtual renditions of concepts or works. Digital tools have impacted the traditional literary world, opening access to a variety of digitized texts and enabling increased interactions with other art forms. In turn, visual and other creative arts have conceived new integrations of text within their medium, all of which has impacted and changed our visual and written discourse.

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Digital art; Digital tools in literature

Les nouveaux outils numériques continuent de transformer la pensée des artistes et auteur.es, ainsi que leur façon de s'engager dans la création. Au cours des dernières décennies, les avancées technologiques ont permis de concevoir et de développer de nouvelles pratiques en littérature et dans les arts, avec pour résultat d'innombrables créations innovantes. Les outils numériques rendent possible un meilleur accès aux textes littéraires et facilitent des interactions complexes entre la littérature et les autres arts. De même, les arts visuels et autres ont conçu de nouvelles intégrations du texte dans leurs réalisations. Ces nouvelles pratiques ont changé notre discours visuel et textuel.

Art numérique ; Outils numériques en littérature

Cartagena, Alejandro (photography) with creative writing by Tim Conley and Nicholas Hauck. *Built to Ruin: Between Invisibility and Suburbia*.

2020 / ISBN 978-1-9990860-5-3

Alejandro Cartagena's photographs of recently built Mexican suburbs, ask us to look at this phenomenon of the suburban environs and how it has fueled variously the need for solutions to overcrowded cities, or the desire to form and incorporate community living where replication and anonymity are the rule rather than the exception. Viewing these images is not to experience them in any profound, lived way, but instead, to see how through the lens of a discerning photographer, we can construct and project a mythology of place. Our interpretive tools are often the ones that we share with fiction or film, to think of Tim Conley's essay, from episodic narratives, picaresque vignettes to cinematic spectacle. The legends Nicholas Hauck has composed to accompany Cartagena's photographs add poetic poignancy to the suburban fabric of vernacular modernism.

Photography; Suburbia; Mythology of Place

Szóke, Donna (drawings) and Gary Barwin (creative writing). *The Dark Redacted*.

2020 / ISBN 978-1-9990860-4-6

Donna Szóke investigates the fluidity of meaning and presence in her work. Rather than elucidating a concept or an experience, she proposes a semi-abstract perusal of collective or intimate issues. Offering a reflection on the evocative instability of the biographical and the personal, and opting for an approach close to autofiction, her work constellates subtle possibilities and its scope defies the limitations of certainty. The artist is a compelling storyteller for whom the quest for meaning and the vagrancies of that search are more significant than plain facts. Szóke's work is mirrored in Gary Barwin's text. His narrative is built on a crescendo and ends as an incantation. A playful style, suggestive wordplays, intuitive associations, and magic creations of word-made spaces add to the careful constructedness of the project as a whole and create the impression that an intimate conversation is happening between the narrator and the artist's persona.

The artist as storyteller; Autofiction

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Dugas, Daniel H. and Valerie LeBlanc. *Videopoetry/Vidéopoésie*.

2020 / ISBN 978-1-9990860-6-0 / E-book; free access

Canadian digital artist and videopoet Valerie LeBlanc and Canadian poet, musician, and videopoet Daniel H. Dugas have been working together since 1990. Daniel H. Dugas was born in Montréal, QC. Poet, videographer, essayist and musician, Dugas has exhibited and participated in exhibitions, festivals and literary events in Canada and internationally. His ninth book of poetry, *L'esprit du temps/The Spirit of the Time*, won the 2016 Antonine-Maillet-Acadie Vie award and the 2018 Éloizes: Artiste de l'année en littérature.

Pluridisciplinary artist and writer, Valerie LeBlanc was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She has worked and presented throughout Canada and internationally. LeBlanc's first video, *Homecoming*, was collected and screened by the National Gallery of Canada. She is the creator of the MediaPackBoard (MPB), a portable screening / performance device.

Videopoetry; Digital art; Digital literature

Natalee Caple, Alexander Christie, Nicholas Hauck, Derek Knight, Catherine Parayre, Shawn Serfas. *Composures*.

2020 / ISBN 978-1-7771450-2-6 / E-book; free access

Composures is a collection of brief contributions on the theme of care by members of the Research Centre in Interdisciplinary Arts and Creative Culture at the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, in the Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture, Brock University. It includes artworks, two short short stories, and three short essays. Their theme is care, a word often heard at the beginning of the covid pandemic and resulting lockdown in 2020. The topic and a desire for concision were the only constraints given to contributors, at a time when constraints were being applied to all aspects of life, interactions were drastically limited, and we were asked to stay home.

2020 Covid lockdown; Care

Im/migrant Passages: Crossing Visual, Spatial and Textual Boundaries– Im/migrations : Passages visuels, spatiaux et textuels. Editors/Directrices: Carmela Colella, Tamara El-Hoss, Catherine Parayre.

2020 / ISBN 9781777145019 / E-book; free access / Livre numérique, accès libre

To emigrate is to leave, to immigrate is to arrive and stay, to migrate is to move, often as a result of forced displacement. Most emigrants, immigrants, migrants and/or refugees frequently face difficult, if not heartbreaking decisions when they decide they must settle elsewhere. According to the latest UNHCR estimates, 65.6 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide by war, poverty, and/or climate change. Many live(d) in refugee/migrant camps where they often face(d) inhumane conditions, discrimination, violence, and racism, while others spend/spent most of their lives in transit camps.

Contributions to this volume explore topics in literature, graphic novels, visual arts, film, dance, and education.

Migration; Immigration; Arts and culture; Literature; Graphic novels

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Emigrer, c'est partir ; immigrer, c'est arriver et rester ; migrer, c'est se déplacer, souvent car on y est forcé.e. La plupart des émigrant.es, immigrant.es, migrant.es et/ou réfugié.es font face à des décisions difficiles, voire bouleversantes lorsqu'ils ou elles doivent s'installer ailleurs. Selon de récentes estimations de l'UNHCR, 66,5 millions d'individus ont été contraints à se déplacer à travers le monde pour cause de guerre, de pauvreté et/ou de changement climatique. Des groupes entiers vivent ou ont vécu dans des camps de réfugiés ou de migrants où ils font souvent l'expérience de conditions de vie inhumaines, de discriminations, violences et racisme, tandis que d'autre passent ou ont passé une grande partie de leur vie dans des camps de transit. Les articles contenus dans ce volume explorent divers sujets appartenant à la littérature, la BD, les arts visuels, le cinéma, la danse et l'enseignement.

Migration ; Immigration ; Arts et cultures ; Littérature ; BD

Serfas, Shawn (artist). *Inland*, with creative writing by Richard Fausset and an essay by Derek Knight.

2019 / ISBN 978-1-9990860-0-8

Shawn Serfas grew up exploring the northern reaches of Saskatchewan's lakes and river systems. His interests include contemporary painting, drawing and printmaking practices. His work echoes a reflection on relational abstraction, environmental aesthetics, the landscape as well as issues bordering abstraction and representation. Serfas is profoundly aware of human intervention on natural resources and of its devastating consequences. His series *Inland* and *Portrait of a Mark* appeared in the 2016 exhibition *Inland* curated by Stuart Reid at the Rodman Hall Art Centre, Brock University, St. Catharines. Richard Fausset was affected by the passage of Hurricane Katrina over New Orleans, Louisiana and its surroundings in 2005. His piece of creative writing investigates how human life impacts nature in a bayou, and vice-versa. Serfas' artworks and Fausset's fictional narrative elicit a dialogue between north and south yet offer two distinct reflections on pollution and the insufficiently controlled use of the environment in North America.

Environmental degradation; Environmental aesthetics; Rodman Hall Art Centre

Dickinson, Adam (poetry) and Lorène Bourgeois (drawings). *The Quarry*.

2019 / ISBN 978-1-9990860-1-5

In the Fall of 2018, the Small Walker Press invited poet Adam Dickinson and artist Lorène Bourgeois to walk through a former landfill (1976-2001), the Glenridge Quarry Naturalization Site. Located on the Niagara Escarpment, overlooking the City of St. Catharines, Ontario, it functions today as a public recreation area. Its landscape still resembles a raw, industrialized version of nature, eerie and ominous in its windswept hills. A constructed landscape, it is perceived as rationally managed nature. Indeed, there is something decidedly unnatural about this carefully designed space where layers of clay and soil have been deposited and vegetation native to the area planted with the aim of naturalizing the landfill. Along the paths,

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visitors will also notice the small mechanical vents of a gas collection system from which escape acrid odours produced by decomposing waste under the harmonious scenery. As a result of their walk together, Adam Dickinson contributes a poem about childhood reminiscences and the dreamy yet familiar realm where they belong, while Lorène Bourgeois revisits some of her earlier drawings and presents them anew in a sequence whose rhythm is inspired by photographs she made of the Glenridge Quarry.

Environmental aesthetics; Quarries

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