

## PAT LOWTHER MEMORIAL AWARD

Open to Canadian women, the Pat Lowther Memorial Award has been awarded annually since 1981 for a book of poetry published in the preceding year. This prize is in memory of the late Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975.

**2016 JURORS: JUDITH NEALE, VANESSA SHIELDS, JOAN SHILLINGTON**

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### 2016 SHORTLIST

***The Wrong Cat*** by Lorna Crozier (McClelland & Stewart)

***calling down the sky*** by Rosanna Deerchild (Bookland Press)

***Terra Incognita*** by Adebe DeRango-Adem (INNANA Publications and Education Inc.)

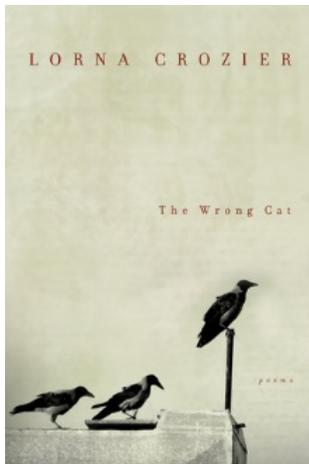
***The Poison Colour*** by Maureen Hynes (Pedlar Press)

***Marry & Burn*** by Rachel Rose (Harbour Publishing)

***Trio*** by Sarah Tolmie (McGill-Queen's University Press)

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### JUDGES' COMMENTS



#### ***The Wrong Cat* by Lorna Crozier**

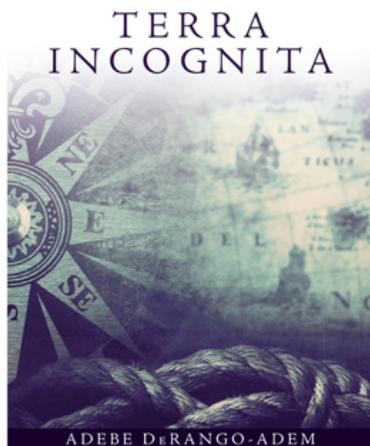
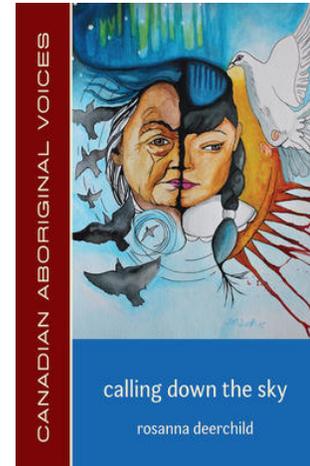
*The Wrong Cat* is a book deeply nuanced in its exploration of the human condition. It encompasses the political and the sensual as it is layered with vivid imagery and powerful metaphor that moves between the animal, human and spiritual world with a gentle ferocity. Crozier's poetry is rooted in the intimate that pulls the heart into each line and holds it there. It is fresh and insightful too, not easily done for a writer who has given us such an abundance of extraordinary poems in her long and laudable career. A career that offers both a guide to writing poetry that holds the world together and how to hold the self together as the world unravels.

**Lorna Crozier** is the award-winning author of fifteen previous books of poetry, including *Small Mechanics*, *The Blue Hour of the Day: Selected Poems*, and *Whetstone*. She is also the author of *The Book of Marvels: A Compendium of Everyday Things* and the memoir *Small Beneath the Sky*. She is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Victoria and an Officer of the Order of Canada, and she has received three honorary doctorates for her contributions to Canadian Literature. Born in Swift Current, she now lives in British Columbia.

### ***calling down the sky* by Rosanna Deerchild**

This is a collection of poetry that seeps through the skin and plunges into the heart of human survival and spirit. deerchild's poetic voice is courageously patient in the rekindling of her mother's brutal residential school past, and the stinging reverberations of this devastating upbringing in deerchild's own life. It is raspy with pain and emotion yet infused with the truth of a hopeful healing of the human psyche. Each poem is a requiem for the past and a heart-wrenching storytelling towards a present and future propelled with art, wisdom and change. *calling down the sky* writes to resurrection and an honouring of First Nation empowerment.

**Rosanna Deerchild** is the host of "Unreserved" on CBC Radio One. She is an award-winning Cree author and has worked for a variety of Indigenous newspapers and for major networks for almost 15 years, including APTN, CBC Radio and Global. She lives in South Indian Lake, Manitoba.



### ***Terra Incognita* by Adebé DeRango-Adem**

Raw and powerful, *Terra Incognita* is a poetic journey into a rooted, feminist centre brewing with racial history, spiritual legacy and dazzling light. DeRango-Adem's words explore identity with a songful cadence and soulful structure that skips across time and place, and exclaims a reclaiming for remembrance, belonging and acceptance within oneself. It tackles the soul with lyrical depth and inspires a togetherness of human strength in evolving spirit.

"...yet something still awaits  
another kind of place  
for a terra firma beneath the feet  
but can you roll with  
either on the rocks or neat?  
can you jive with the strangeness  
of being alive."  
—from "terra nuova/anchors a-weigh"

**Adebé DeRango-Adem** is a writer and doctoral student at the University of Pennsylvania. Her work has been published in various North American sources, including *Descant*, *CV2*, *Canadian Woman Studies* and the *Toronto Star*. She won the Toronto Poetry Competition in 2005 to become Toronto's first Junior Poet Laureate.

In 2008, she attended the summer writing program at Naropa University, where she mentored with Anne Waldman and the late Amiri Baraka. Her debut poetry collection, *Ex Nihilo* (Frontenac House, 2010) was one of ten manuscripts chosen in honour of Frontenac House's Dektet 2010 competition, using a blind selection process by a jury of leading Canadian writers: bill bissett, George Elliott Clarke, and Alice Major. *Ex Nihilo* was longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize, the world's largest prize for writers under thirty. She is also the co-editor, alongside Andrea Thompson, of *Other Tongues: Mixed-Race Women Speak Out* (Inanna Publications, 2010).

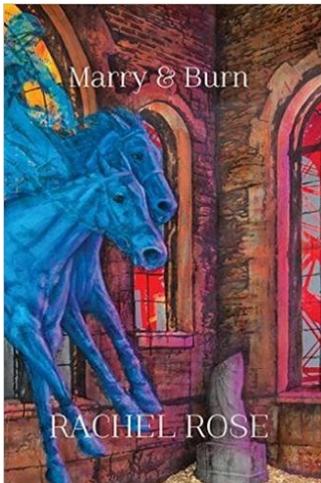
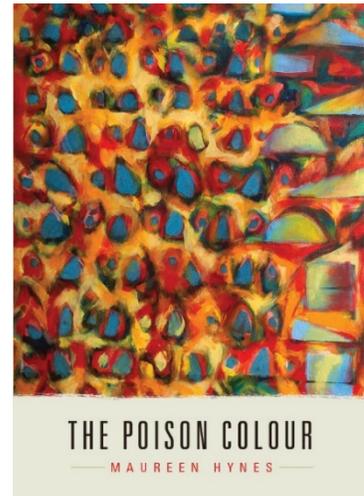
### ***The Poison Colour* by Maureen Hynes**

In *The Poison Colour* Hynes brings poetry to an elemental, breathtaking exploration that weaves through the art of time, place and sound. She is a word-seamstress, gathering the material of art, nature, and the human experience into a layered, colour spectrum of a gown that imprints on its wearer – the reader. Each poem is a gift that transports and transcends as it simultaneously asks deep questions that move and shake in a shifting world of answers.

“...Some kind of voyage, from dread to sorrow,  
from sorrow to resignation and back to  
fear. I mean a passage from seeing  
blue to tasting it, from listening to birdsong  
to opening a jar of it...”  
—from “*the effect is blue, not periwinkle*”

The poison in this collection is that it is addicting, and necessary to inhale and re-enter over and over again.

**Maureen Hynes’s** first book of poetry, *Rough Skin* (Wolsak and Wynn), won the League of Canadian Poets’ Gerald Lampert Memorial Award. Subsequent collections include *Harm’s Way* (Brick Books), *Marrow*, *Willow*, and *The Poison Colour* (both from Pedlar Press). Maureen is a past winner of the Petra Kenney Poetry Prize (London, England). Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and in over 20 anthologies, including *Best Canadian Poems 2010*. She has been Writer-in-Residence at the University of Prince Edward Island and a judge for several national poetry contests and awards. She has co-edited poetry anthologies and is poetry editor for *Our Times* magazine. Maureen teaches in the University of Toronto’s Creative Writing program in the School of Continuing Studies. [www.maureenhynes.com](http://www.maureenhynes.com)



### ***Marry & Burn* by Rachel Rose**

*Marry & Burn* is a stunning collection of precise, playful, artful poetry that sews itself with golden thread to the political yet street-smart human experience. It resounds with power and beauty, and uplifts the longing of everyday experience.

“Gently we looked at each other, we pressed  
the places that hurt together.  
Say it, poet, what you do: I burn.”

In the gentle pressing of her passionate, sometimes cheeky essence lyrically into poetry, Rose exemplifies the poet who dares to write the writing on the wall then hold a mirror to those very words for all to reflect on.

**Rachel Rose’s** work has appeared in various journals including *Poetry*, *The Malahat Review* and *The Best American Poetry*, as well as numerous anthologies. Her poetry collection *Song & Spectacle* (Harbour, 2012) won the Audre Lorde Award in the US and the Pat Lowther Memorial Award in Canada. She was the librettist for the opera *When the Sun Comes Out*, which grapples with fundamentalism and forbidden love. She is the winner of the Peterson Memorial Prize for poetry and the Bronwen Wallace award for fiction, and the recipient of a 2014 Pushcart Prize. She is the Poet Laureate of Vancouver for 2014–2017.

## ***Trio* by Sarah Tolmie**

What a sensually moving, wildly fun, bitingly intelligent, uniquely playful, and downright witty collection of sonnets! Tolmie's *Trio* is a beautifully sad and deeply aware love poem that moves like lovers and dancers. It is a home for modern love – self-love, partnership, commitment and pain held in the arms of the traditional sonnet form that in its passionate present-day storytelling, elevates the form into an engaging re-imagining that is excitingly challenging yet addictive. *Trio*'s narrator is a woman to know – to dance with, to make love to, to fight with, to love.

**Sarah Tolmie** is the author of the 120-sonnet sequence *Trio*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press (release date 1 April 2015) and the chapbook *Sonnet in a Blue Dress and Other Poems* (Baseline Press, 2014). She has also published a novel, *The Stone Boatmen*, and a short fiction collection, *NoFood*, with Aqueduct Press (both 2014). Her latest novel, *Two Travelers*, will be published by Aqueduct Press in 2016. She is a medievalist trained at the University of Toronto and Cambridge and is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Waterloo.

