



I Am Still Too Much

Kiskajeyi - I AM READY

INJICH

DISINTEGRATE
DISSOCIATE



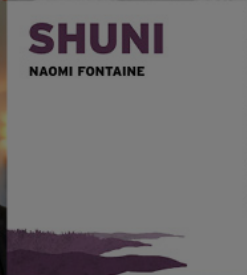
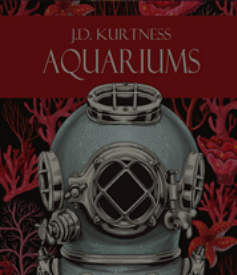
Brandi Bird

Michelle



JESSE THISTLE

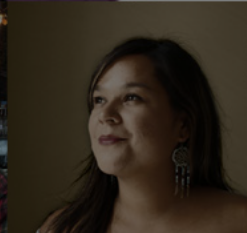
Phyllis's Orange Shirt



J.D. KURTNESS

Breviaire du matricule 082

SHUNI
NAOMI FONTAINE



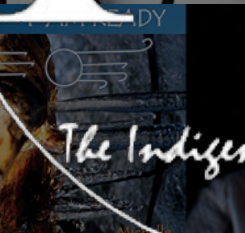
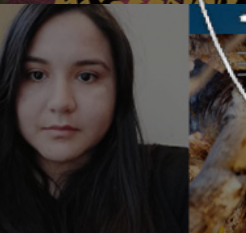
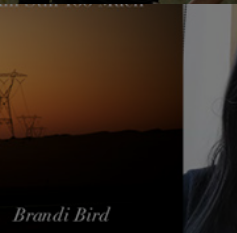
In My Own Words

CHAUFFER LE DEHORS
Marie-Andrée Gill

?bédayine

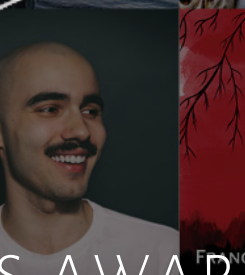
IVA

The Indigenous Voices Awards



Brandi Bird

My Soul in Story



Phyllis's Orange Shirt

on/me

INDIGENOUS VOICES AWARDS 2020 VIRTUAL GALA



Breviaire du matricule 082

SHUNI
NAOMI FONTAINE

FRANCES CUNNINGHAM

DAKWAKĀDA WARRIORS



CHAUFFER LE DEHORS
Marie-Andrée Gill

?bédayine

Elizabeth Dances
Pow-wow
by Elizabeth Dances
Illustrated by Elizabeth Dances

2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Indigenous Voices Awards (IVAs) were established in 2017 to nurture the creative artistry of Indigenous authors in lands claimed by Canada. The IVAs are designed to celebrate and support Indigenous literary production in its diversity and complexity, adding breath to the sparks of inspiration felt by emerging writers from coast to coast to coast.

Funds for the awards were initially raised through two crowd-funding campaigns instigated in response to the #AppropriationPrize controversy, in which members of the Canadian media advocated for the appropriation of Indigenous and other cultural materials. Although initiators Silvia Moreno-Garcia and Robin Parker set modest monetary goals for their campaigns, the cause struck a chord, raising \$116,565 in four months via the donations of over 1,500 Canadians. Moreno-Garcia and Parker then partnered with the Indigenous Literary Studies Association to administer the awards. The IVAs thus emerged from controversy and developed through collaboration, dedication, and generosity. The IVAs reject cultural appropriation, honour the integrity of Indigenous voices, and affirm the ongoing significance of Indigenous Peoplehood.

When the current year's awards are celebrated on June 21st, 2020, the IVAs will have awarded a total of \$70,000 in awards for published and unpublished writing in a variety of genres and in English, French, and Indigenous languages. Awards have been offered in at least seven different categories each year, in efforts to transcend the individualism of prize culture and to encourage community building.

The IVAs have always prioritized the nurturing of community amongst Indigenous writers, the facilitation of mentorship and professionalization opportunities, and the fostering networks of support for emerging literary artists. For example, the IVAs Gala in 2019, which took place at First Nations House of Learning on Unceded Musqueam (x^wməθk^wəyəm) Territory in Vancouver, was preceded by a day of special sessions in which IVAs finalists experienced roundtable discussions with representatives of Indigenous and mainstream presses, and were able to engage in workshops and mentorship sessions with established Indigenous authors.

The effectiveness of such initiatives can be seen by IVAs finalists in unpublished categories eventually achieving their first published books. For example, 2018 winner in for Unpublished Poetry in French, Marie-Andrée Gill, is a finalist this year for Published Poetry for her collection *Chauffer le dehors*, and 2018 winner for Unpublished Poetry in English, Smokii Sumac, won the Published Poetry category in 2019 for *You Are Enough: love poems for the end of the world*. Other finalists in Unpublished categories in previous years who have now published their own books are Francine Cunningham, Brandi Bird, and Elaine McArthur. An edited special issue of *The Alaska Quarterly Review* published in March 2020 features many of the IVAs finalists from 2018, offering for many their first published work.

Over its three years of operation, the IVAs has boasted several acclaimed Indigenous authors amongst its jurors, including Jordan Abel, Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, Jeannette Armstrong, Joanne Arnott, Warren Cariou, Gabrielle L'Hirondelle Hill, Virginia Pésémapéo Bordeleau, Rachel Qitsualik-Tinsley, Pierrot

2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ross-Tremblay, Gregory Scofield, Jean Sioui, and Richard Van Camp. Other jurors have been drawn from the Canadian arts scene—Shelagh Rogers and Rodney Saint-Éloi—and the academy—Margery Fee and Francis Langevin. The willingness of so many to dedicate their time and expertise suggests the importance of supporting emerging Indigenous writers at this time. The IVAs currently offers the only literary prizes for Indigenous writing in French in Canada, and indeed the world. Supporting writing in Indigenous languages and Indigenous writing in French are key priorities of the IVAs and areas for growth in future years.

June 2020

The Indigenous Voices Awards would not exist without the support of our many donors. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the contributions of Pamela Dillon, Penguin Random House Canada, Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA), Scholastic Books, and David Chariandy.

2020 JURORS



JORDAN ABEL is a member of the editorial board at Wolsak & Wynn's Buckrider Books imprint, and holds a PhD from Simon Fraser University. His research concentrates on Indigenous poetry and intergenerational trauma. His creative work has recently been anthologized in *Best Canadian Poetry* (Tightrope), *The Land We Are: Artists and Writers Unsettle the Politics of Reconciliation* (Arbeiter Ring), and *The New Concrete: Visual Poetry in the 21st Century* (Hayword). His body of work includes *The Place of Scraps* (winner of the Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize), *Un/inhabited*, and *Injun* (winner of the Griffin Poetry Prize).



JOANNE ARNOTT is a poet, essayist, and arts/community organizer originally from Manitoba who has resided in Vancouver for over two decades. She is a founding member of the Aboriginal Writers Collective West Coast and The Aunties Collective, and she is mother to six children, all born at home. Her collections of poetry include *Wiles of Girlhood* (Press Gang Publishers, 1991), *My Grass Cradle* (Press Gang Publishers 1992), *Steepy Mountain Love Poetry* (Kegedonce Press, 2004), *Mother Time: New & Selected* (Ronsdale Press, 2007), *A Night for the Lady* (Ronsdale Press, 2013) and *Halfling Spring* (Kegedonce Press, 2014). Her non-fiction works include *Breasting the Waves: On Writing and Healing* (Press Gang Publishers, 1995).



JEANNETTE ARMSTRONG is one of the most influential and renowned Indigenous writers in Canada. Poet, novelist, teacher, and artist, she was born and raised on the Penticton Indian Reserve. She is a fluent speaker of the Syilx language, Nsyilxcn, and is a knowledge keeper of plant medicines, Syilx traditions, and cultural protocols. She is also a strong voice in Indigenous environmental ethics. She became executive director of the En'owkin Centre in 1985, and in 1989 helped found the En'owkin School of International Writing, the first credit-giving creative writing program in Canada managed solely by and for Indigenous people. Armstrong's published works include *Slash* (1985), her debut novel about a young Okanagan man finding his culture after a life of racism and violence; a book of poetry titled *Breath Tracks* (1990); and her second novel, *Whispering in Shadows* (2000), about an Okanagan woman navigating her cultural knowledges through colonial surroundings while engaging in environmental activism. In 2013 she was appointed a Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Indigenous Philosophy to research, document, categorize and analyze Okanagan Syilx oral literature in Nsyilxcn.

2020 JURORS



RACHEL QITSUALIK-TINSLEY is a Metis artist and writer from Vancouver, BC, located on uneded x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sə'lilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) territory. Her sculptures and installations perform as both a material exploration of colour and form and an enquiry into concepts of land, property, and economy. Her work has been exhibited at the Polygon Gallery, the Morris and Helen Belkin Gallery, Sunset Terrace, and Gallery Gachet in Vancouver; SBC galerie d'art contemporain in Montreal; STRIDE gallery in Calgary; SOMArts in San Francisco; and Get This! Gallery in Atlanta, Georgia.



PIERROT ROSS-TREMBLAY is Essipiunnu (Innu Essipit or “Human of the Brook Shells River”) and is a sociologist, lawyer and committed researcher. His academic work focuses on memory and forgetting, the revitalization of intellectual and legal traditions and the self-determination of first peoples. His first book, *Thou Shall Forget: Indigenous Sovereignty, Resistance and the Production of Cultural Oblivion in Canada* (University of London Press), is the result of 10 years of work in his home community. He is also a poet - Nipimanitu - his first collection of poetry, has won, together with Josephine Bacon, the Indigenous Voices Awards 2019 for the best work of poetry published in French. He is a professor at the University of Ottawa’s Indigenous Research and Studies Institute.



RICHARD VAN CAMP is Professor Emerita of English at the University of British Columbia. Her most recent books are *Literary Land Claims: The “Indian Land Question” from Pontiac’s War to Attawapiskat* (Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2015) and edited with Dory Nason, *Tekahionwake: E. Pauline Johnson’s Writings on Native North America* (Broadview, 2016).

2020 FINALISTS



MARIE-ANDRÉE GILL - Mère,oureuse, amie, sœur, Marie-Andrée Gill fait de ses relations des poèmes. Son écriture se promène entre kitsch et existentiel, alliant les identités québécoises et ilnues, et exprimant à la fois le Nitassinan et le territoire du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean. Étudiante en lettres, elle navigue autour de l'écriture de l'intime et l'amour décolonial. Elle a publié trois recueils chez La Peuplade, Béante, Frayer et Chauffer le dehors.



BRANDI BIRD is a Saulteaux and Cree poet from Treaty 1 territory currently living and learning on Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh land. Their work has been published in Poetry is Dead, Pearls and is forthcoming in Prism. Their debut chapbook, I Am Still Too Much, is a work highly concerned with place and family and was written with the prairies always in heart and mind.



DAVID AGECOUTAY - Born in Grenfell Saskatchewan, lived in Victoria BC, Iserlohn Germany, Edmonton AB and Calgary AB. I'm self employed running a home repair company in Calgary. I started writing poems when I was 14, then I started writing songs and later short stories. I played in a few bands, got involved with theatre groups, I did some acting but mostly I composed music for their productions. I did a spoken word and music performance with Calgary poet Murdoch Burnett that had a major influence on me and inspired me to pursue poetry.

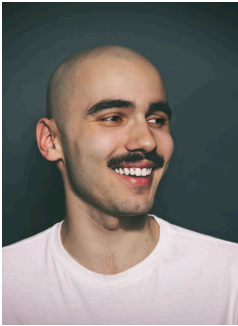


COLE PAULS is a Tahltan comic artist, illustrator and printmaker hailing from Haines Junction (Yukon Territory) with a BFA in Illustration from Emily Carr University. Residing in Vancouver, Pauls focuses on his two comic series, the first being Pizza Punks: a self contained comic strip about punks eating pizza, the other being Dakwākāda Warriors. In 2017, Pauls won Broken Pencil Magazine's Best Comic and Best Zine of the Year Award for Dakwākāda Warriors II.

2020 FINALISTS



CORRI DANIELS is a Plains Cree sixties scoop survivor from George Gordon First Nation in Treaty 4 territory north of Regina, Saskatchewan. She was born and raised in Calgary Alberta. In 2017, Corri is a poet and writer and was longlisted for the CBC Short Story prize for her short story titled “Sweet Grass Spirits”. She was recently chosen for the Emerging Indigenous Writers Reading Series in Toronto last year, but was unable to attend. Corri was also recently asked to open and read her short story for Daniel Heath Justice at his book launch at Laurier in 2018. Corri takes creative writing classes at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo Ontario where she currently holds the role of Indigenous Events Support Coordinator at Laurier’s Indigenous Student Centre. She loves her husband, her 2 daughters, 4 bonus kids, 2 dogs and a grand puppy. Corri lives with her husband Pete in St. Clements, Ontario.



CODY CAETANO is a writer of Portuguese and Anishinaabe descent with work published in PRISM International, Beatroute, Hart House Review, and elsewhere.



ELAINE MCARTHUR is a past winner of the Indigenous Voices Awards for her poetry and short stories. Elaine has a poem featured in a new anthology entitled, “In Good Relation, History, Gender and Kinship in Indigenous Feminism” published by the University of Manitoba Press. Elizabeth Dances Pow wow was self published in December of 2019, and has since had interest from an international publishing house for publishing rights. The book is her first children’s book and the first in a series to be published in the coming months. Elaine is from the Ocean Man First Nation in Saskatchewan and has a degree in Indigenous Education from the First Nations University of Canada. She currently lives in Regina Sk, with her hubby Rick and her dog, Charlie.



STEVEN HALL is a citizen of the Hał̓zaqv (Heiltsuk) Nation with patrilineal ties to the Kitasoo/Xai’Xais Nation. Born and raised in the territories of the X̓m̓əθkwəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, Səlilwətaʔl/Selilwitulh, Katzie, Qiqéyt, S̓c̓əwaθenaʔl təməx̓w, S’ólh Téméxw, Semiahmoo, and Kwikwetlem Nations (aka. ‘Greater Vancouver’), Steven often self-identifies as an urban Heiltsuk citizen. This past spring, he completed a B.A. in Indigenous Studies at Simon Fraser University with an extended minor in Psychology. A newbie-writer, Steven has found Indigenous literature life changing in it’s healing power (as Jo-ann Episkinew suggests in her book, Taking Back Our Spirits: Indigenous Literature, Public Policy, and Healing, 2009). Inspired by the many works he has read by Indigenous authors, Steven has started to engage in writing of his own. “Gatzi Naka” is his first written piece.

2020 FINALISTS



JD KURTNESS - Née à Chicoutimi, J.D. Kurtness est venue à Montréal avec l'intention d'étudier les microbes. Elle a plutôt bifurqué vers la littérature. Après quelques années à rédiger des courriels pour des OBNL, elle bûche maintenant sur son DEC en informatique.



KAITLYN PURCELL (Smith's Landing First Nation) is a Denesuline writer/artist and member of the Writing Revolution in Place creative research collective (University of Alberta). Currently, she is an English PhD student within creative and critical Indigenous studies at the University of Calgary. Her research centres arts and literature as theoretical practice exploring gender/sexuality and multi-modal creative productions (creative writing, visual, digital, and installation arts) as praxis towards healing and resistance. Her debut novella, *ʔbédayine*, was selected by guest judges CA Conrad and Anne Boyer as the winner of the 2018 Metatron Prize for Emerging Authors and was published fall 2019.



RENE MESHAKE is an Ojibwe elder, visual and performing artist, author — *Injichaag My Soul in Story* — University of Manitoba Press 2019, storyteller, flute player, new media artist and a Recipient of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee Medal. He works to fuse Ojibwe and English words into his stories, poetry and spoken word performances, Rene communicates his Ojibwe spiritual heritage to the contemporary world. He was born in the railway town of Nakina in Northwestern Ontario and was raised by his Okomissan grandmother. His education includes: Anishinaabe oral tradition, language, arts and culture. Rene has a diploma in Graphic Design from Sheridan College and a certificate in Creative Writing from the Humber School for Writers. Rene's body of artwork, stories and his flute improvisations create a strong, expressive, and entertaining presentation for an ever-increasing audience. He also has an active on-line and performing presence as a Funky-Elder.



HELEN KNOTT is a Dane Zaa, Nehiyaw, and mixed Euro-descent woman living in Northeastern British Columbia. In 2016 she was one of sixteen global change makers featured by the Nobel Women's Initiative for being committed to end gender-based violence. She was named an RBC Taylor Prize Emerging Writer in 2019. In *My Own Moccasins* is her first book.

2020 FINALISTS



PHYLLIS WEBSTAD (nee Jack) is Northern Secwépemc (Shushwap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band). She comes from mixed Secwépemc and Irish/French heritage. She was born in Dog Creek and lives in Williams Lake, B.C. Phyllis is married, has a son, a stepson, three grandsons and one granddaughter. Every year, Phyllis and her family camp by the Fraser River near Williams Lake. The old and the young come together to catch and dry fish just like their ancestors did. These are lessons that Phyllis learned as a child. Now, she is proud to teach her grandchildren the ways of her people. Phyllis is a third-generation residential school survivor; she has created unprecedented impact on local, provincial, national and international communities through the sharing of her orange shirt story.



NAOMI FONTAINE est innue de Uashat. Elle a publié Kuessipan en 2011 (Mémoire d'encrier). Adapté au cinéma par Max Films, Kuessipan a connu un véritable succès. Son deuxième roman Manikanetish, publié en 2017 (Mémoire d'encrier), raconte son expérience d'enseignante à l'école Manikanetish et a été acclamé par la critique. Le roman est en développement chez ZONE3 pour une série télé à Radio-Canada. En 2019, elle publie Shuni, son troisième récit.



MICHELLE SYLLIBOY - Interdisciplinary artist and poet Michelle Sylliboy (Mi'kmaq/L'nu) was born in Boston, Massachusetts and raised on her traditional L'nuk territory in We'koqmaq, Cape Breton. While living on the traditional, unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, Sylliboy completed a BFA at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, and a Masters in Education from Simon Fraser University. She is currently a PhD candidate in Simon Fraser University's Philosophy of Education program, where she is working to reclaim her original written komqwej'wikasikl language. Her collection of photography and Mi'kmaq (L'nuk) hieroglyphic poetry, Kiskajeyi—I Am Ready, was published by Rebel Mountain Press in 2019.



TREENA CHAMBERS is a Métis scholar who has worked as a bookseller, instructor and researcher. She has worked on the categorization and digitization of archival materials on projects such as The People and The Text and as well she has worked with the Indigenous Literary Studies Association. She is currently working with SFU's Community-Engaged Research Initiative. She is currently working on her Masters of Public Policy at Simon Fraser University. Her areas of interest include decolonization, social policy and Indigenous pedagogy.

2020 FINALISTS



ARIELLE TWIST is a Nehiyaw, Two-Spirit, multidisciplinary artist originally from George Gordon First Nation, Saskatchewan. She is now based out of K'jipuktuk (Halifax), Nova Scotia, the unceded territory of the Lnúk. Her debut collection of poetry 'Disintegrate/Dissociate' was a finalist for the Publishing Triangle Award for Trans and Gender-Variant Literature and was named as one of the best poetry books of 2019 by CBC. She received the 2019 Indigenous Artist Recognition Award from Arts Nova Scotia and was a finalist for the 2019 National Magazine Awards. She is currently working on many projects while dissociating into a virtual world.



FRANCINE CUNNINGHAM is an award-winning Indigenous writer, artist and educator. Writing creative non-fiction, fiction and poetry, she has been published in the anthologies *Boobs: Women Explore What It Means to Have Breasts*, *Best Canadian Essays 2017*, and more along with various literary magazines. A graduate of the UBC Creative Writing MFA program, Cunningham's work was longlisted for the 2018 Edna Staebler Personal Essay, won the 2019 Indigenous Voices Award for unpublished prose, and won the 2018 Short Grain Writing Contest. *On/Me* is her first book and has been shortlisted for the inaugural Jim Deva Prize for Writing that Provokes.



JESSE THISTLE is Métis-Cree and an Assistant Professor at York University in Toronto. He is a PhD candidate in the History program at York where he is working on theories of intergenerational and historic trauma of the Métis people. Jesse has won the P.E. Trudeau and Vanier doctoral scholarships, and he is a governor general medalist. Jesse is the author of the *Definition of Indigenous Homelessness in Canada* published through the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, and his historical research has been published in numerous academic journals, book chapters, and featured on CBC Ideas, CBC Campus, and Unreserved. His memoir, *From the Ashes*, is a #1 national bestseller, an Indigo Best Book of 2019 and now a CBC Canada Reads finalist! You can follow him on Twitter at @michifman.

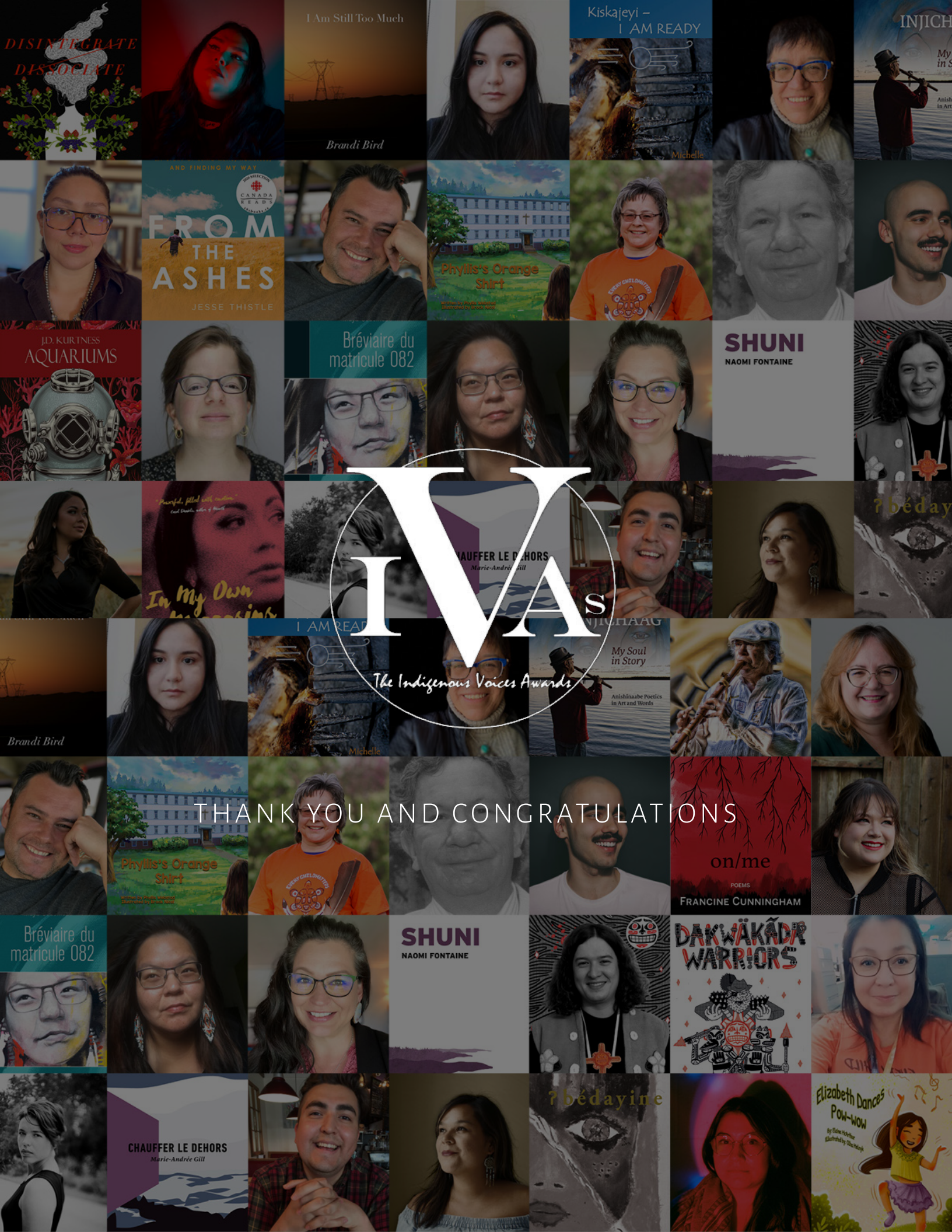


KEELY KEYSOOS SHIRT is a creative and academic from Saddle Lake Cree Nation.

2020 FINALISTS



MAYA COUSINEAU MOLLEN D'origine innue et petite-fille de Jack Monoloy, Maya Cousineau Mollen écrit de la poésie depuis l'âge de quatorze ans. Elle œuvre au sein des communautés des Premières Nations depuis une vingtaine d'années et occupe un poste de conseillère en développement communautaire à la firme EVOQ Architecture. Coprésidente du RÉSEAU pour la stratégie urbaine de la communauté autochtone à Montréal, elle fait partie de la Wolfpack Street Patrol qui regroupe des bénévoles québécois et issus des Premières Nations afin d'apporter un soutien aux itinérants. Elle a également fait partie du groupe de signataires et d'alliés dans le dossier Kanata. Bréviaire du matricule 082 est son premier recueil de poésie.



IVAs

The Indigenous Voices Awards

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS

