

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Montréal



***Book of Wings* (Véhicule Press) by Tawhida Tanya Evanson wins 2022 Blue Metropolis / Conseil des arts de Montréal New Contribution Literary Prize**

The award will be presented on November 24, 2022 during the Blue Metropolis showcase at the Salon du livre de Montréal.

November 8, 2022 – *For immediate release*

Montreal poet, dervish, and oral storyteller Tawhida Tanya Evanson has won the 2022 Blue Metropolis/Conseil des arts de Montréal New Contribution Literary Prize for *Book of Wings*, a delicate, hybrid story about learning and spiritual growth. The novel features Maya, who is looking for herself in Canada, the United States, France, Morocco, and the Caribbean after a break-up, wandering between borders, identities, languages, and cultures. *Book of Wings* was published in 2021 by Esplanade Books – Véhicule Press and is being translated into French.

The New Contribution Literary Prize, awarded jointly by the Blue Metropolis Foundation and the Conseil des arts de Montréal, draws attention to new literary voices from the immigrant community, recognizing contributions that enrich our literature. The prize is awarded to a first- or second-generation immigrant author living in Montreal for their first book or who have published a maximum of three titles, including the book submitted. All literary genres are eligible.

Tawhida Tanya Evanson is a poet and performer who has published two collections of poetry, *Bothism* (2017) and *Nouveau Griot* (2018). *Book of Wings* is her first novel. Evanson is active in the spoken word scene and received the 2013 League of Canadian Poets Sheri-D Wilson Goden Beret Award.

The Blue Metropolis / Conseil des arts de Montréal New Contribution Literary Prize includes a cash award of \$ 5,000.

The jury members for the 2022 prize were novelist Ghayas Hachem, poet and translator Katia Grubisic, and artist and translator Marilou Craft.

The two other finalists for the prize are:

- Caroline Dawson, *Là où je me terre* (Remue-ménage)
- Elkahna Talbi, *Pomme grenade* (Mémoire d'encrier)

Congratulations to the finalists!

The Blue Metropolis / Conseil des arts de Montréal New Contribution Literary Prize will be presented first at the Salon du livre de Montréal, at the Palais des congrès, on **Thursday, November 24, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. (Agora stage)**, and again during an event at the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival, the 25th edition of which will be held in the spring of 2023.

Blue Metropolis at the Salon du livre de Montréal

The presentation of the New Contribution Literary Prize on November 24 is one of three events that will be taking place at the Salon du livre de Montréal as part of the Blue Metropolis showcase. Two other events will be held in collaboration with our partners.

- Sunday, November 20, 3 p.m., “Plongée dans les différences: Le Québec actuel au prisme de la littérature,” Grande Bibliothèque auditorium: Yvon Rivard will interview essayist Pierre Nepveu about his book, *Géographies du pays proche* (Boréal), followed by a discussion with essayists Mathieu Belisle and Serge Cantin and poet Nadine Ltaif. Organized by the Académie des lettres du Québec. Free admission.
- Wednesday, November 23, 12 p.m., “De la nuit au soleil: Un parcours de résilience” (virtual event): the French clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst Dina Karoubi-Pecon will interview neuropsychiatrist Boris Cyrulnik, author of numerous books on resilience and the capacity of humans to rebuild. Produced by the Francophone cultural committee of the Jewish Public Library. For tickets please visit jewishpubliclibrary.org.

For more information and full programming details please visit bluemetropolis.org.

About the Conseil des arts de Montréal

The Conseil des arts de Montréal is a dynamic partner that nurtures professional artistic creation in Montreal by identifying, supporting, and recognizing artistic excellence in creation, production, and presentation. The Conseil des arts de Montréal fosters openness, discovery, and daring at the heart of Montreal’s artistic landscape and since its founding in 1956 has developed concrete initiatives to shape our city—“Montréal, Cultural Metropolis.”

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