

Society PAGES

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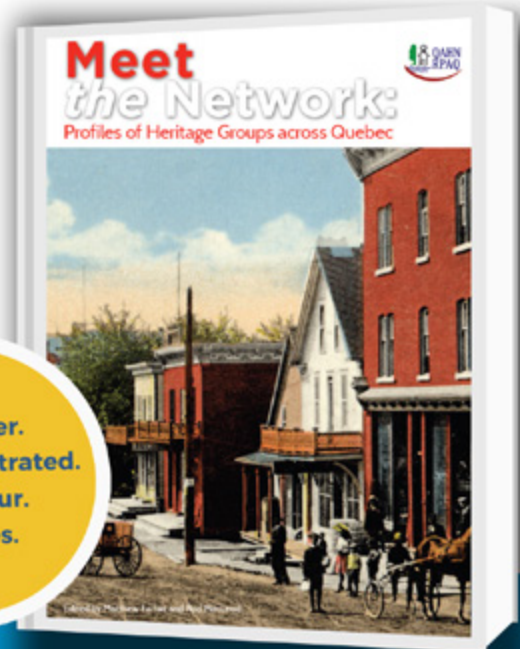
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CLOSE UP IN OLD QUEBEC DURING A PICTURE THIS PHOTO WALK

August 22, 2023

Photo: Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron

Letter from the President

Gina Farnell



The leaves are turning red, students at all levels are back in school. Families are falling into a new routine. Grand-parents on stand-by to help. This is the beginning of autumn. Perhaps the less appreciated of the four seasons, yet as beautiful as any. Where did the summer go? "What summer?", you may ask. There were plenty of rainy days: perfect time to curl up with a good book.

Arts Alive! Quebec is just behind us. The Literary Feast ahead. Your Morrin Centre staff has prepared a fresh slate of exciting events and fun activities. Volunteers are happy to greet you. At the Morrin there is something for people of all ages. *My Morrin* is always seeking members who wish to share their hobby, recent adventure, or newly acquired expertise with other LHSQ members.

In these days of debate around intellectual property rights where the Canadian government is arm-wrestling Meta and where the New York Times is confronting artificial intelligence developers, your library provides you with current affairs magazines that provide information on a wealth of topics. The Literary and Historical Society of Quebec is 199 years old. This in good part is surely due to the integrity, the social awareness, and respect of its mandate as a learned society displayed by its Councils and membership over two centuries. Credit is given where credit is deserved.

Autumn with its smell of freshly fallen leaves and coolness in the air is a good time to stroll about the Old Town and drop by the Morrin Centre. Whether it is to visit one of the exhibits or pick up a good book, you are always welcome within our walls. It is your Centre; enjoy, participate, contribute.

As always, looking forward to your visit, in person or virtually.



From the Executive Director

Barry McCullough

The Morrin Centre has been a hive of activity this summer. Guided tours continue to increase in popularity as they begin to approach pre-pandemic levels. Our children's summer reading program, *Book Quest*, is back in person for the first time since 2019. Participation has been strong and the program's presence has been a welcome sight at the Centre.

Since our last issue of *Society Pages*, there have been some staffing changes at the Morrin Centre. We have bid adieu to Assistant Executive Director Olivier "Bill" Bilodeau. I would like to thank him for being a vital member of the team over the past year and wish him well in his future projects. I also have news of a promotion to announce: Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron has been promoted to Director of Programming and Communications. Jeanne has been with the Morrin Centre for three-and-a-half years and has overseen many cultural activities and projects in that time. I am confident that she will have great success in her new role.

In September, we will launch a membership drive with the aim of increasing the total number of members. Word of mouth can be a powerful tool, so we ask that you spread the word about all of the entertaining, engaging and thought-provoking activities that take place at the Morrin Centre. More than simply borrowing books or participating in events, members are part of a community and we are always thrilled to open our doors to newcomers.

We have a number of big projects on the horizon which we will announce over the coming months. Stay tuned to our social media accounts and sign up to our newsletter to be the first to find out about the goings-on at the Morrin Centre.

Wishing you a colourful fall.

Quebec City through the Morrin Centre Photo Archives

by Géraldine Franchomme

Research done with the help of Coralie Boivert

In the fall and winter of 2022, as part of the *Picture This* project, the Morrin Centre called on its members to collect photos of Quebec City's English-speaking community over the centuries, and the memories associated with them. The museum and exhibitions coordinator and the collections and exhibits assistant did the same and searched the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec's archives, available for consultation at the BAnQ of Quebec. They found the following photos, which show life in Quebec City at the end of the 19th century.

All photos come from the BAnQ-Québec, Literary and Historical Society of Quebec Fonds, P948, 2009-03-006 \ 71



Natural steps, On the Montmorency River, Quebec., [Second half of the 19th century]



View of Quebec Harbor, [Second half of the 19th century]



Québec en hiver, [Second half of the 19th century]
A.R. Roy, Photo.



Quebec City; view from Levis, circa 1870

| Transactions



Montcalm Market, 1881
L.P. Vallée

What is now known as Place D'Youville once housed the Montcalm market. In 1875, the fortifications' glacis was leveled, and the Montcalm market was built there. It included a covered market hall on the site of the present-day Palais Montcalm (the hall's foundations served as the base of the Palais Montcalm) and outdoor stalls where the ice rink is today. The market was in operation until the late 1920s.



South African Contingent, 1899
Livernois Québec



First Canadian Contingent, leaving for South Africa, October 1899,
S.S. Sardinian, Allan line, 1899
Samuel H.N. Kennedy

The South African War or Boer War (1899 – 1902) broke out on October 11, 1899. This was the first foreign war in which Canada sent soldiers. In total, three Canadian contingents were sent. The first, shown in this photograph, had one thousand soldiers. It left Quebec City on October 30, 1899.



Wolfe-Montcalm monument, circa 1870

The Wolfe-Montcalm monument was inaugurated on September 8, 1828 in the Governors' Garden. It is dedicated to Louis-Joseph de Montcalm and James Wolfe, major figures of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. The monument visible in the photo is the second to have been erected. On September 8, 1869, it was inaugurated to replace the first, which had fallen into disrepair. The monument was again replaced in 2011. The top of the obelisk and the plaque containing the inscription are originals.

Notice the wooden sidewalks in the photo.

Wolfe's Monument, circa 1875
L.P. Vallée

Wolfe's Monument commemorates British general James Wolfe's death during the Battle of the Plains of Abraham on September 13, 1759. The monument in the photo is not the first one. Originally, Wolfe's soldiers rolled a stone to the place where it is assumed he died. In 1790, a geodetic landmark was installed. The sober nature of the first commemoration reflects authorities' desire not to offend the population, with the Battle of the Plains of Abraham still being a sensitive topic. In 1832, the marker was replaced by a column, which quickly deteriorated when visitors took home pieces as souvenirs. The monument seen in this photo was erected in 1849, surrounded by a fence to prevent damage. It was replaced in 1913 by the current monument.





Morrin College, circa 1890

Sharples and Dobell's Coves, Sillery Quebec, Booth's raft of Pine Timber with last of Sailing Ships, 1891
John Thomson

John Rudolphus Booth (1827-1925) was an industrialist who worked in the wood industry. Between 1872 and 1892, his manufacture of lumber more than quadrupled its production, making it the largest of its kind in the world. While, at the time of the photo, wood had started being transported by train, it was also still transported by barge as shown here.

John Sharples (1847 – 1913) was a Quebec City businessman and politician. In 1871 he began working for the John Sharples Sons and Company, his father's lumber business. He became co-owner and director in 1876. He also managed several other companies including the Quebec Railway, Light Heat and Power Company, the Compagnie électrique Québec et Montmorency and the Quebec Steamship Company. He was also involved in politics as mayor of Sillery from 1881 to 1884 and 1901 to 1913, as a Quebec City municipal councillor from 1894 to 1898 and finally, as a legislative councillor of the Stadacona division from 1893 to his death.





Dobell's Upper Sillery Cove, 1893

Richard Reid Dobell (1837 – 1902) was an English-born businessman and politician who moved to Quebec City at the age of 20 and made a fortune in the timber export industry. He was elected as a Liberal candidate in Quebec West in the 1896 federal election and became a minister without portfolio under Wilfrid Laurier. He retained this position in the 1900 elections.

Carnival, Ice Palace, 1896

Quebec City's first winter carnival took place January 29-February 3, 1894. It was organized by a business group headed by Henri-Gustave Joly de Lotbinière, who had previously served as Quebec's premier. The ice palace faced the Parliament Building, while streets were decorated with ice sculptures and arches. The program included a canoe race and a parade of floats. The second carnival took place in 1896, the year this photo was taken.

Over the following decades, other festivities such as the carnival were held. They were stopped because of the economic crisis of the 1930s and World War II, but resumed on an annual basis in 1955.



The reference list for this article is available at morrin.org/SP2023-09-TransactionsArticleReferenceList

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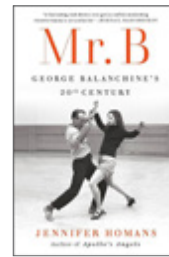
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Us Against You
Fredrik Backman
Fiction
B126 2020



The Covenant of Water *
Abraham Verghese
Fiction
V496 2023



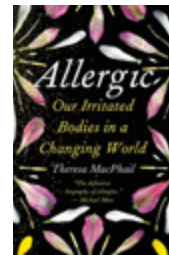
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Jennifer Homans
Biography
BIO B171 2022



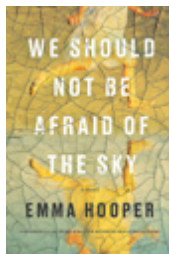
Mr. Breakfast
Jonathan Carroll
Fiction
C319 2023



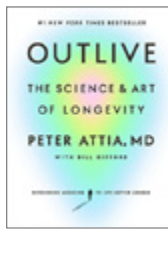
Zero Days
Ruth Ware
Fiction
W271 2023



Allergic: Our Irritated Bodies in a Changing World
Theresa MacPhail
Non-Fiction
616.97 M172



We Should Not Be Afraid of the Sky
Emma Hooper
Fiction
H785 2022



Outlive: The Science & Art of Longevity
Peter Attia
Non-Fiction
612.6 A885



The Sun and the Star
Rick Riordan & Mark Oshiro
Junior Fiction
JF OSH 2023



The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida
Shehan Karunatilaka
Fiction
K18 2023



A Horse at Night: On Writing
Amina Cain
Non-Fiction
818 C135



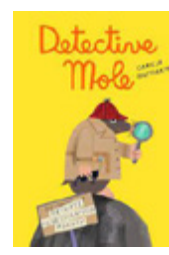
Dadaji's Paintbrush
Rashmi Sirdeshpande & Ruchi Mhasane
Junior Picture
JP SIR 2022



You Have a Friend in 10A
Maggie Shipstead
Short Stories
S557 2022



Lives of the Wives: Five Literary Marriages
Carmela Ciuraru
Biography
920.72 C581

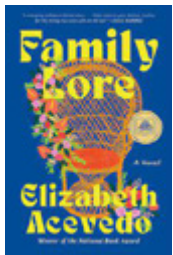


Detective Mole
Camilla Pintonato
Junior Picture
JP PIN 2021

What's New on OverDrive

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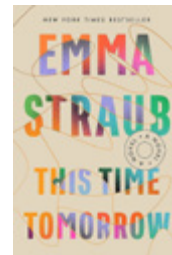
Books with an * are also available as a physical copy in the Library.



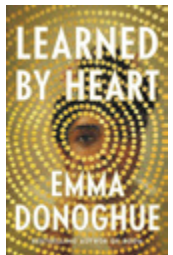
Family Lore
Elizabeth Acevedo
Fiction



Yellowface
R.F. Kuang
Fiction



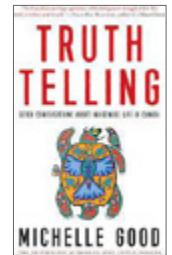
This Time Tomorrow
Emma Straub
Fiction



Learned by Heart
Emma Donoghue
Fiction



The Discreet Charm of the Big Bad Wolf
Alexander McCall Smith
Fiction



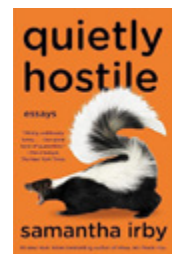
Truth Telling
Michelle Good
Non-Fiction



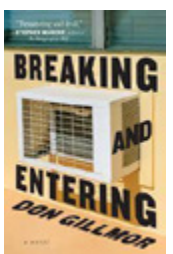
A New Season *
Terry Fallis
Fiction



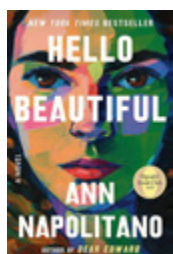
Rage the Night
Donna Morrissey
Fiction



quietly hostile
Samantha Irby
Non-Fiction



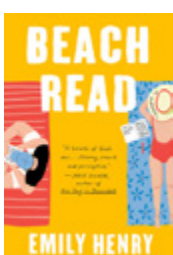
Breaking and Entering
Don Gillmor
Fiction



Hello Beautiful
Ann Napolitano
Fiction



Pageboy: A Memoir
Elliot Page
Autobiography



Beach Read
Emily Henry
Fiction



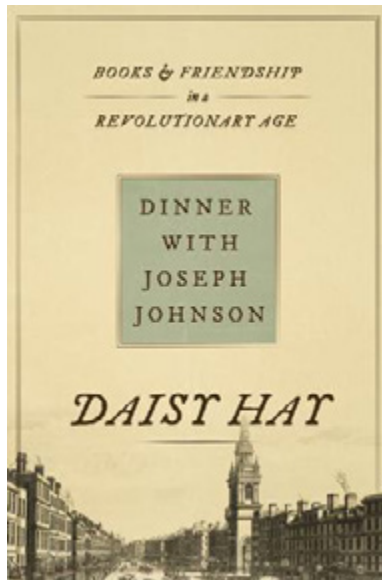
The Girl in the Eagle's Talons: A Lisbeth Salander Novel
Karin Smirnov
Fiction



Music is History
Questlove
Non-Fiction

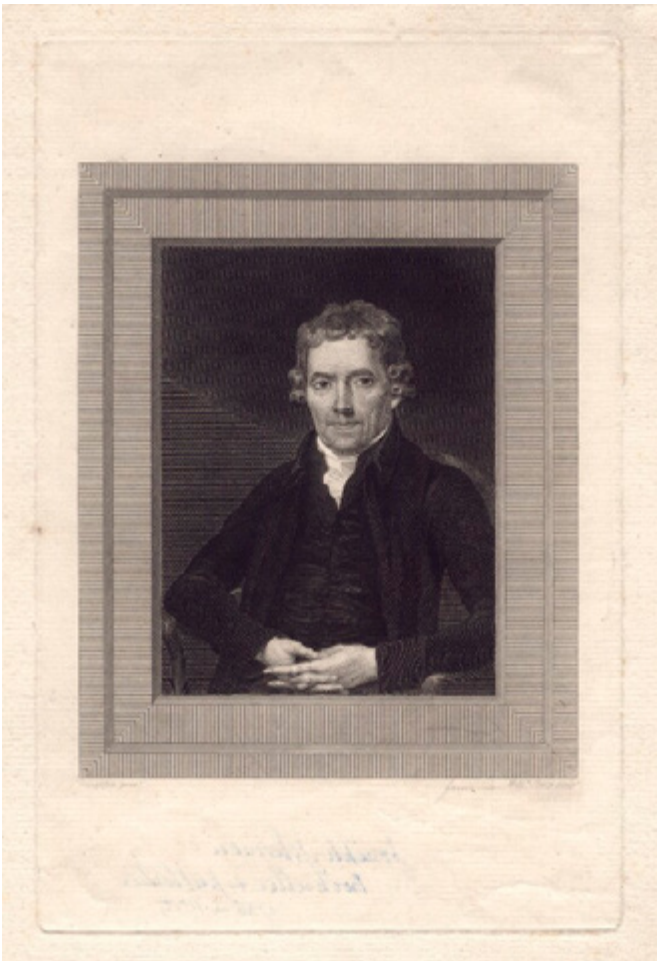
Dinner with Joseph Johnson: Books & Friendship in a Revolutionary Age by Daisy Hay Review by Katherine Carberry

In 1799, bookseller and publisher Joseph Johnson began serving his six-month prison sentence at the King's Bench Prison in London. The courts had found Johnson and other booksellers guilty of promoting seditious material. Their crime was selling Gilbert Wakefield's *A Reply to Some Parts of the Bishop Llandaff's Address to the People of Great Britain*, an indictment of economic inequality. The injustice of the court's ruling was a blow to writers and booksellers who had seen their freedom of expression shrink in the years following the French Revolution. In prison, Johnson received regular visits from devoted friends, such as Henry Fuseli, William Godwin, as well as Richard Lovell Edgeworth and his daughter Maria. These friendships had sustained Johnson as he grew his business amidst decades of religious repression, mob violence, public attacks from Edmund Burke, and political revolutions. Despite being a lesser-known figure in British history, Johnson's influence on Western culture is noteworthy. His business operated at a moment when cultural influence and literary taste-making shifted from wealthy patrons toward those who could cheaply distribute print media, that is to say, publishers and booksellers. He had a sharp business acumen and a sagacious intellect, but, most importantly, he was a kind and loyal person who cultivated enduring friendships with some of the foremost literary talents and radical thinkers of his day.



Daisy Hay's *Dinner with Joseph Johnson: Books & Friendship in a Revolutionary Age* offers a rich account of a man who worked to make so many others worthy of biographical treatment. As the title suggests, Hay's work chronicles Johnson's career and the people he entertained in his small dining room at 72 St Paul's Churchyard. Around his table could be found Benjamin Franklin, Charlotte Smith, Thomas Paine, Mary Wollstonecraft, William Blake, and Erasmus Darwin, among other illustrious figures who met each week to share veal and rice pudding. With diaries and correspondence from Johnson and his companions at her disposal, Hay pieces together the life of a man who dominated the paper age while never ignoring the pecuniary and political concerns that shaped the 18th-century book trade.

Born in 1738 to a Baptist family in Liverpool, Johnson's religious affiliation placed limitations upon several aspects of his life. The 1662 Act of Uniformity stipulated that all religious non-conformists swear the oath of allegiance, thereby recognising the authority of the Church of England. In practical terms, it barred religious groups, such as Dissenters, from occupying most public offices and teaching positions in non-dissenting institutions. The result was a mass exodus of Dissenters from universities and government appointments, leading them to join Britain's growing mercantile class. The 1688 Act of Toleration lessened these restrictions, allowing Dissenters who had sworn the oath of



Joseph Johnson
by William Sharp, after Moses Haughton the Elder
Line engraving, circa 1780-1820

Source: National Portrait Gallery D3317

allegiance to openly practice their religion. Toleration, however, was not freedom. As Hay writes, “toleration’ was a contingent concept, one that could be withdrawn if particular groups of Dissenters pushed too hard against the limits circumscribing their existence” (14). This outlook is reflected in the works Johnson chose to publish, feature in his *The Analytical Review*, and sell in his shop.

Johnson arrived in London in 1753, where he became friends with the Swiss artist Henry Fuseli and the influential Unitarian theologian and scientist Joseph Priestly. As Johnson’s business expanded, so did his circle of friends and collaborators, many of whom were fellow Dissenters. Given their limited opportunities within British society, Dissenters, like

those in Johnson’s circle, embraced causes such as abolition, representative taxation, republicanism, and women’s rights, which they believed necessary in the struggle against tyranny. In the wake of the French Revolution, however, the British government sought to quell republican sentiment. For instance, Prime Minister William Pitt passed “gagging acts,” which broadened the government’s definition of treason as a direct response to the publication of Thomas Paine’s *The Rights of Man* in 1791.

The consequences of these events were also felt in British North America. Careful to affirm support for the British monarchy when promoting republican ideals, *The Quebec Gazette* regularly reported on the French Revolution and the ongoing debates in the French National Assembly (Ducharme, 39). Quebec’s Governor Sir Frederick Haldimand had



Mary Wollstonecraft, whom Johnson published and mentored.

Mary Wollstonecraft
by John Opie
Oil on canvas, circa 1797

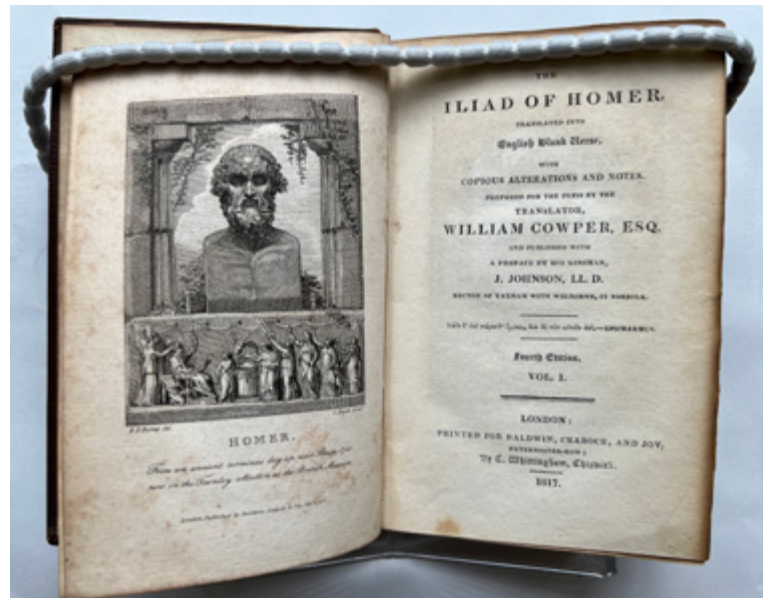
Source: National Portrait Gallery 1237

| Library Pages

created the Quebec Library in 1779, believing it “could be an intellectual bulwark against republicanism and a means to ameliorate the perceived ignorance of many French Canadians” (Eamon, 16). Despite Haldimand’s more conservative leanings, the Quebec Library’s catalogue reveals that it loaned works by Wollstonecraft, Priestly, and Edgeworth as early as 1796. The Morrin Centre currently houses books from the former Quebec Library that attest to the transatlantic reach of Johnson and his circle, namely works by Fuseli, Cowper, and Coleridge.

Johnson was a loyal friend who supported the convictions and livelihoods of those close to him. For instance, he enabled Mary Wollstonecraft to begin a career as a professional writer in 1787. He hired her as a reviewer and translator while covering the rent and upkeep of her London apartment. Hay recounts how Johnson encouraged and supported the reclusive genius William Cowper’s poetic ambitions and funded Cowper and Fuseli’s collaborative translation of Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Johnson also recognized children as intellectual beings entitled to rights. He published Anna Laetitia Barbauld’s *Lessons for Children* and Wollstonecraft’s translations of German stories for children. These books stood apart thanks to their serious tone and evocative illustrations provided by William Blake. Later in his career, he discovered and published the poetry of William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, albeit after his prison sentence, when his light was fading.

During his lifetime Johnson published the works of his friends, but he also advocated for causes he cared for and supported his community with generosity. He was a diligent worker who behaved like a gentleman and withstood the indignities of imprisonment and political persecution. *Dinner with Joseph Johnson* firmly upholds Johnson’s legacy as a person not only for his time but also for ours—his erudition, friendship, and kindness have left their mark.



William Cowper's translations of Homer were the result of a tripartite collaboration between himself, Johnson, and Fuseli. Johnson provided the preface to this edition.

Source: Homer. *The Iliad of Homer*. Vol. I. Translated by William Cowper. Fourth edition. London: Printed for Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, by C. Whittingham, 1817. LHSQ, Quebec Library Collection, 828 C876.

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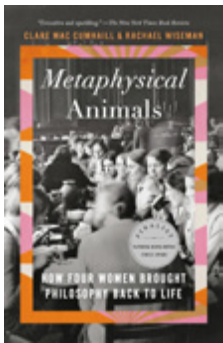
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Book Reviews

Metaphysical Animals: How Four Women Brought Philosophy Back to Life

by Clare Mac Cumhaill & Rachael Wiseman

Book review by Donald A. Landes



“The armies of Cambridge and Vienna are already upon you!” (44) This dramatic proclamation, uttered by philosophy professor A.J. Ayer in 1933 to his colleagues at Oxford University, marked a new direction in Anglo-American philosophy: logical positivism. Following the anti-metaphysical Cambridge

philosophers, such as Bertrand Russell, and the science-focused philosophers of the Vienna Circle, Ayer developed a philosophy of language that excluded as “meaningless” any claims or concepts that could not be empirically tested. The result was a vision of philosophy radically different from the questions and discussions traditionally associated with the discipline. Moreover, Ayer trained a generation of young male philosophers to use this definition of “meaningless” as a weapon: when encountering a metaphysical position or statement, his trainees could simply assert *I don’t understand (what you are talking about)*, which was shorthand for *your concepts cannot be scientifically tested, so what you are saying is nothing but meaningless metaphysics*. Ayer’s philosophy ultimately reconceived of humans as “efficient calculating machines” (90) that are often distracted by the feverish dreams of metaphysics. Philosophy’s one and only task would be to root out and destroy “meaningless” metaphysics. But what were the dangers of draining all metaphysics from the human condition?

As Clare Mac Cumhaill and Rachael Wiseman explain in their excellent book *Metaphysical Animals*:

How Four Women Brought Philosophy Back to Life, Ayer’s philosophy was becoming deeply ensconced at Oxford just as World War II was breaking out and just as four brilliant young women were beginning their studies in philosophy there. This book is an intellectual adventure into the ideas, personalities, and intertwining stories of Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot (née Bosanquet), Mary Midgley (née Scrutton), and Iris Murdoch. Though Ayer’s trainees had been philosophically occupying the lecture halls of Oxford since 1933, those young men were called to join the real army of the Allies. This opened the space for a more varied and vibrant set of personalities to shape the experience and thought of the four women in this story. For instance, conscientious objector and philosopher Donald MacKinnon served as a tutor to all four. MacKinnon was deeply influenced by one of Ayer’s prime targets, “metaphysician” R.G. Collingwood. MacKinnon argued that humans are animals defined by their curiosity and imagination, not by their logical and analytical capacities. That is, humanity is lost if humans are not allowed to ask questions about goodness, beauty, and other so-called “transcendent” concepts that resist scientific verification. He coined the phrase “metaphysical animals” to name human nature, and this gave Anscombe, Foot, Midgley, and Murdoch the spark to reignite philosophy.

Expertly weaving together the ideas and life stories of four women who sought to understand humans as metaphysical animals, the authors offer both biographical and philosophical insights into Murdoch’s existentialism, Anscombe’s reading of the so-called “later” Wittgenstein, Midgley’s theories of human nature, and Foot’s developments in ethics. These four women rediscovered metaphysics and ethics by uttering “a joint ‘No!’” to logical positivism, and this “no” emerges from their experience and friendship at Oxford during the war in the years that followed.

Metaphysical Animals is an invaluable contribution to the history of ideas and a reminder for today that there is still something importantly human about asking and meditating on metaphysical questions. They write: “Seen through the eyes of these friends, a new picture emerges. Our familiar world is transformed into a rich tapestry of interlocking patterns, studded

with cultural objects of metaphysical power [...]. And we, the human individuals whose lives help to create and sustain those patterns and objects, are seen afresh as the kind of animal whose essence it is to question, create, and love. We are *metaphysical animals*.” (xiii) And I would add, metaphysics takes practice and cultivation; philosophy is not a game of winning logical arguments but a field of cultivating and developing the resources for facing the unknown and the future—something we surely need more of today.

This book is an accessible and exciting read that does not presuppose a familiarity with philosophical jargon, but simply an openness to metaphysical questions. By mixing biography and philosophy in intriguing ways and by bringing personalities and ideas to life, Mac Cumhaill and Wiseman demonstrate that the counternarrative forged by these four philosophers in the face of anti-metaphysics is as relevant today as ever.

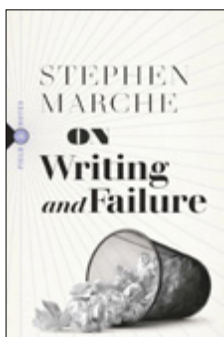
Metaphysical Animals: How Four Women Brought Philosophy Back to Life (Penguin Random House, 2022).



On Writing and Failure

by Stephen Marche

Book review by Frank Beltrano



On Writing and Failure by Stephen Marche is a sieve or a screen, the kind of thing one uses to separate the lumps in flour or the stones from the fine sand. Marche is sorting the romantics who dream of being writers from the serious, dedicated, perhaps obsessed writers out there. The long subtitle of the book, *Or, On the Peculiar Perseverance Required to Endure the Life of a Writer*, is more to the point of what Marche is getting at.

The author has researched and rendered a great many stories of woe that writers throughout history have

endured. He believes that rejection is the least of an author's problems. Many of Marche's renderings detail the imprisonment, torture, dismemberment, and death of various writers. It is ghoulish but hard to turn away from. And occasionally it is funny, albeit a dark humour since it is dependent upon somebody's suffering.

Why read this? Marche gives the answer in his explanation of why he wrote this short book: "I would like somebody to be halfway honest about what it takes to live as a writer." (9) And Marche is honest in what he puts to paper. He has done his research in order to tell us about Ovid, Du Fu, Li Bai, Philip Roth, Homer, Jonathan Franzen, Margaret Atwood, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Ezra Pound, Samuel Johnson, Jonathan Swift, Richard Savage, George Orwell and, despite the fact that this is a very small book, the list goes on and on.

Marche manages to buttress his thesis with stories from the lives of even some of the most successful writers, J.K. Rowling for example. His point of view vis-à-vis Rowling's writing under a pseudonym is interesting. He claims that even though Rowling was super-successful with the Harry Potter books, she had to feed her ego by publishing something quite a bit different anonymously in order to see "if she still had it." In Marche's words, "I imagine she wanted to test her talents against the marketplace. But the marketplace doesn't test talent. It tests timing." (52)

Consider the advice from James Bryce: "The worth of a book is to be measured by what you can carry away from it." The worth of *On Writing and Failure* is the honest truth, the hard fact, that writing is hard. Only through perseverance will a writer succeed, and they are not likely to be satisfied with what success comes to them in their time.

On Writing and Failure: Or, On the Peculiar Perseverance Required to Endure the Life of a Writer (Biblioasis, 2023).

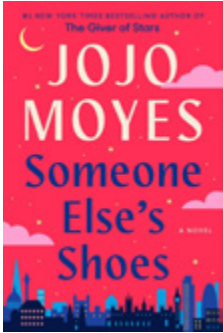
*Also on OverDrive.



Someone Else's Shoes

by Jojo Moyes

Book review by Samreen Ahsan



From the author of the sob-inducing *Me Before You* and the sweet romance *The Last Letter from Your Lover*, comes another great story of hardship, strength, and starting afresh. Jojo Moyes has never ceased to grip her readers and introduce them to something new. *Someone Else's Shoes* is not, however, your typical

Moyes romance, and yet it brings you to the point where you put the book down and start to re-evaluate your priorities in life.

Meet Nisha Cantor, the unhappy wife of an extremely wealthy man and someone who doesn't know how life works outside her luxurious lifestyle replete with designer clothes. At the spa, her gym bag (which contains her shoes) gets exchanged with the bag of an unknown woman. Too shocked to analyze the gravity of the situation, Nisha is clueless about what life and her husband have in store for her. For Nisha, it's just the expensive Louboutin shoes that she had lost. Little does she know that these shoes have almost cost her her life and the liberty to live freely.

Here comes our other protagonist, Sam Kemp—an ordinary woman, a mother, a wife—who is at the bleakest point of her life. Her marriage is failing, and the only ray of light on her darkest day is the pair of red soled crocodile heels that she finds in her locker and that changes her life. *Someone Else's Shoes* is an expression in which you put yourself in someone's situation and think from their point of view. But in this novel, Kemp is actually wearing someone else's shoes, leading someone else's life, and even getting too much attention because of it.

Moyes gracefully depicts the lives of two middle-aged women—totally different from each other—while showing readers the magic of women's empowerment. When women become close and help each other,

regardless of their social status or cultural background, they can soar to any level and cross any boundary of patriarchy. Yet *Someone Else's Shoes* also shows how the world works, how people judge you the way you dress—a superficial and shallow mindset.

The novel also teaches us about hardships and starting over—nothing stays with you, and nothing can matter more than your life, if you don't own it. Your freedom is what matters the most. The wealth, the luxury, and everything that comes with it—they are all meaningless if you're trapped in a gilded cage. *Someone Else's Shoes* is great read about strength, hardships, and the journey from being invisible to being extraordinarily visible.

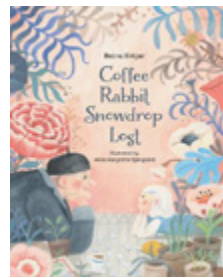
Someone Else's Shoes (Pamela Dorman Books/Viking, 2023)



Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost

Text by Betina Birkjær, illustrations by Anna Margarethe Kjærgaard

Book review by Antoine Dumont



We often give children a lot less credit than they deserve. During my time working with youth, I have found that even very young children are able to comprehend and accept complex concepts and facts about life, so long as these are explained through images and elements familiar to them. *Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost* is one of those instances.

In this children's book, Betina Birkjær tells the story of Stump, a young girl, and her grandfather. Birkjær describes their time spent together, doing crosswords and puzzles. But soon enough, the grandfather starts losing words and parts of himself, and Stump needs to figure out how to best help her grandpa.

With simple language, Birkjær is able to paint a picture full of love, heart, and compassion. Her tale of an elder affected by dementia is presented in a way that is both easy to understand for children and

deeply touching for older readers who may have had to face a family member losing themselves to old age. The story is masterfully spun, with beats striking at deeply emotional chords alongside suggestions as to how one might proceed in real life when dealing with such situations. These suggestions are substantiated by an afterword from Ove Dahl, the head of the Danish Center for Reminiscence. (This part might be bit less interesting for children!)

The only point that darkens this otherwise impeccable book is that the emotional impact is considerably lessened for those lucky enough not to have had family members suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia.

The story is also enhanced by Anna Margrethe Kjærgaard's splendid full-page illustrations. Her style, somehow both childlike and realistic, supports Birkjær's words beautifully, making this tale an extraordinary reading experience.

All in all, *Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost* is another of those children's books that can be elevated to a work of art. It is a beautiful publication that will offer care and, with luck, some healing and understanding for children—or give words to parents who have trouble explaining Alzheimer's to their children.

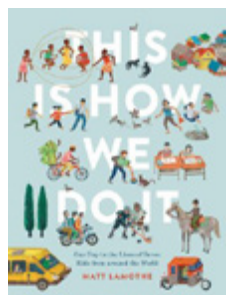
Coffee, Rabbit, Snowdrop, Lost (Enchanted Lion Books, 2021).



This is How We Do It

by Matt Lamothe

Book review by Manuela Flores Denti



If you would like to introduce your child to the diverse cultural realities of children from other parts of the world, this book is a must! *This is How We Do It: One Day in the Lives of Seven Kids from Around the World* by Matt Lamothe is a book that teaches its readers about the distinctive

everyday lives of people from other cultures. As the

title implies, the book introduces us to seven real children from different countries around the world. Through the illustrations and the text, the author recounts what one day looks like for these seven children and their families, introducing us to their surroundings and their lifestyles.

The theme of this year's *Book Quest* program was "Children without Borders," and each week we read books that transported us to different countries, introducing children to various cultures from other parts of the world. Finishing *Book Quest* with *This is How We Do It* was the perfect way to say goodbye to this summer and to the theme of travelling through books.

This is How We Do It gives us a sneak peek into these children's lives. By following in detail what a single day consists of for a kid in Italy, Japan, Iran, India, Peru, Uganda, and Russia, the book widens the horizons of young readers by providing fascinating illustrations regarding their homes, families, clothing, modes of transportation, and schools. This book not only shows us what the lives of other children across the globe look like, but it also familiarizes us with their country's architecture, languages, meals, traditions, and even the chores that kids participate in. One of my favourite parts of the book is the depiction of how children play in other parts of the world. I also enjoyed Lamothe's illustrations of each country's architecture and environment, which convey each country's distinctiveness.

As others may navigate the world differently or similarly, Lamothe provides thoughtful insights into these families' lives, educating readers about our world's cultures, diverse customs, and interconnectedness.

This is How We Do It (Chronicle Books, 2017).






Morrin Mystery Mondays Book Club

Mysteries and other cozies!

Introductory Meeting: Monday, September 25 at 1:30 p.m.
For more information, please email library@morrin.org



OVERDRIVE WORKSHOP: GETTING STARTED WITH LIBBY

Join the OverDrive team for a one-hour "Getting Started with Libby" webinar. This webinar will show you everything you need to know to get started with Libby. From downloading the app & signing in, to searching & borrowing titles, placing holds, adjusting reading settings, and more! Libby experts are here to get you started.

For more information, please email library@morrin.org

September 6 at 2 P.M. - October 18 at 11:00 A.M. - November 15 at 2:00 P.M. - December 6 at 11:00 A.M.



2023-2024 BOOK CLUB

PIXELS & PAGES

Tuesday evenings at 7:00 P.M.

- | | |
|---|--|
|  <p>THE NOISE OF TIME
BY JULIAN BARNES
OCTOBER 17</p> |  <p>THE LUMINARIES
BY ELEANOR CATTON
FEBRUARY 20</p> |
|  <p>CLOSE TO HUGH
BY MARINA ENDICOTT
NOVEMBER 21</p> |  <p>HAVEN
BY EMMA DONOGHUE
MARCH 19</p> |
|  <p>THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT
BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL
DECEMBER 19</p> |  <p>BABEL
BY R.F. KUANG
APRIL 16</p> |
|  <p>LESS
BY ANDREW SEAN GREER
JANUARY 16</p> |  <p>HORSE
BY GERALDINE BROOKS
MAY 21</p> |

For more information, please email library@morrin.org

| Events & Activities

Upcoming Events: General Public



The Morrin Centre is putting together a series of gatherings to present the minority communities of Quebec City by sharing their cultures with the region's population. The project will contain five cultural fairs, each of which will have a theme of a different country or region. The fairs will present music, dance, literature, poetry, habits, and food from the participating communities.

The selected regions are: East Asia, West Asia, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean.

Do you know people from these communities? Are you one of these people? **We want to hear from you!** Contact us at info@morrin.org to suggest activities, guests, recipes, art pieces, and more for our cultural fairs!



On November 4th, 2023, all Morrin Centre Members are invited to join us for our exclusive annual Members' Day event!

From 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., members will enjoy a series of fun activities, from the now-traditional beer tasting to an exclusive tour of the Centre, with a magician (yes, a magician!) thrown into the lot.

Mark your calendars and join us for a day of fun at the Morrin Centre!



Cooking Project

Stay tuned for a series of cooking workshops at the Morrin Centre.

New Exhibit

This fall, keep your eyes peeled for our new permanent exhibit in the prison cells.

Members' Day

Join us on November 9 for our annual fundraising event Literary Feast.

SEPTEMBER 2023

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- SEPTEMBER 6 | LIVE SKETCHING WORKSHOP
- SEPTEMBER 13 | DOUBLE BOOK LAUNCH & POETRY
- SEPTEMBER 20 | YES, AND... IMPROV WORKSHOP
- SEPTEMBER 21 | SUMMER READING CHALLENGE END
- SEPTEMBER 25 | MORRIN MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
- SEPTEMBER 27 | YES, AND... IMPROV WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 2023

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- OCTOBER 17 | *PIXELS & PAGES* BOOK CLUB
- OCTOBER 18 | YES, AND... IMPROV WORKSHOP
- OCTOBER 25 | YES, AND... IMPROV WORKSHOP
- OCTOBER 30 | MORRIN MYSTERY BOOK CLUB
- OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 6 | LIBRARY FLOORS RESTORATION
LIBRARY CLOSED
NO TOURS

NOVEMBER 2023

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- NOVEMBER 4 | MEMBERS' DAY
- NOVEMBER 9 | LITERARY FEAST
- NOVEMBER 15 | YES, AND... IMPROV WORKSHOP
- NOVEMBER 21 | *PIXELS & PAGES* BOOK CLUB
- NOVEMBER 27 | MORRIN MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

Picture This: After the Project

Introduction by Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron



Picture This was a photography project in three parts:

Assisted by professional photographer Jacques Gaines, the Morrin Centre offered a series of **photography workshops** (five were originally scheduled, with 2 repeated by popular demand). Each workshop presented a different aspect of photography: fundamentals, composition, computer photo-editing (both the essentials and fun techniques), and personal style.

Two **discussions**, one virtual and one in person, were also held, inviting participants to share some old and new photos and the story behind each of them.

The project wrapped up with a temporary **photo exhibit** of both old and new pictures from the project participants and the Morrin Centre archives. The exhibit displayed a total of 25 pictures covering a wide range of topics: Quebec City buildings, Morrin Centre artifacts, local cultural events, family pictures, and more!

The popularity of the workshop also prompted the addition of three **photo walks** in August 2023, guided by Gaines. Participants walked around Old Quebec looking for photography inspiration, while their guide suggested photography tips and tricks.

As of September 6, the creation of the project's **virtual exhibit** is well underway and should be publicly available in late September. We are quite excited for what's being put together! You won't be disappointed.

Over the course of seven workshops, two discussions, three photo walks, and an exhibit, the *Picture This* project brought together over 50 participants who dedicated time, effort, and creativity to making the project a resounding success. We are deeply grateful to all participants and to Jacques Gaines for their support and enthusiasm.

The following pages feature testimonies by workshop participants and a selection of pictures taken during and after the workshops, as the participants flexed their newly acquired knowledge and skills.

This project was made possible with support from

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Cold Moon, Quebec City, 2022

Photographer: Cassandra Kerwin

Even after being a professional photojournalist for ten years, I am always looking for advice and ways to share my passion for this art and reasons to meet new people with similar interests. Attending the first course, I quickly realised I had more knowledge and better equipment than most participants, which mattered little because it is always good to get a refresher. I was looking forward to more courses but were sold out.

I greatly enjoyed the experience: learning new techniques and seeing things from a different perspective, and, most importantly, interacting with other photographers of all levels. The cherry on the sundae was the resulting photo exhibit. I was so proud to see my photo exposed in a public space like the Morrin Centre. In addition, it was a great pleasure to participate in the follow-up podcast about the English-speaking community.

After years of working professionally and personally with the Morrin Centre, its team continues to be so hospitable, welcoming, social, and fun. I always look forward to attending their events and activities, like the walks through the Old City.

Cassandra Kerwin
Workshops participant



Avenue Saint-Denis in winter, winter 2023.

Photographer: Holly Gallan

I participated in the *Picture This* photography workshops during fall 2022 after having returned from a month spent traveling in Europe. I have always been interested in photography for as long as I can remember and have always been curious about cameras, their functions, and their capabilities. The workshops led by Jacques Gaines enabled me to discover and experiment in new varied styles, whilst deepening my knowledge in the fundamentals of taking the perfect picture. Photography will always be my favorite art medium due to the infinite possibilities, styles, and boundless subjects that can be captured and interpreted, all in just an instant.

One of my favorite photographs taken here in Old Quebec is of Avenue Saint-Denis. I love the contrast of lighting from the residences against the twilight winter backdrop. It was a struggle wading through knee-deep snow, but the end result was totally worth it!

Holly Gallan
Workshop participant

| Events & Activities



Unedited and Edited closeups of a desk at the Morrin Centre, Quebec City, 2023

Photographer: Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron

As the event organizer, I also had the opportunity to attend the workshops. It was a real pleasure to sit down and listen to Jacques Gaines present a topic he is so passionate about. By the end of the first workshop, I knew I'd learn enough to fill pages and pages in my notebook by the end of the project!

The *Photography Composition* and *Computer Photo-Editing – The Essentials* workshops were my favorite, with a theoretical component followed immediately by a very hands-on practical component. Gaines took the time to speak with every participant individually during or after the practical component of the workshops, which made the experience all the more special: a professional photographer taking the time to comment on and compliment your photography work is quite exciting!

Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron
Event organizer and workshop participant



Notre-Dame-des-Victoires Church, Quebec City, winter 2022

Photographer: Holly Gallan

Door, d'Auteuil Street, Quebec City, December 2022

Photographer: Hélène Binette



A small selection of photographs from our August Photo Walks

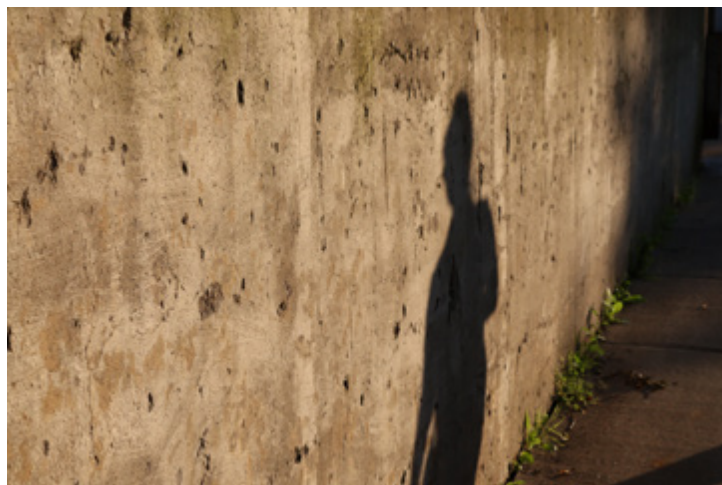
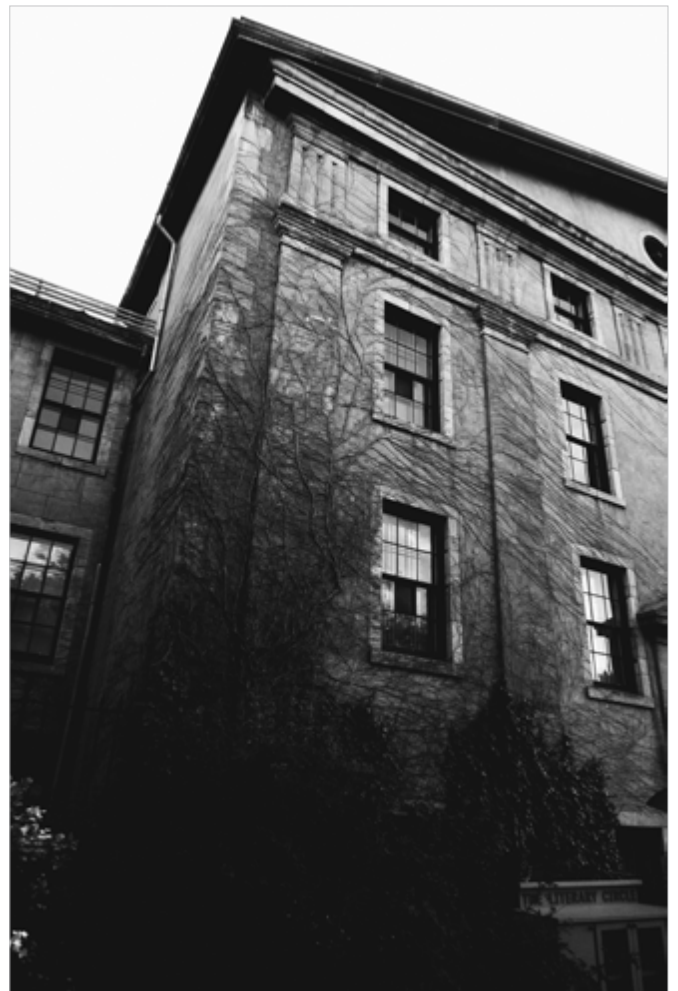
Morrin's Recognition, Quebec City, August 2023

Photographer: Jean-Sylvain Brochu



Old City roof in the sun, Quebec City, August 2023

Photographer: Roselyne Boyer



Shadow on a wall, Quebec City, August 2023

Photographer: Christina Mayr

Something Crawls Up the Morrin, Quebec City, August 2023

Photographer: Jacques Gaines / Instagram @jacquesgainesphotography

Arts Alive! Quebec Festival 2023: Rainy yet Bright

by Jeanne Lebossé-Gautron



Another year, another *Arts Alive! Québec* festival with wonderful shows! While the weather drove us inside for the two days of the festival, no one can deny that the concerts, showcases, and activities of the 2023 festival were fantastic. All visitors left College Hall a little happier, entertained, and often with a lovely artisan craft piece in hand!

The festival launched on Friday, August 25th with two concerts and a live painter. Metò, the first band to perform, was a Quebec City based, indie pop trio who shone in the darkened ballroom of the Morrin Centre. The second group, The Sugar Darlings, drove up from Montreal to regale us with their energetic music, a mix of Blues, Jazz, Soul, and Rock n' Roll, the mix bright enough to get people dancing. This year, our now traditional live painter was Patricia Robitaille, a local artist who had never given such a performance before and yet managed with panache. Her finished painting was displayed on an easel in College Hall all of Saturday, to the delight of curious visitors.

Saturday, August 26th, dawned bright and rainy, despite all our hope for better weather. The festival continued inside, in College Hall, rather than taking over the Chaussée des Écossais as usual. Eight artisans lined the room, offering wares of all kinds: pastries and coffee; woodworked wine corks; paintings; jewelry; crocheted food items and blankets; silk birds; and more! As the artisans showcased their talents, children and parents alike enjoyed a series of challenges and craft activities put together by our *Book Quest* Coordinator Manuela Flores Denti. Many participants won little prizes that day!

The *Arts Alive! Québec* stage, meanwhile, welcomed three presentations: an improv competition hosted by Michael Bourguignon, host of the *Yes, And...* improv workshops; a Quebec Art Company showcase of their two upcoming shows *Wait Until Dark* and *Cabaret*; and a concert by local musician and signer Bill Vincent.





Metò



The Quebec Art Company, presenting excerpts from *Cabaret*

Another popular event was the *Arts Alive! Quebec* Photo Walk, led by the professional photographer Jacques Gaines. The weather cooperated in the afternoon and many people were able to join the group on the spot to explore and take pictures in Old Quebec.

Throughout the day, visitors also enjoyed drinkable yogurts, courtesy of the Producteurs de lait de la Capitale-Nationale et Côte-Nord, in something that is starting to feel like tradition.

See you next year, for the 10th anniversary of our *Arts Alive! Quebec* Festival! ■



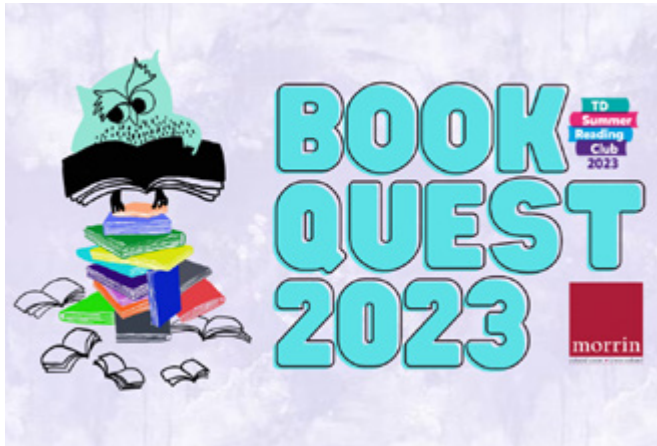
Patricia Roby, painter

The Sugar Darlings



Book Quest 2023 Recap

by Manuela Flores Denti



For the 19th consecutive year, the Morrin Centre offered its summer reading and science program, *Book Quest*. As in previous years, *Book Quest* was divided into two sections: Storytime and S.T.E.A.M. Club (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths). While Storytime is a program that encourages reading and arts and crafts for children ages 3 to 6, S.T.E.A.M. Club introduces young scientists ages 7 to 12 to various experiments. As part of an ongoing partnership with the TD Summer Reading Club, *Book Quest* aims to cultivate children’s passion for reading, creating, experimenting, and participating in fun interactive activities each Saturday from July 8 through August 26.



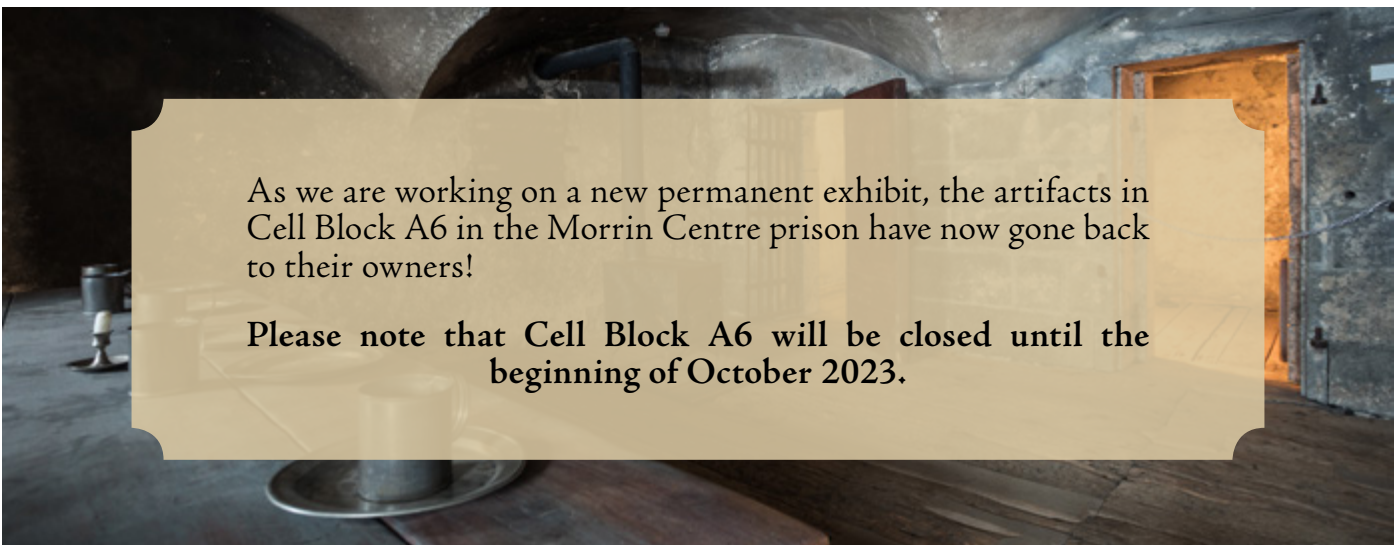
Following this year’s theme of *Children without Borders*, *Book Quest* offered children opportunities to expand their knowledge of other cultures by using their imagination. For Storytime, children came to the Morrin Centre with a pretend passport that was filled out as we “travelled” to different countries. Over the eight weeks, we visited a country on each continent to learn more about other cultures, traditions, meals, animals, and influential people in history. After reading a story, participants were encouraged to complete a craft activity to gain a sticker for their passport representing the country we had just “visited.”

For S.T.E.A.M. Club, participants were encouraged to partake in experiments, crafts, and challenges related to science, technology, engineering, arts, or math each Saturday. Children used problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity skills for each activity. Children and parents made lava lamps, spinner toys, and solved math challenges. Along with the parents who helped their children with some activities, I was excited to see that participants successfully accomplished the most difficult one – building a working hydraulic bridge.



Book Quest ended on August 26, the same day as the *Arts Alive! Quebec* Festival! Fun activities were offered throughout the day. Following the usual schedule of *Book Quest* with Storytime in the morning and S.T.E.A.M. Club in the afternoon, families registered for *Book Quest* and from the general public were encouraged to stay and participate in the activities offered during the day. It was a fun way to say goodbye!

Participating in *Book Quest* was a gratifying experience on many levels. It was fulfilling to see the younger children learn and expand their knowledge and creativity through the planned activities at Storytime. It was also enjoyable to see the older participants confront the challenges and complex activities in S.T.E.A.M. Club. Seeing everyone broaden their knowledge throughout the summer by travelling through books and experimenting with science was an incredible and inspiring experience. I would like to thank everyone who made *Book Quest* part of a unique and wonderful summer!



As we are working on a new permanent exhibit, the artifacts in Cell Block A6 in the Morrin Centre prison have now gone back to their owners!

Please note that Cell Block A6 will be closed until the beginning of October 2023.



Did you know?

Morrin Centre members get discounts at many of our partner organizations!



National Trust
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EXCLUSIVE TOUR



BEER TASTING



MAGICIAN



MORRIN.ORG/MEMBERSDAY2023