

POWER OF THE POETS  
Ekphrastic Poetry Competition  
April 2020

### INTRODUCTION

The Power Plant and the Toronto International Festival of Authors are excited to co-present POWER OF THE POETS, an ekphrastic poetry competition!

Ekphrastic poetry is poetry written about a work of art, often striving to connect what we see with feelings, memories and other insights. Well known examples include [Ode on a Grecian Urn](#) by John Keats and [Landscape with the Fall of Icarus](#) by William Carlos Williams.

In celebration of April as National Poetry Month, we invite YOU to write your own ekphrastic poem, inspired by one of The Power Plant's five Clerestory Commissions:

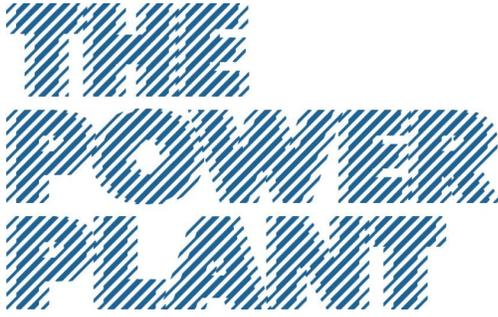
- Carlos Amorales, [Black Cloud](#) (2015-2016)
- Latifa Echakhch, [Cross Fade](#) (2016-2017)
- Michael Landy, [DEMONSTRATION](#) (2017-2018)
- Abbas Akhavan, [variations on a landscape](#) (2018-2019)
- Rashid Johnson, [Anxious Audience](#) (2019-2020)

Submissions are due via [this form](#) by 11:59 PM on 30 April, 2020 and will be assessed by pre-judges as well as special guest judge A.F. Moritz, Toronto's sixth poet laureate. Winners will receive prize packs from TIFA and The Power Plant!

Please read the guidelines below before submitting your poem. If you have any questions not answered below, email [programs@thepowerplant.org](mailto:programs@thepowerplant.org).

### ABOUT A.F. MORITZ

Al Moritz (A.F. Moritz) is Toronto's sixth Poet Laureate. Described as a "master of metaphor," Al Moritz has published 20 books of poetry and was the 2009 Griffin Poetry Prize winner for *The Sentinel*. His book *The New Measures* received the League of Canadian Poets' 2013 Raymond Souster Award and was a finalist for the Governor General's Award. His most recent work is the 2018 retrospective collection *The Sparrow*. He lives in Toronto and is the Blake C. Goldring Professor of the Arts and Society at Victoria College, University of Toronto.



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## GUIDELINES

### ELIGIBILITY

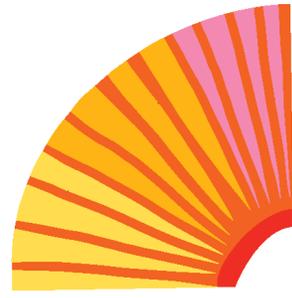
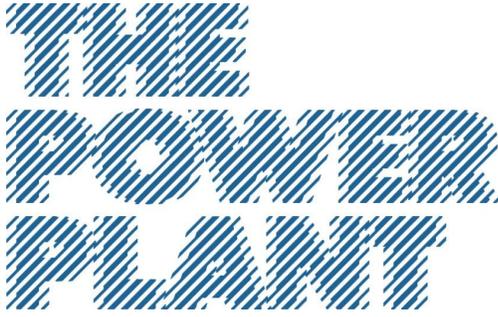
- The competition is open to anyone — inside or outside Canada.
  - *Note: Awards are set, but winners who are not close geographically to The Power Plant may transfer their award — in whole or in part — to residents closer geographically to The Power Plant. Winner(s) should check on reporting requirements with a tax professional.*
- Staff and Board Members of The Power Plant Contemporary Art Gallery or Harbourfront Centre are not allowed to submit to this competition.

### DEADLINE

- All submissions are due by 11:59PM on Thursday 30 April 2020.

### SUBMISSION

- All poems must respond to one of The Power Plant's FIVE Clerestory Commissions:
  - Carlos Amorales, [Black Cloud](#) (2015-2016)
  - Latifa Echakhch, [Cross Fade](#) (2016-2017)
  - Michael Landy, [DEMONSTRATION](#) (2017-2018)
  - Abbas Akhavan, [variations on a landscape](#) (2018-2019)
  - Rashid Johnson, [Anxious Audience](#) (2019-2020)
- All poems submitted must be original work.
- All forms of poetry are accepted.
- A maximum of 40 lines (or 300 words if prose poetry) per poem.
- Language must be appropriate for general audiences.
- The manuscript should include from top to bottom: (1) Clerestory Commission which inspired the poem, (2) title, (3) poem and (4) poet's name.



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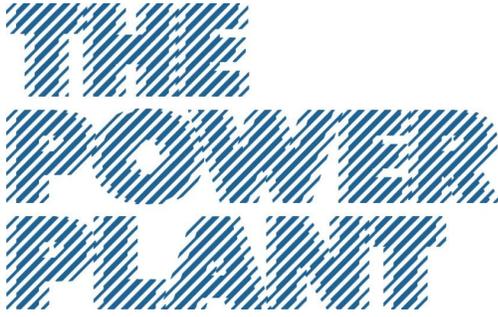
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- All manuscripts must be in MS Word for PC (not Apple/Mac), Rich Text, Plain Text or PDF formats. Manuscripts in other or unreadable formats will not be considered.
- Complete the online form [HERE](#), being careful to include all contact information: poet's name, address, phone number and email address. All communication about the competition will be sent to the submitted email address.
- Submission requires a Google account.
- Each participant may submit only one poem for consideration. If a participant submits more than one poem, only the first submission received will be considered.

## JUDGING

- The competition will adhere to the Council of Literary Magazines and Presses Contest Code of Ethics. We believe that intent to act ethically, clarity of guidelines and transparency of process form the foundation of an ethical contest. To that end, we agree to 1) conduct our contests as ethically as possible and to address any unethical behavior on the part of our readers, judges, or editors; 2) to provide clear and specific contest guidelines — defining conflict of interest for all parties involved; and, 3) to make the mechanics of our selection process available to the public. This Code recognizes that different contest models produce different results, but that each model can be run ethically.
- The Power Plant will identify one or more independent judge(s) who will review and rank each submission based on originality, form, language, grammatical skill and the creative interpretation or reflection of writing.
- Should there be an adequate number of submissions about each of the Clerestory commissions, the judge:
  - \* will select one "Winner" corresponding to each of the commissions; and,
  - \* may select one "Honorable Mention" corresponding to each of the commissions.
- Entries will be read and judged blind, so that no personal information is visible.
- The judge must excuse themselves from voting on any poem where they can identify the poet.



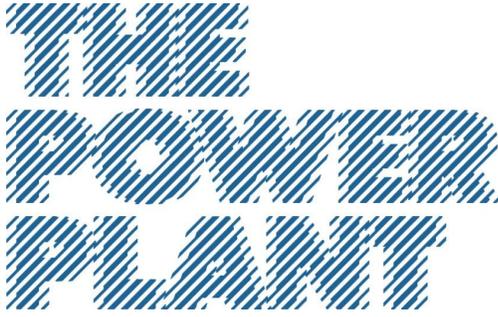
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PRIZING

- Winners:
  - 1-year Family/Dual Level Membership at The Power Plant
  - Five (5) *Power Plant Pages* publications
  - One (1) TPP tote bag and one (1) TIFA tote bag
  - Curator-led tour of The Power Plant's Fall 2020 exhibitions
  - A selection of four (4) books from TIFA's "best hits"
  - Two (2) double passes to attend two events of your choice during the 41st edition of TIFA (taking place 22 Oct - 1 Nov, 2020)
  - Winning entries may also be featured on The Power Plant and TIFA's social media channels
  - Approximate Value: \$500
  
- Honorable Mentions:
  - 1-year Individual Level at The Power Plant
  - One (1) *Power Plant Pages* publication
  - One (1) TIFA tote bag
  - A selection of two (2) books from TIFA's "best hits"
  - One (1) double pass to attend the event of your choice during the 41st edition of TIFA (taking place 22 Oct - 1 Nov, 2020)
  - Approximate Value: \$200
  
- There is no cash equivalent available for the Prizes. If a Prize cannot be awarded as described in these rules, TPP and TIFA reserve the right to substitute all or part of a Prize component with another of comparable value, as determined in TPP and TIFA's sole discretion.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- TPP and TIFA reserve the right to cancel, suspend, withdraw or amend this Contest in any way. Any decision made by TPP and TIFA with respect to any component of the Contest shall be final and binding on all participants of the Contest, without any right of appeal.



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- Any personal information gathered from contest entrants in connection with this Contest will be kept in a secure and confidential database and will not be rented or sold. Personal information of the Contest entrants will be used for the administration of this Contest for the purposes of this Contest only.
- All Contest entries remain the property of the entrant, however, by submitting an entry, each contest participant acknowledges that their name and entry may be posted on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, various other internet-based sites and/or TPP and TIFA's proprietary websites in perpetuity without any limitation, where it may be viewed, shared (by users of Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and various other internet-based sites) and commented on by the general public.
- By entering this Contest, each participant agrees that TPP and TIFA will not be liable for any injury or damage from whatever cause associated with or in connection with this Contest.