

# BRIAN CAMPBELL

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Brian Campbell is a Montreal poet, editor, singer-songwriter, translator, photographer, book reviewer and chapbook publisher. His third full-length collection, *Shimmer Report*, was published in 2015 by Ekstasis Editions. Brian Campbell is also the author of *Remnants of Autumn* (Sky of Ink Press, 2016), *A Private Collection* (Sky of Ink Press, 2014), *Passenger Flight* (Signature Editions, 2009), *Guatemala and Other Poems* (Window Press, Toronto, 1994), and *Undressing the Night*, his book-length translation of the selected poems of the Nicaraguan-Canadian poet Francisco Santos (Editorial Lunes, Costa Rica, 2006). Campbell's poems have appeared in numerous literary reviews in Canada, the U.S., and Europe; one was chosen by the British Columbia Ministry of Education for use on its provincial high school exam. He was a finalist in the 2006 CBC Literary Award for Poetry. In 2011, he was a recipient of a Canada Council creative writing grant towards the completion of *Shimmer Report*.

*On This Shore*, an EP of five songs and a poem, was released digitally and on CD in 2020; *The Courtier's Manuscript*, a full-length CD of fourteen songs and a poem, was released in 2002, and *The Imaginary Album*, a solo cassette, in 1996.

## BOOKS (All currently in print)

*Remnants of Autumn* Photo/poetry book. 2016 Sky of Ink Press, 2016. 56 p. ISBN 978-1-36-686820-6  
*Shimmer Report* Ekstasis Editions, Victoria, B.C., 2015. 94 p. ISBN 978-1-77171-103-6 (pbk.);  
978-77171-104-3 (ebook)

*A Private Collection* Sky of Ink Press, Montreal, 2014. 40 p. ISBN 978-0-9868890-3-5

*Passenger Flight* Signature Editions, Winnipeg, 2009. 90 p. ISBN 978-1-897109-33-5

*Undressing the Night: Selected Poems of Francisco Santos, translated and edited  
by Brian Campbell* Editorial Lunes, Heredia, Costa Rica, 2006. 144 p.

ISBN 9968-9542-9-2

*Guatemala & Other Poems* Window Press, Toronto, 1994. 66 p. ISBN 09696447-1-X

## AUDIO PRODUCTIONS (All currently available)

*On This Shore* (BeeDeeCee Productions, 2020), CD/digital download, 25 min.

*The Courtier's Manuscript* (BeeDeeCee Productions, 2002) CD/digital download, 74 min.

*The Imaginary Album* (BeeDeeCee Productions, 1996), 45 minutes.

## AWARDS/CITATIONS

Canada Council for the Arts: Professional Writer's Creative Writing grant, 2011: \$12,000

Unisong Competition, 2001 (London/Hollywood, CA): Certificate of Achievement for

*To My Whimsical Love* (song on *The Courtier's Manuscript*)

2006 CBC Literary Award for Poetry: Finalist

University of Toronto: Norma Epstein Award for Poetry, 1978

## POEM SELECTED FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL EXAM

In 2008, "Emblem", a poem previously published in the April, 2006 edition of *Prairie Fire*, was selected by the British Columbia (Canada) Ministry of Education for its provincial English Grade 12 exam. It was used three times between 2009 and 2014.

## REVIEWS OF BRIAN CAMPBELL'S POETRY (SELECTION)

A.F. Moritz, "Out of a Certain Mud We Rose", *Review of Brian Campbell's Shimmer Report*, Vallum 14:1, 2017  
Anne Cimon, *Review of Shimmer Report*, Montreal Serai, Apr., 2017  
R.W. Watkins, *Real Art: A Review of Brian Campbell's Shimmer Report*, Pattern Recognition #1, 2016  
Reviews of *Passenger Flight: Quentin Mills-Fenn*, *Winnipeg Uptown Magazine*, 2008; *The Rover*, 2009; *Canadian Literature*.  
Scott Boyd: *Review of Guatemala and Other Poems*: Prairie Fire, Summer 1995.

## POETRY PUBLISHED IN REVIEWS AND ANTHOLOGIES

More than 50 poems published in approximately 40 reviews in print and on line, in Canada, United States and Europe, including *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Saranac Review*, *Antigonish Review*, *Vallum*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *The New Quarterly*, *Geez*, *Carve*, *Dusie*, *Apparatus*, *Poetry Quebec*, *Umbrella*, *MiPOesias*, *New Canadian Review*, *Poetry Canada Review*, *carte blanche*, *Nth Position*, *The Evergreen Review*, and *Eclectica*; and in the following anthologies: *Refugium: Poems for the Pacific* (Caitlin Press, 2017), *Language Matters: Interviews with 22 Quebec Poets* (Signature Editions, 2013), *Shy* (University of Alberta Press, 2013) *The White Collar Book: Poetry and Prose of Canadian Business Life* (ed. Bruce & Carolyn Meyer, Black Moss Press, 2011) *After The Mountain: The A.M. Klein Reboot Project* (ed. Jason Camlot, Synapse Press, 2011), *Leonard Cohen You're Our Man* (Foundation for Public Poetry, 2009), and *Continuum: Time, the 4th Dimension* (Cranberry Tree Press, 2004.) See publications list.

## TRANSLATIONS OF POETRY PUBLISHED IN REVIEWS

Translations of Spanish poetry into English in *Indigo*, *Ruptures*, and *Free Verse* (Resistance Poetry Festival review): poems by Francisco Santos, Carmen Nozal, Marguerita Feliciano, Etnairis Rivera, and Hebe Bonifini. "Silences", an English translation of the French "Les Silences" by Quebec poet and novelist Louise Desjardins in *carte blanche* (Issue 17, Spring, 2013).

## LITERARY CRITICISM

### Book Reviews:

*Montreal Review of Books*: Christianne Frenette's *After the Red Night* (trans. Sheila Fischman) and Yves Engler's *The Black Book of Canadian Foreign Policy*.

*Rover* ([www.roverarts.com](http://www.roverarts.com)): Poetry collections by Robert Creeley, David O'Meara, Katia Grubisic, Phil Hall, Shannon Stewart, Sina Queyras, Gendun Chopel, Thomas James, Angela Hibbs Susan Briscoe, Kenneth Sherman, Maxianne Berger, Annie Molin Vasseur, as well as the anthology *Jailbreaks: 99 Canadian Sonnets* (ed. Zachariah Wells) and collection of critical essays and reviews by Zachariah Wells, *Career Limiting Moves*.

*The Pacific Rim Review of Books*: review of Barbara Pelman's *One Stone*

### Essay:

*Rock Salt Plum Review*, Spring 2006: "Can Poetry Matter – 15 Years After", a 4,000 word commentary on reactions over the past decade and a half to Dana Gioia's seminal 1991 article, "Can Poetry Matter?"

## EDITING/PUBLISHING

### Sky of Ink Press

Founded in 2006 with Montreal poet Raphael Bendahan, Sky of Ink's mission is to feature talented poets in finely crafted chapbooks. As of 2013, Brian Campbell is solely responsible as editor and publisher. Chapbooks include:

Ethel Meilleur, *Funny Girl*, 34 p., 250 copies, 2019.

Zav Levinson, *Trelliswork*, 40 pages, 150 copies, 2017.

Brian Campbell, *Remnants of Autumn*, photos/poetry, 54 p., 50 copies, 2016.  
 Brian Campbell, *A Private Collection*, photos of artwork/poetry, 40 pages, 30 copies, 2014.  
 Raphael Bendahan, *Sit Up*. 25 pages, 100 copies, © 2011  
 Jocelyne Dubois, *Hot Summer Night*. 35 pages, 200 copies, © 2008  
 Nina Bruck, *Still Light at Five O'clock*. 25 pages, 300 copies, © 2007  
 ➤ Winner of the 2008 Writer's Circle of Durham Region Poetry Chapbook Challenge  
 ➤ Nina Bruck was interviewed and read from *Still Light* on CBC Radio 1, The Sunday Edition (host: Michael Enright), and was featured on CBC TV's *Montreal Matters*.

## ASSOCIATIONS

League of Canadian Poets (LCP)

Full Member: 1994-8; 2003- Present

2011- 2014: Membership Committee (evaluates applications for league membership).

2013-2014: Membership Committee Chair

2006 - 2009: Quebec/Nunavut Representative on National Council

Quebec Writer's Federation (QWF)

Writer Member, 2003- Present

-Approved Writing Coach, Oct., 2015-Apr. 2016, "Hire a Writing Coach" pilot project:  
 poetry manuscript consultant for aspiring/emerging writers

-Approved Writer, Writers-in-CEGEPs Program: Gives lectures on creative writing and  
 conducts poetry workshops for honoraria in CEGEPs, the system of pre-university colleges in  
 the province of Quebec

Literary Translator's Association of Canada (LTAC) Member: 2007 – 2014

PEN Canada: Writer Member 2011– present

## FEATURED READINGS

Brian Campbell has been featured at many reading venues in Canada and the USA. A number of these readings have been supported by the Canada Council through the Canadian League of Poets. Venues include The Art Bar Poetry Series, Grossman's Tavern, The Brunswick House, Gallery No, and La Festival de la palabra y de la imagen (York University) in Toronto; the Yellow Door and Visual Arts Centre Reading Series, Poetry Plus (Arts Café), and Noches de Poesía in Montreal; Woolwich Arms Poetry & Music in Guelph, Ontario; The University of Winnipeg, and Emily Glen's in New York City. As LCP Quebec/Nunavut representative, he organized and hosted the 2007, 2008, and 2009 LCP Quebec (W)Rites of Spring Readings in Montreal.

As a singer-songwriter, Brian Campbell has been featured at various venues, mostly in Quebec, including Café Mariposa, The Yellow Door, Side Door Café, and The Acoustic Village in Brome, Quebec.

## READING SERIES

Since January 2018, Brian Campbell has co-hosted and co-organized with poet Jan Jorgensen the lawn chair soirée ([lawnchairsoiree.org](http://lawnchairsoiree.org)), a monthly Montreal literary/music series featuring invited readers, a musician, and an open mic. Most of the writers featured have been from Montreal, but recently we have featured readers from farther afield, with the support of funding from the League of Canadian Poets. Some featured readers: George Elliott Clarke, Mark Abley, Jon Levy, Susan Elmslie, Jacob Scheier, Rawi Hage, Neil Smith, Carmelita McGrath. See [www.lawnchairsoiree.org](http://www.lawnchairsoiree.org)

## RADIO AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES

In June, 2008 Brian Campbell was interviewed and read a poem, "Bringing Summer to The Rock", on the St. John's Morning Show, CBC Radio One, in connection with the LCP Festival and Conference. In addition, he has given interviews, read and performed poetry and music on campus and community radio: on *Simply Speaking* and *Arts Notebook* (CINQ) and *SonArt* (CKUT) in Montreal and *Howl* on

CKLN in Toronto. In 2007, he was interviewed on CBC TV's *Montreal Matters* in a feature on Nina Bruck's *Still Light at Five O'clock*.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS**

Sage Hill Writing Experience: Poetry Workshop, Summer 2012, led by Ken Babstock

League of Poets AGM/Poetry Fest: 1994, 2004, 2006-9, 2011, 2013.

Quebec Writers' Federation Poetry Workshops: Fall, 2004, led by Susan Gillis; Fall 2013, led by Asa Boxer; April 26, 2014: one-day workshop led by Paul Vermeersch

## **POETRY WORKSHOPS GIVEN**

Collège Montmorency, Laval, Quebec (QWF Writers in the CEGEPs Program) Oct. 2, 2007

Lauren Hill Academy, Montreal (LCP National Poetry Month Program) April 28, 2007

## **BLOG**

From 2004–2017, Brian Campbell maintained a literary blog, *Out of the Woodwork*, primarily devoted to a discussion of contemporary poetry and poetics. The blog is still online. In over a thousand posts, poems are cited and critiqued, books reviewed, articles quoted, with occasional forays into contemporary art, film, dance, music, politics, etc. Over its lifetime, *Out Of The Woodwork* received over 200,000 visits and had approximately 50 regular readers.

## **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND/OCCUPATION**

Born in Toronto, Canada, Brian Campbell graduated (with distinction) with an Honours B.A. in English, University of Toronto, 1980. He completed a Diploma in Education at McGill University, Montreal, 1991. From 1991 until his retirement in 2015, Brian Campbell taught English Language Acquisition at McGill English Montreal School Board. He also did freelance commercial translation from French to English. Campbell now dedicates himself full-time to his art.