



THE GRIFFIN TRUST
For Excellence In Poetry

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THE 2021 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE WINNERS

International

Music for the Dead and Resurrected

Valzhyna Mort

and

Canadian

The Dyzgraph^xst

Canisia Lubrin

TORONTO – Wednesday, June 23, 2021 – *Music for the Dead and Resurrected* by Valzhyna Mort, (Farrar, Straus and Giroux) and *The Dyzgraph^xst* by Canisia Lubrin (McClelland & Stewart) are the International and Canadian winners of the 2021 Griffin Poetry Prize, each receiving C\$65,000 in prize money. The other finalists will be awarded \$10,000 each.

The Griffin Poetry Prize was founded in 2000 to encourage and celebrate excellence in poetry. The prize is for first edition books of poetry written in, or translated into, English and submitted from anywhere in the world.

Judges Ilya Kaminsky (Ukraine), Aleš Šteger (Slovenia), and Souvankham Thammavongsa (Canada) each read 682 books of poetry, including 55 translations from 28 languages, submitted by 231 publishers from 14 different countries. The trustees of The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry select the judges annually.



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The 2021 Griffin Poetry Prize Shortlist :

International

- Victoria Chang's *Obit*, published by Copper Canyon Press
- Valzhyna Mort's *Music for the Dead and Resurrected*, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux
- Srikanth Reddy's *Underworld Lit*, published by Wave Books
- Tracy K. Smith's and Changtai Bi's translation, from the Chinese, of *My Name Will Grow Wide Like a Tree* written by Yi Lei, published by Graywolf Press


Canadian

- Joseph Dandurand's *The East Side of It All*, published by Nightwood Editions
- Canisia Lubrin's *The Dyzgraphist*, published by McClelland & Stewart
- Yusuf Saadi's *Pluviophile*, published by Nightwood Editions

NOTE TO BOOKSELLERS: Griffin Poetry Prize book stickers are supplied free of charge. Please contact Ruth Smith to place an order.

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Shortlisted Publishers' websites:

Copper Canyon Press: coppercanyonpress.org

Farrar, Straus and Giroux: fsgbooks.com

Graywolf Press: graywolfpress.org

McClelland & Stewart: penguinrandomhouse.ca/imprints/mcclelland-stewart

Nightwood Editions: nightwoodeditions.com

Wave Books: wavepoetry.com



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Downloadable photographs of the 2021 shortlisted poets:

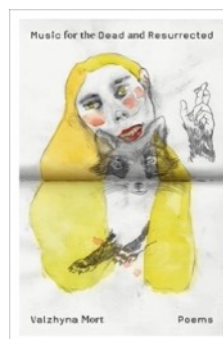
<http://www.griffinpoetryprize.com/news-and-events/media-resources/>





THE GRIFFIN TRUST
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International



***Music for the Dead and Resurrected* • Valzhyna Mort**
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

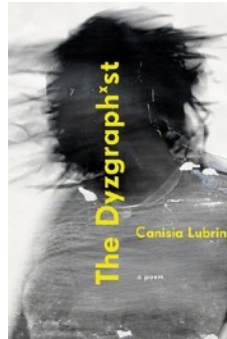
Biography: Valzhyna Mort is the author of *Factory of Tears* and *Collected Body*. Her work has been honoured with the Lannan Literary Fellowship for Poetry, an Amy Clampitt Residency, the Bess Hokin Prize from *Poetry* magazine, and the Glenna Luschei Prairie Schooner Award. She is a recipient of the Gulf Coast Prize in Translation and a National Endowment for the Arts grant in translation projects. Born in Minsk, Belarus, she writes in English and Belarusian.

Judges' Citation: "Here, history comes to an end / like a movie / with rolling credits of headstones," writes Valzhyna Mort, though the history doesn't end, but takes deep and memorable residence in the music of these poems. The collection offers many different kinds of poetry: from elegies to protest poems to moments of lyric intimacy. But in all of them there's an unmistakable emotion embodied in craft, one that continues to echo in our minds long after we finish the book. And this is perhaps the reason why Mort's striking pages about Belarus are ultimately poems about all of us: they set our remembering and our grief to inimitable music."



THE GRIFFIN TRUST
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Canadian



The Dyzgraph^xst • Canisia Lubrin
McClelland & Stewart

Biography: Canisia Lubrin is a writer, editor, and teacher published and anthologised internationally, including translations of her work into Italian and Spanish. Lubrin’s debut poetry collection, *Voodoo Hypothesis*, was named a CBC Best Poetry Book, longlisted for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award and the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, and shortlisted for the Raymond Souster Award. Her work has been nominated for, among others, the Toronto Book Award, Journey Prize, and bpNichol Chapbook Award. 2019 Writer in Residence at Queen’s University, Lubrin holds an MFA from the University of Guelph.

Judges’ Citation: “*The Dyzgraph^xst* is Canisia Lubrin’s spectacular feat of architecture called a poem. Built with ‘Y’ – a single mark on the page, a voice, a blade, ‘a life-force soaring back’ – and assembled over seven acts addressing language, grammar, sentence, line, stage, and world, the poet forms, invents, surprises, and sharpens life. Generous, generating, and an abundance of rigour. A wide and widening ocean of feeling are the blueprints of this book. It is shaped to be ‘the shape of the shape / of the shape of a thing that light curves over time / length to width to depth and all of us its information.’”