

PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Montréal



THREE FINALISTS FOR THE BLUE METROPOLIS/CONSEIL DES ARTS DE MONTRÉAL 2023 NEW CONTRIBUTION PRIZE



Montreal, March 16, 2023 – For immediate release

We are pleased to announce the three finalists for the Blue Metropolis / Conseil des arts de Montréal 2023 New Contribution Prize:

- Baharan Baniahmadi, *Prophetess* (Véhicule Press)
- Eli Tareq El Bechelany-Lynch, *The Good arabs* (Metonymy Press)
- Mali Navia, *La Banalité d'un tir* (Leméac Éditeur)

The winning book will be announced during the 25th edition of the Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival on Saturday, April 29, 2023, at 8 pm, at Hotel 10 (10 Sherbrooke Street West), Saint-Laurent Room, just before the presentation of the Blue Metropolis Grand Prize. The following day, Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 4 pm, at Hotel 10, Salle Jardin, everyone is invited to an on-stage conversation between 2022 New Contribution Prize recipient Tawhida Tanya Evanson and the 2023 winner.

The 2023 jury members are novelist Ghayas Hachem, artist and dramaturge Marilou Craft, and poet and translator Katia Grubisic. Nine entries from various backgrounds were submitted, and the jury's task was undoubtedly a challenging one.

The Blue Metropolis/Conseil des arts de Montréal New Contribution Prize is now in its eighth year. Awarded jointly by the Blue Metropolis Foundation and the Conseil des arts de Montréal, the prize draws attention to new literary voices from immigrant backgrounds whose work enriches our literature and for whom Montreal is home. “In addition to supporting the Festival since its inception over 20 years ago, the Conseil des arts de Montréal is particularly proud to be associated once again with the New Contribution Prize,” Conseil des arts de Montréal Executive Director Nathalie Maillé says; “Blue Metropolis foregrounds indigeneity, multilingualism, and thought-provoking social issues.” Over the years, the prize has recognized the work of Ghayas Hachem (2016), Xue Yiwei (2017), Alina Dumitrescu (2018), Yara El-Ghadban (2019), William Ging Wee Dere (2020), Nicholas Dawson (2021), and Tawhida Tanya Evanson (2022).

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.”

BLUE METROPOLIS AT A GLANCE

Established in 1997, the Blue Metropolis Foundation is a charitable organization whose mission is to bring together people of diverse languages and cultures around the joy of reading and writing, fostering creativity and cross-cultural understanding. The Foundation presents the annual Blue Metropolis International Literary Festival and offers a range of activities throughout the year through its TD – Blue Metropolis Children’s Festival as well as educational and social programs in classrooms, libraries, and online, using writing and reading as therapeutic tools, to encourage students to stay in school, and to combat poverty and exclusion.

– 30 –

Marie-Andrée Lamontagne, Director General, Programming and Communications
Blue Metropolis Festival

Media relations (French): Felipe del Pozo
514 616-4713 or felipe@feliperp.com
Media relations (English): Janis Kirshner
514 287-8912 or jkirshner@sympatico.ca

THANK YOU TO THE BLUE METROPOLIS FOUNDATION’S MAJOR PARTNERS FOR SUPPORT OF THE 2023 FESTIVAL AND OUR 2022–2023 EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL PROGRAMS

