
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007OTP0024-000243
March 12, 2007

Office of the Premier
British Columbia Achievement Foundation

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR NATIONAL NON-FICTION AWARD

VANCOUVER – The finalists for the British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction, one of Canada’s largest literary awards, were announced today by B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell and Keith Mitchell, chair of the British Columbia Achievement Foundation.

Four exceptional Canadian authors are in the running for the \$25,000 prize: Marian Botsford Fraser for *Requiem for My Brother*, Gerta Moray for *Unsettling Encounters: First Nations Imagery in the Art of Emily Carr*, Noah Richler for *This Is My Country, What’s Yours? A Literary Atlas of Canada*, and Dragan Todorovic for *The Book of Revenge: A Blues for Yugoslavia*.

“British Columbia is a centre for excellence for writing and publishing in Canada, so it’s fitting to have a major national award originate here,” said Campbell. “Canadian authors are producing seminal works of non-fiction, and we’re thrilled to honour them through the British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction.”

“The four finalists were selected from an extensive list of titles from across Canada,” said Mitchell. “They represent the best writing in the non-fiction genre, and it’s a privilege to highlight their achievements.”

The British Columbia Award for Canadian Non-Fiction is an annual national prize established by the British Columbia Achievement Foundation, an independent foundation endowed by the Province of British Columbia in 2003 to celebrate excellence and achievement. An independent jury is responsible for the selection of the finalists and award winner.

The winner of the award will be announced April 19, 2007, in Vancouver.

This year’s finalists are described in the following citations from the jury:

Marian Botsford Fraser for *Requiem for My Brother* (Greystone)

In *Requiem for My Brother*, Marian Botsford Fraser roots her intimate reflection on the effect of untimely death on siblings in an examination of the nature of familial love and affection. It is a personal narrative in which the beautifully evoked landscape of Ontario and the North becomes an essential player in the drama of her family’s relationships and of the unfolding story of the diseases that killed her brother. This is an honest and courageous story that encourages the reader to examine what it is about our lives that is unspoken, and whether or not it should remain so.

Gerta Moray for *Unsettling Encounters* (UBC Press)

Through a combination of rich text and gorgeous design, *Unsettling Encounters* profoundly re-evaluates the achievement of one of Canada’s foremost artists. Gerta Moray’s thorough and provocative examination of First Nations’ themes in the art of Emily Carr offers a new understanding of her creative vision, enhancing her importance as a major figure in twentieth-century modernism. Moray’s meticulous recreation of the intersection of person and place raises important questions about the history of relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal settlers on Canada’s West Coast.

Noah Richler for *This Is My Country, What's Yours?* (McClelland & Stewart)

A sweeping though admittedly selective literary travelogue, Noah Richler's *This Is My Country, What's Yours?* reflects upon Canadian identity and sense of place through a sustained examination of the role played by writers of fiction in nation-building. Richler's travels around our literary landscape reveal a variety of expression that matches the geographic and political diversity of modern-day Canada. The book is not a critique of Canadian writing so much as it is a window onto Canadian writing in the present day – and in that sense as good a crash-course in contemporary Canadian literature as one is likely to find.

Dragan Todorovic for *The Book of Revenge* (Random House Canada)

Filled with dark humour and memorable characters, Dragan Todorovic's *The Book of Revenge* is a vigorous recollection of growing up in a country that exists no longer. The dexterously handled narrative is set in the industrial poverty of the former Yugoslavia, where the author comes of age in a war-torn country and discovers the evils of nationalism, the power of friendship and the true nature of citizenship. Its depth of on-the-spot insight makes this an important book for anyone wanting to understand the story of Yugoslavia beyond the headlines.

For more information on the award and this year's finalists, please call 604 261-9777 or visit www.bcachievement.com.

To download images of book covers and authors' photos for this year's shortlist, please visit www.bcachievement.com.

CBC Radio One's North by Northwest and B.C. Almanac will broadcast special coverage of the finalists and the award presentation during the week of April 15. Please see www.cbc.ca/bc for details.

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