

A L I C E M A J O R

Poet, writer, and essayist · Alicemajor.com

Alice Major full CV

Publications

- Knife on Snow, Winnipeg, Turnstone Press, 2023
- Welcome to the Anthropocene, Edmonton, University of Alberta Press, 2018
- Standard Candles, Edmonton, University of Alberta Press, 2015.
- The Jade Spindle (YA fantasy e-book), eSisters, 2012.
- Intersecting Sets: A poet looks at Science, University of Alberta Press, 2011.
- Memory's Daughter, Edmonton, University of Alberta Press, 2010.
- The Office Tower Tales, Edmonton, University of Alberta Press, 2008.
- The Occupied World, Edmonton, University of Alberta Press, 2006.
- Some Bones and a Story, Toronto, Wolsak and Wynn, 2001.
- No Monster, Victoria, Poppy Press, 2001.
- Corona Radiata, Toronto, St. Thomas Press, 2000.
- Tales for an Urban Sky. Fredericton: Broken Jaw Press, 1999.
- Lattice of the Years. Calgary: Bayeux Arts, 1999.
- Complete within herself (chapbook). Victoria: Hawthorne Society, 1997.
- Time Travels Light. Edmonton: Rowan, 1992.
- The Chinese Mirror. Toronto: Clarke Irwin, 1988.

Awards

- Winner, Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Knife on Snow, 2024.
- Winner, Robert Kroetsch Award for Poetry (Book Publishers Association of Alberta), for Standard Candles, 2017.
- Winner, National Magazine Award Gold Medal, for "The Ultraviolet Catastrophe" (included in Intersecting Sets: A poet looks at science), 2012.
- Winner, Wilfrid Eggleston Award, for Intersecting Sets: A Poet looks at science, 2012.
- Winner, Stephan G. Stephansson Award (by the Writers Guild of Alberta), for Memory's Daughter, 2011.
- Winner, Pat Lowther Award, for The Office Tower Tales, 2009.
- Winner, Alberta Book Publishers Association Trade Book of the Year (fiction) for The Office Tower Tales, 2009.
- Winner, Malahat Review Long Poem Competition, 2001.

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Awards, continued

- Winner, Poets Corner Award, for Tales for an Urban Sky, 1999.
- Winner, Shaunt Basmajian Chapbook Competition, for Scenes from the Sugar Bowl Cafe, 1998.
- Winner, Alberta Writing for Youth Competition, for The Chinese Mirror, 1988.
- Finalist, Canadian Library Association Book of the Year, for The Chinese Mirror, 1988.

Shortlisted

- Science Writers and Communicators of Canada Book Awards, for Knife on Snow, 2024.
- Robert Kroetsch Poetry Prize, Book Publishers Association of Alberta, for Welcome to the Anthropocene, 2019.
- Raymond Souster Award, League of Canadian Poets, for Welcome to the Anthropocene, 2019.
- Stephan G. Stephansson Award, Writers Guild of Alberta, for Tales for an Urban Sky, 2000; The Occupied World, 2007; and Standard Candles, 2016.
- City of Edmonton Book Prize, for Lattice of the Years, 1999, Tales for an Urban Sky, 2000 and The Office Tower Tales, 2009; Standard Candles, 2016; and Welcome to the Anthropocene, 2019.
- Pat Lowther Award, for Some Bones and a Story, 2002 (National award for best book of poetry by a Canadian woman).

Other publishing credits

Selected periodicals - Poems have appeared in the following periodicals:

Amethyst Review; Antigonish Review; Arc; CV2; Dandelion; Descant; Event; The Fiddlehead; Grain; Hysteria (U.S.); Kenyon Review (U.S.), Literary Review of Canada, Malahat Review; The New Quarterly; NewWest Review; Northward Journal; On Spec; Orbis (U.K.); Other Voices; People's Poetry Letter; Poetry Canada Review; Pottersfield Portfolio; The Prairie Journal; Prism; Quarry; Queen's Quarterly; Rattle (U.S.); Room of One's Own; Secrets from the Orange Couch; Stand Magazine (U.K.); Wascana Review; Waves; Whetstone; Windsor Review.

Anthologies (partial list)

- "Sometimes You Have to Dig" published in Reimagining Fire: the future of Energy (Durville and UpRoute Books), 2023.

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Anthologies (partial list) continued

- "We Have Elegies to Write" published in *Locations of Grief: An Emotional Geography* (Wolsak & Wynn), 2020.
- "Currents" published in *Waiting: An Anthology of Essays* (University of Alberta Press), 2018.
- "Mary T. McDonald: From Nowhere, Alberta" *The Dark Horse*, Spring & Summer, 2018.
- *Ten Canadian Writers in Context* (Edmonton, University of Alberta Press, 2016)
- "Falling in Love with Poetry" (Waterloo, *The New Quarterly*, 2016).
- "The wide and starry sky: Falling in love with the poem" *The New Quarterly*, July 2015.
- "Barbers & Big Ideas: Paradox in Math and Poetry" – *Journal of Mathematics and the Arts*, 2014.
- "Word Shapes and Rhymescares: Translating Translation Symmetry into Music and Poetry" published in *Math Horizons* (Mathematical Association of America), February 2013.
- "The Ultraviolet Catastrophe" published in *The New Quarterly* (QuArc issue), 2011.
- "Word Shapes and Rhymescares: Translating Translation Symmetry into Music and Poetry" published in *Math Horizons* (Mathematical Association of America), February 2013.
- *A Crystal through which Light passes: Glosas for P.K. Page* (Ottawa, Buschek Books, 2013).
- *Poems from Planet Earth* (Saltspring Island, Leaf Press, 2013).
- *Untying the Apron: Daughters Remember Mothers of the 1950s* (Oakville, Guernica Editions, 2013).
- *Monksript Two, Surprising Saints: Literature, Arts & Spirituality* (Louisville, KY, Fons Vitae Press, 2012).
- *Pith & Wry: Canadian Poetry* (Sudbury, Scrivener Press, 2010).
- *Where the Light Gets In: Anthology of Poetry from Canada* (School of Humanities, Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland, 2009).
- *Poetry as Liturgy* (Toronto, St. Thomas Press, 2007).
- "Poetry under the influence of time" published in *CV2*, Volume 25, Issue 1, 2002.
- "Only tenderness" in *Feminism and the language of love*, 1999, published by the League of Canadian Poets (Living Archives series).

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Anthologies (partial list) continued

- Reading the River: A traveller's companion to the North Saskatchewan River (Regina, Coteau Books, 2005).
- Writing the Terrain: Travelling through Alberta with the Poets (Calgary, University of Calgary Press, 2005).
- Echoes 12 (Toronto, Oxford University Press Canada, 2002).
- Poetry and Spiritual Practice: Selections from Contemporary Canadian Poets (Toronto, St. Thomas Press, 2002).
- Threshold: An Anthology of Contemporary Writing from Alberta (Edmonton, University of Alberta Press, 2000).
- The Edges of Time: A Celebration of Canadian Poetry (Toronto, Seraphim Editions, 1999).
- What if? Amazing stories selected by Monica Hughes (Toronto, Tundra Books, 1998).
- On Spec: The first five years (Tesseract Books, 1995) – Best of the magazine's first five years.
- Poetry Alive: Perspectives (Copp Clark Pitman, 1991).

Selected Performances/Broadcasts

- Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival, 2008, performances from The Office Tower Tales Readings.
- "Exploring Language" CD prepared for Alberta Learning (English Language Arts curriculum, Grades 5-12) ISBN 0-7785-2575-9.
- Gala Performance, Global Arts & Culture symposium (Directed by Veronica Tennant) September, 1999.
- Time Capsule project (for Edmonton's Symphony Hall) – August, 1995.
- "Writing on the Wall" – Women's Television Network (Spring, 1995).
- CBC – "Alberta Anthology" (1989, 1991, 1992, 1995).
- "Starwords" – Edmonton Space and Sciences Centre – 1990.
- Womenstrength Festival – Edmonton (1989, 1990, 1991, 1992).

Selected Readings Include

- Saskatchewan Festival of Words, Moose Jaw, July, 2024
- Art Bar Reading Series, Toronto, November, 2023

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Selected Readings Include, continued

- Planet Earth Reading Series, Victoria, May, 2023
- World Poetry Day reading, Winnipeg, March, 2019
- Government House, Regina, April 2016.
- Association of Writers and Writing Programs conference, Los Angeles, April, 2016.
- Canadian Literature Centre, University of Alberta – March, 2013.
- Presenter, Mathematics: Muse, Maker & Measure of the Arts – Banff International Research Station for Mathematical Innovation and Discovery, 2011.
- Festival International de la Poesie, Trois Rivieres, Quebec – October, 2011.
- Enbridge "Famous Five" luncheon speaker – March, 2010.
- Poetry in the Crypt series, (London, U.K, with Mimi Khalvati.) – June, 2008.
- Poet Laureate readings (June, 2005-7) – more than four dozen appearances in schools, libraries and public venues, including: City Hall performance for the Governor General's visit; Mayor's Evening for the Arts (Winspear Centre); address to Edmonton Arts Council AGM; Chamber of Commerce annual luncheon.
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference – June, 2004.
- CBC Poetry Face-off (Edmonton finals) – March, 2004.
- New South Wales Writers Centre Autumn Festival – March, 2002.
- Varuna Writers Centre (Katoomba, New South Wales) – March, 2002.
- The Idler Pub (Toronto) – November, 2001.
- Art Bar Reading Series (Toronto) – November, 1999, April 2001, November 2003.
- Word on the Street Book Fair (Calgary) – September 1999, 2000 and 2001.
- McMaster University (Hamilton) – May, 1998.
- Alberta Book Fair (Edmonton) – October, 1997.
- University of Leeds – November 1996.
- Alberta Book Fair – August, 1996.
- Poetry Night in Canada (Edmonton) – June, 1995.
- The Poets Union (Sydney) – March, 1995.
- Writers Centre of New South Wales (address to the annual general meeting) – February, 1995.
- Fellowship of Australian Writers (Sydney) – December, 1993.
- Prairie Festival of Books (Regina) – May, 1993.

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Selected Readings Include, continued

- "String Quartet with A. Major, Poet" (Part of the "Made in Canada" music festival) – November, 1992.

Presentations, Papers, & Lectures

- Scansion and Science, Anne Szumigalski Lecture, League of Canadian Poets, Toronto, 2018
- "Perhaps the Plaintive Numbers Flow", Bridges: Mathematics, Music, Art, Architecture, Culture; online conference, August, 2020
- "Mapping from e to Metaphor", Bridges Conference, Stockholm, 2018
- "Numbers with Personality", Plenary address, Bridges Conference, Waterloo, July, 2017
- "A superposition of brains", Stony Brook University Provost's Lecture – September, 2013.
- "Math into Metaphor", Bridges Conference, Enschede, the Netherlands, July 2013.
- "Tune and Rhyme: Translation Symmetry at Work", Bridges Conference, Towson, Maryland, July, 2012

Recognition

- Global TV Woman of Vision, 2018.
- Honorary Doctorate of Letters, University of Alberta, 2017.
- Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Award, 2017.
- Writers Guild of Alberta, Golden Pen Award, 2014.
- Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, 2012
- Inductee, City of Edmonton Arts & Culture Hall of Fame, 2012
- ATCO Gas Lifetime Achievement Award (awarded during the Mayor's Celebration of the Arts), 2010
- Canada Council for the Arts Senior Writer's Grant, 2007 & 2013
- Writer-in-residence, Grant McEwen Community College, 1998.

Volunteer Contributions

Edmonton Poetry Festival (founder)

President, 2024; Board member, 2021 - 23; Chair, 2006 to 2020; Founder, 2006.

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Volunteer Contributions, continued

League of Canadian Poets

Past president (2002-05); Vice-president & membership chair, 1999-2000; Alberta representative, 1997-99. (The League's mission statement is: To develop the art of poetry; to enhance the status of poets and nurture a diverse professional poetic community; to facilitate the teaching of Canadian poetry at all levels of education; to enlarge the audience for poetry by encouraging publication, performance and recognition of Canadian poetry nationally and internationally.)

Edmonton's first Poet Laureate, 2005-07.

Writers Guild of Alberta

President, 1994-95; Vice-president, 1993-94; President, 1994-95; Retreats committee, 1992.

Edmonton Arts Council

Chair, 1999-2000; Chair, arts peer review jury 1998-99 and 1999-2000; Board member 1996.

City of Edmonton

- Member, Honour Awards Selection committee (arts & culture subcommittee) 2002-4.
- Member, peer review jury to award municipal grants-in-aid, 1995-6.

The Books Collective

Founding member of Edmonton publishing collective 1991-96.

Education

BA. (English, history) – Trinity College, University of Toronto.

Contact Alice Major

Get in touch with via the contact form on Alicemajor.com.