

Contributors

Gina Badger is a practicing artist and writer particularly interested in urban ecology and environmental history. Her recent research production includes radio broadcasts, radioactively-colored seed bombs, oyster parties, a garden of weeds, and a series of workshops on herbal gynecology. Badger's commitment to group work and grassroots knowledge production have led her to initiate curatorial, organizational, and small press projects. Hailing from Western Canada's prairies, Gina is based in Montreal and at the time of writing, is completing a Master of Visual Studies through MIT's Program in Arts, Culture + Technology.

Adrian Blackwell is a visual artist and urban designer whose work has been exhibited at artist-run centers and museums in Canada and at the 2005 Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture. He co-edited *Unboxed: Engagements in Social Space* with Jen Budney. He is currently designing the public furniture for Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square renovation. He is a member of the Toronto School of Creativity and Inquiry and teaches architecture at the University of Toronto.

Richard Brault is a Toronto based industrial designer and a founding member of the Alex Wilson Community Garden. He is an active partner at Studio Innova since 1984. His design career spans several disciplines and sectors: healthcare, emergency rescue, architecture, community gardens, renewable energy and human powered transportation. He has lectured at the University of Toronto, Carleton University, York University, the Ontario College of Art and Design, the Institute Without Boundaries, Politecnico di Milano, and The Design Academy (Eindhoven). In 2007, Brault and his partner Dianne Croteau founded Ninutik Maple Sugar where he divides his time between design and sugarmaking. He remains active in the Alex Wilson Community Garden and sits on the steering committee of the Historic St. Andrews Farmers' Market.

Sandra Cisneros is an American writer best known for her acclaimed first novel *The House on Mango Street* (1984) and her short story collection *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* (1991).

Gilles Clément, ingénieur horticole, paysagiste DPLG, travaille et vit à Paris et dans la Creuse où se trouve son jardin expérimental. Il réalise des parcs, jardins, espaces publics en Europe et ailleurs dans le monde. Plusieurs expositions en France et à l'étranger ont été consacrées à l'expression de trois concepts développés au cours de ses recherches: le "Jardin en mouvement" issu d'une pratique sur le terrain, le "Jardin planétaire" issu des voyages et d'une vision écologique de la planète, le "Tiers Paysage" issu de l'observation des délaissés. "L'Homme symbiotique" constitue une quatrième piste de recherche qui associe écologie et économie. L'ensemble de ces notions se trouve consigné dans plusieurs ouvrages publiés.

J. Keri Cronin is an Assistant Professor in the Visual Arts Department at Brock University. She is also a Faculty Affiliate in Brock's Social Justice & Equity Studies Graduate Program, the editor of *The Brock Review* and part of the organizing committee for Greenscapes, a biennial conference on the cultural history of gardens held at Brock University. Her research focuses on the ways in which visual representations of the nonhuman world have historically shaped, challenged and, at times, subverted dominant human attitudes towards the species they share the planet with. She is the author of *Manufacturing National Park Nature: Photography, Ecology and the Wilderness Industry of Jasper National Park*, which will be published by UBC Press in 2010.

Heather Davis is a researcher, writer, and community artist based in Montreal. She is interested in the political potentials of expanded art practice. Her current work, as a Ph.D. student in the Joint Program of Communication at Concordia University, focuses on relational subjectivity within collective contemporary artistic practices and community arts. She has written about these convergences for Studio XX's journal *.dpi*, for the online publication *politicsandculture.org*, and for the upcoming *Encyclopedia of Social Movements*. Before coming to Montreal, she worked in Toronto as a community artist.

Guy Ernest Debord (1931–1994) was a French Marxist theorist, writer, filmmaker, and founding member of the groups Lettrist International and Situationist International. He is author of *Society of the Spectacle* (1967).

Erin Despard is a doctoral candidate in communication studies at Concordia University. Her dissertation research focuses on the history, politics and phenomenology of ornamental public gardens in cities. Other projects concern the manipulation of landscape for the sake of crime prevention, and the relationship between landscape and other forms of visual media. She recently completed a term as visiting researcher at the Berkeley College of Environmental Design and the Berkeley Center for New Media. Throughout her undergraduate studies and between degrees she worked as a gardener.

Jill Didur is an Associate Professor in the English Department at Concordia University, Montreal where she teaches postcolonial literature and theory. Her book, *Unsettling Partition: Literature, Gender, Memory* appeared with the University of Toronto Press in 2006. Her current research looks at the relationship between the history of plant-hunting in South Asia and contemporary South Asian Literature concerned with alpine landscapes. This research considers the discursive and material relationships between the plant collecting practices and memoirs of colonial botanists and horticulturalists in South Asia, contemporary postcolonial writing about the Himalayas, and alpine and rock gardening culture globally.

Monika Kin Gagnon has published widely on art, media and cultural politics. She is author of *Other Conundrums: Race, Culture and Canadian Art* (2000) and co-author with Toronto video artist Richard Fung and eleven other artists, *13 Conversations About Art and Cultural Race Politics* (2002), translated in 2006 as *Territoires et Trajectoires: 14 dialogues sur l'art et les constructions raciales, culturelles et identitaires*. She recently produced *Charles Gagnon: 4 Films*, in collaboration with her late father, and the database film *ArchivingR69.ca*, which explores creative archiving, cultural memory, and experimental film. She is Associate Professor in Communication Studies at Concordia University.

Susan Herrington teaches theory, history, and studios in the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia. She is author of *On Landscapes* (2009), which is part of Routledge's Thinking In Action series. She is currently writing a book on modern landscapes and the work of Canadian landscape architect, Cornelia Hahn Oberlander.

Jane Hutton is a researcher and landscape architect, currently teaching in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Her practice focuses on collaborations with activist groups re-thinking constructed urban ecological systems including FoodCycles' prototype urban agriculture and soil regeneration project at Parc Downsview Park and Toronto's first community orchard on public land.

Oliver Kellhammer is a land artist working with public sites to highlight and demonstrate nature's sometimes surprising ability to recover from damage. His work facilitates processes of regeneration by engaging the botanical and socio-political frameworks that underlie the landscape, such as small-scale urban eco-forestry, inner-city community agriculture, and the restoration of eroded railway ravines. He sees his projects as a kind of catalytic model-making, providing platforms for community empowerment and positive engagement with the global environmental crisis. His work has appeared in various literary journals (*KNOCK*, *Vancouver Review*) and art publications such as *FUSE*, and the more recent "Access all Areas." His work can be viewed on his blog: <http://www.oliverk.org>

Justin A. Langlois is an artist working in integrated media and social practice. He has an MFA in visual arts and a BA (Hons) in communication studies from the University of Windsor. His major research project is currently situated in Broken City Lab, a creative research group focused on engaging and interrupting the city, its infrastructure, and its communities. He has been the recipient of numerous awards including grants from The Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. He is currently an instructor at the University of Windsor and the Executive Director of the Arts Council Windsor & Region.

Kai Wood Mah writes on design and architecture. He has published articles and book chapters on their intersections with the history of education and children. He is currently completing a book-length project on the architecture of educational reform in the City of Toronto, from 1850 to 1917. He teaches art and architectural history at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Mike MacDonald (1946–2006) was an artist who exhibited his video installations in Canada, the U.S. and internationally, and completed numerous garden projects at various Canadian locations. He won the 2000 Aboriginal Achievement Award for New Media for *Butterfly Garden*, and in 1994, he was awarded the prestigious Jack and Doris Shadbolt Prize from the Vancouver Institute for Visual Arts. As MacDonald has stated: I am a video installation artist in the US, an artist/gardener in Canada and an Indian in cyberspace.

Aviva Rahmani, Affiliate, INSTAAR, University of Colorado at Boulder, received the 2009 Arts and Healing Network 2009 award. Internationally known, exhibited and published for her installations and ecological art activism, she has over forty years collaborative experience with scientists. Her project, about the impact of global warming, *Gulf to Gulf* (2009–), is sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts. Previous projects restored a dumpsite to a flourishing wetland system (Ghost Nets) and helped catalyze a USDA expenditure of \$500,000 to restore twenty-six acres of critical wetlands habitat (Blue Rocks). Rahmani received her Masters from the California Institute of the Arts and has taught, lectured, and been in residence at many colleges and universities.

Lisa Robertson's books of poetry include *XEclogue*, *Debbie: An Epic* (nominated for the Governor General's Award for Poetry in 1998), *The Weather* (winner of the Relit Award for Poetry in 2002), *The Men* and *Lisa Robertson's Magenta Soul Whip*. *Rousseau's Boat* is forthcoming in Spring 2010 by University of California Press. She currently teaches at California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and in Fall 2010 will be writer in residence at Simon Fraser University.

Graham Roumieu has contributed work to *Esquire*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, *The New York Times*, and many other fine publications. He is also the creator of several books including *Bigfoot: I Not Dead*. A significant portion of his childhood was spent weeding vegetable gardens of things like chickweed.

Catharine Parr Traill (1802–99) was born in England and moved to Upper Canada in 1832. She is the author over twenty essays and books, including *The Backwoods of Canada*, first published in 1836.

Lisa Uddin is a Smithsonian Research Associate who received her doctorate in 2009 from the University of Rochester's Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies. She has held a Pembroke Postdoctoral Fellowship at Brown University and a Quadrant Fellowship in Environment, Culture and Sustainability at the University of Minnesota. Her research interests include visual culture studies, urban and architectural history and the environmental humanities. She is currently writing a cultural history of American zoo design in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Wayward Plant Registry is a collaborative project of social exchange and botanical desire. The Registry creates pop-up shops or halfway homes for unwanted plants, and has been included in exhibitions at the Barbican London, The Graham Foundation Chicago, the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal and the London Festival of Architecture. The Wayward Plant Registry is an open collective composed of landscape architects, architects, artists and guerrilla gardeners. <http://waywardplants.org>

Turner Wigginton is an independent photographer. His work concerns urban landscapes and post industrialization. More photos can be seen at www.tw.mentalpaint.net.