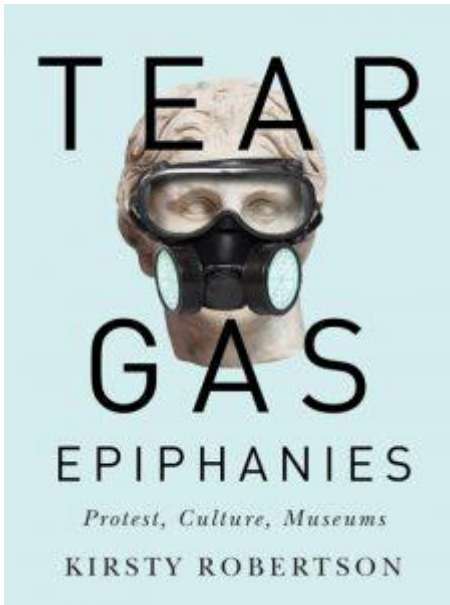


2020 Melva J. Dwyer Award Winner

Tear Gas Epiphanies: Protest, Culture, Museums



Tear Gas Epiphanies: Protest, Culture, Museums, by Kirsty Robertson, is an original scholarly examination of the phenomenon of protest within and against Canadian museums, was presented with the 29th annual Melva J. Dwyer Award by the Art Libraries Society of North America's (ARLIS/NA) Canada Chapter. The book was published in 2019 by McGill-Queens University Press (MQUP).

Tear Gas Epiphanies was selected from among 11 Canadian art and architecture titles nominated for the 2020 award.

Robertson's book addresses a timely topic through comprehensive research and lucid, engaging writing. *Tear Gas Epiphanies* casts Canadian cultural institutions in a new light by examining them as sites of struggle and negotiation, while seeking to parse out their complex and messy histories in the later 20th and early 21st centuries. The result is an ambitious survey punctuated by meaningful case studies which articulate that political action must be considered as a significant

aspect of cultural institutions' histories and cannot be overlooked. Robertson critically examines intersections between, national identity, institutional critique, social responsibility and accountability in museum policy-making, Decolonization, indigenization of museum spaces, political economy, environmental activism in resource extraction economies, and museum funding sources.

The book offers substantial new contributions to the author's previous scholarship on topics in visual culture, art institutions, and activism and is bolstered by an extensive research apparatus. Robertson's thorough archival research is structured by keen observation and documentation of contemporary events, original synthesis, and thought. This is well supported by lengthy notes and bibliography, judicious and meticulously attributed photographic illustrations, and a comprehensive index.

Tear Gas Epiphanies is positioned to become an essential reference work in critical museum and curatorial studies in Canada.

Kirsty Robertson is an Associate Professor of Contemporary Art and Museum Studies at Western University.

Honourable mention was given to *Inside Killjoy's Kastle: Dykey Ghosts, Feminist Monsters, and Other Lesbian Hauntings*, edited by Allyson Mitchell and Cait McKinney and published in 2019 by UBC Press.

The Melva J. Dwyer Award was presented by Suzanne Rackover, Melva J. Dwyer Award Sub-Committee Chair. Jury members of the 2020 Melva J. Dwyer Award Sub-Committee were Sara Ellis, Amy Furness, and Viveca Pattison Robichaud.

2020 Melva J. Dwyer Award Nominees | Titres nommés

- [*Inside Killjoy's Kastle: Dykey Ghosts, Feminist Monsters, and Other Lesbian Hauntings*](#) – **Honourable Mention**
 Editors: Allyson Mitchell and Cait McKinney
 Publisher: UBC Press, 2019
- [*Artistic Glass: One Studio and Fifty Years of Stained Glass*](#)
 Author: Cloe Joël Aigner
 Publisher: ECW Press, 2020
- [*Brian Jungen: Friendship Centre*](#)
 Editor: Kitty Scott, with contributions from Candice Hopkins, Ken Lum, Gerald McMaster, and Yasmin Nurning-Por
 Publisher: Prestel / Art Gallery of Ontario, 2019
- [*Canada and Impressionism: New Horizons*](#)
 Author: Katerina Atanassova, with contributions from Tobi Bruce, Adam Gopnik, Anna Hudson, Laurier Lacroix, Loren Lerner, Tracey Lock, Gerta Moray, Julie Nash, and Sandra Paikowsky
 Publisher: Arnoldsche Art Publishers / National Gallery of Canada, 2019
- [*E.J. Hughes Paints British Columbia*](#)
 Author: Robert Amos
 Publisher: Touchwood Editions, 2019
- [*E.J. Hughes Paints Vancouver Island*](#)
 Author: Robert Amos
 Publisher: Touchwood Editions, 2018
- [*Emily Carr: Fresh Seeing*](#)
 Authors: Kiriko Watanabe, Kathryn Bridge, Robin Laurence, and Michael Polay
 Publisher: Audain Art Museum, 2019
- [*Françoise Sullivan*](#)
 Author: Mark Lanctot with contributions from Vincent Bonin, Chantal Charbonneau, Ray Ellenwood and Noémie Solomon
 Publisher: Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, 2018
- [*A Mirror of Curriculum: Art Libraries and Studio-Based Education: The OCAD University Experience \(1876-2016\)*](#)
 Author: Daniel Payne
 Publisher: self, 2020
- [*Woo, the Monkey who Inspired Emily Carr*](#)
 Author: Grant Hayter-Menzies
 Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre, 2019