

# Mississauga's Poets Laureate

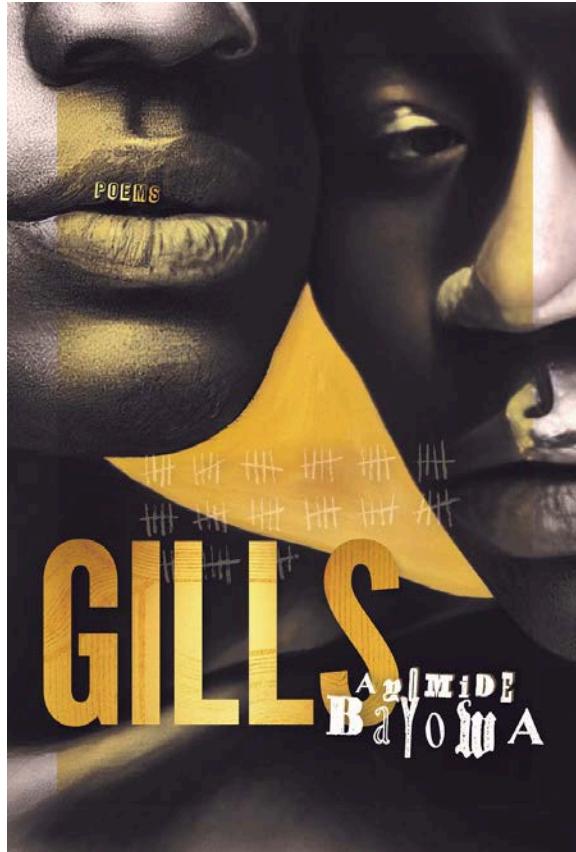


Lisa Shen  
2023 - 2025



Ayomide Bayowa  
2021 - 2024

# Mississauga's 4th Poet Laureate



Ayomide Bayowa - Highlights  
2021 – 2024

# Mississauga's 4<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate



Ayomide Bayowa, 2021 - 2024

# Fallen Walls, Mere Floating Portions

Summer window fractures with an open-ended pestilence:  
of kamikaze flies settling on black blood fresh from carbon cycle;

of that life which matters—traveling back from offering itself  
to the firmament—to relive a placard reason for (re-)incarnation;

of Regis—a Toronto hybrid ladybird somersaulting her balcony;  
deck-neck; causing a degauss effect—homely, like a toddler’s  
innocence

when sharing a carelessly placed piece of magnet with its  
household’s  
intolerant LCD TV screen. Or diasporic, like the arrival of  
immigrants:  
ready to stay, as color-works of upset streams.

# Mississauga's 5<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate



Andrea Josic, 2024 - 2026

# (Almost) Daughter Inherits the Matriarch

I will always be my mother's swelling  
she says my shell is recipe booking  
knees that knock  
wrinkle in left cheek  
lower back carves  
but I am not the "her" she expects me to be  
I am but the swallow of a woman  
my given name is tongued sandpaper  
that undresses the rind out of a drying throat  
and rots the girlhood I denounced at 18

# (Almost) Daughter Inherits the Matriarch

when my mother and I run along the grass  
our limbs are harmonious applause, she says  
“can you see us in grandmother?  
her kiln breaded me and  
sunned your yeast for 34 years”  
grandma remembers me at 13  
a beanstalk child, stretching just like her  
old photographs could prove time travel  
but I hush regret this inherited matriarch  
a lineage that ends, ungendered  
away from the bellies that have homed me

# (Almost) Daughter Inherits the Matriarch

afternoons are the furthest I am from my femme  
sun lending my shadow to the pavement  
a passing silhouette reflects my boyish frame  
not quite of a woman  
not much in-between  
apologetic that bloodline changes with my other  
and on the hottest day  
when mist rises to even the slate  
my mother's shadow asks  
can I even call you mine?

# Mississauga's 5<sup>th</sup> Poet Laureate



Andrea Josic, 2024 - 2026