

Mississauga's Poets Laureate

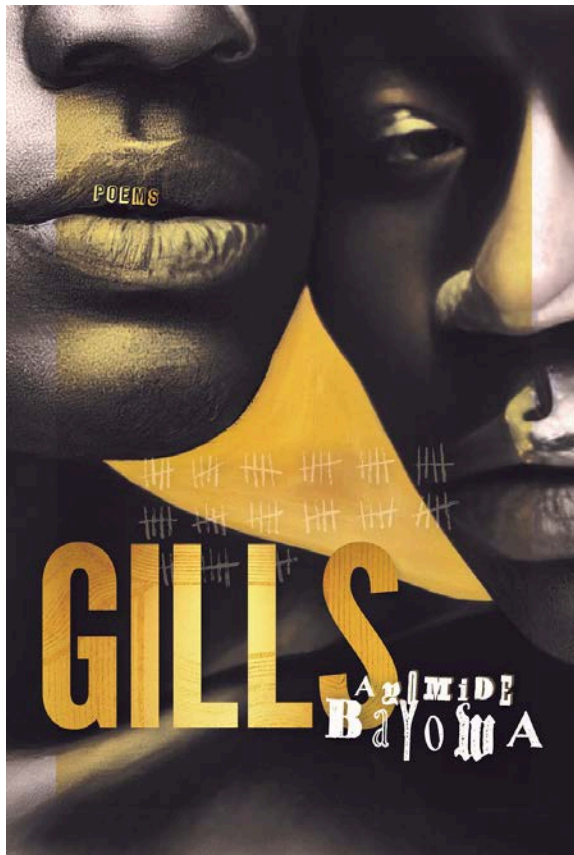


Lisa Shen
2023 – 2025



Ayomide Bayowa
2021 - 2024

Mississauga's 4th Poet Laureate



Ayomide Bayowa - Highlights
2021 – 2024

Mississauga's 4th 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 5th 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 5th Poet Laureate



Andrea Josic, 2024 - 2026