

# Green Humanities: A Journal of Ecological Thought in Literature, Philosophy & the Arts

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Volume 3 *QuebEcology: Voices from Quebec and the Greater North*

Article 3

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## Editors' Note

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## Editors' Note

Our third volume is dedicated to Quebec and the Greater North. This idea came about serendipitously during the 2018 *Festival de la Poésie de Montréal* in which *Green Humanities* was prominently featured in a fascinating round table discussion on “Writing the Land” with prominent indigenous poets such as Jean Sioui, Virginia Pesemapeo Bordeleau, and Louis-Karl Picard-Siouï, as well as the Manitoban poet JR Léveillé, and Virginian poet Renée Olander. This stimulating discussion led to a beautiful encounter in Norfolk and Virginia Beach, Virginia, where Old Dominion University and *Green Humanities* hosted an extension of the round table with a special poetry linking an Acadian poet, Gabriel Robichaud, the Manitoban poet JR Léveillé and two Norfolk poets: Catherine Fletcher and Kelly Morse. Their poetry exchange and encounter have made for a compelling Virginian-Canadian poetry section curated by this volume’s guest poetry editor: Isabelle Courteau, the Artistic and Managing Director of the *Festival de la Poésie de Montréal*, and an extraordinary poet in her own right.

Quebec, with its rich history, natural beauty and traditional championing of environmental issues, from the preservation of native lands to its famous hydro-electric sources, makes for an inspiring subject for eco-critical thought. This volume attempts to share some of the enthusiasm we have experienced delving into this amazing land and culture by highlighting a variety of points of view in our expanded “Field Notes” section. Émilise Lessard-Therrien, one of the youngest deputies ever elected to the Québec National Assembly, writes eloquently about motherhood and the Rouyn-Noranda-Témiscamingue region she represents; author and journalist Mélanie Loisel, who is originally from a very northern town, Fermont, writes tenderly

about how the spruce trees of her youth have been a continuing source of inspiration for her. Fabled author Audrée Wilhelmy describes how she came to knit her own clothes to help the environment in her piece *Clothing Autonomy*, while novelist Esther Laforce speaks insightfully and movingly about her heart-wrenching novel *In the Early Days of the Anthropocene*, and Quebec City-based artist Josée Landry shares her paintings and collages made from materials and objects she finds in the streets or the woods. Our “Field Notes” section ends with astonishing photos by Talor Stone, who travels extensively throughout the Arctic, as a tribute to the “greater north” theme of our volume. While ecological threats are present in all corners of the globe, the accelerated effects of global warming and further encroachment of ever-more disruptive human activity recorded in the Arctic, even amidst its awe-inspiring beauty, makes a reconsideration of our relationship to northern lands that much more urgent. In our scholarly articles section, Canadian and American scholars Joëlle Papillon, Marla Epps and Talor Stone reflect upon the overarching themes of this volume as they explore indigenous rights and histories, as well as the devastating effects of mass tourism in the Arctic.

While it would be difficult to encompass the vastness of Quebecois and Northern environmental works or larger issues inspired by Louis-Edmond Hamelin’s theories of Nordicity in a single volume, we hope you will enjoy these intimate and unique voices as an invitation to venture north within and beyond these pages.

**Peter Schulman**

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Photograph by Perrine Leblanc