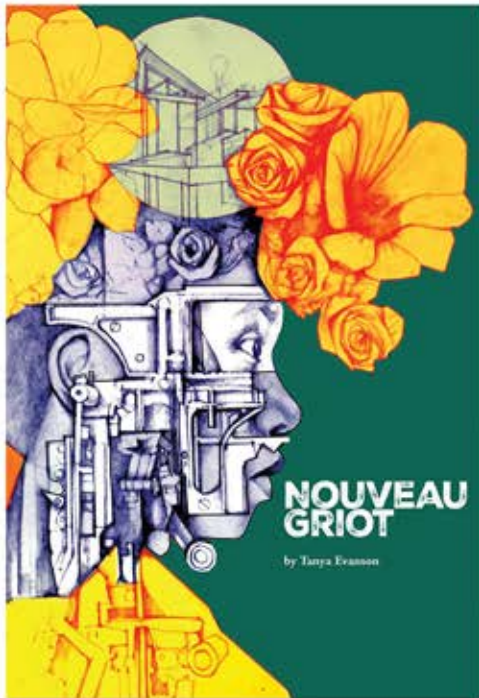


TANYA EVANSON

poet . performer . producer



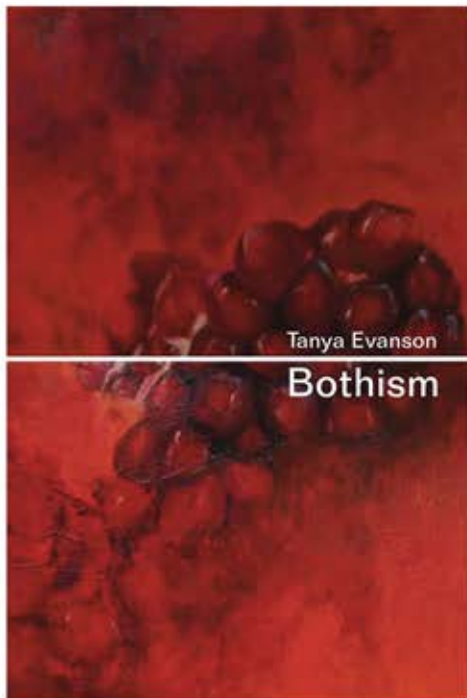
Nouveau Griot

Twenty Years of Spoken Word

Frontenac House 2018 ISBN 9781927823842

75 Pages \$19.95 CAD

frontenachouse.com | amazon.com



Bothism

Experimental Sufi Poetry

Ekstasis Editions 2017 ISBN 9781771712194

52 Pages \$23.95 CAD

ekstasiseditions.com | amazon.com



Tanya Evanson is an Antiguan-Canadian writer and director of the Banff Centre Spoken Word program based in Tiohtià:ke/Montreal. She tours internationally and her poems and fiction have appeared in *Arc Poetry Magazine*, *WSQ Feminist Press*, *ROOM*, *Cordite*, *Womanspeak* and several anthologies. In 2013, she was Poet of Honour at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word and received the Golden Beret Award for her contribution to the genre.

www.mothertonguemedia.com

info@mothertonguemedia.com

FB [tanya.evanson](https://www.facebook.com/tanya.evanson)

TW [semayatavon](https://twitter.com/semayatavon)

INS [radiasilencia](https://www.instagram.com/radiasilencia)

TANYA EVANSON



PERFORMER

Throughout a 20-year career in spoken word, Tanya has performed at festivals in Canada, US, Mexico, Antigua, UK, Ukraine, Turkey, South Africa, Australia and Indonesia; recorded four studio albums and released two videopoems including the recent *Bothism* and award-winning *Almost Forgot my Bones*. In 2013, she was Poet of Honour at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word and received the Golden Beret Award for her contribution to the genre.

POET

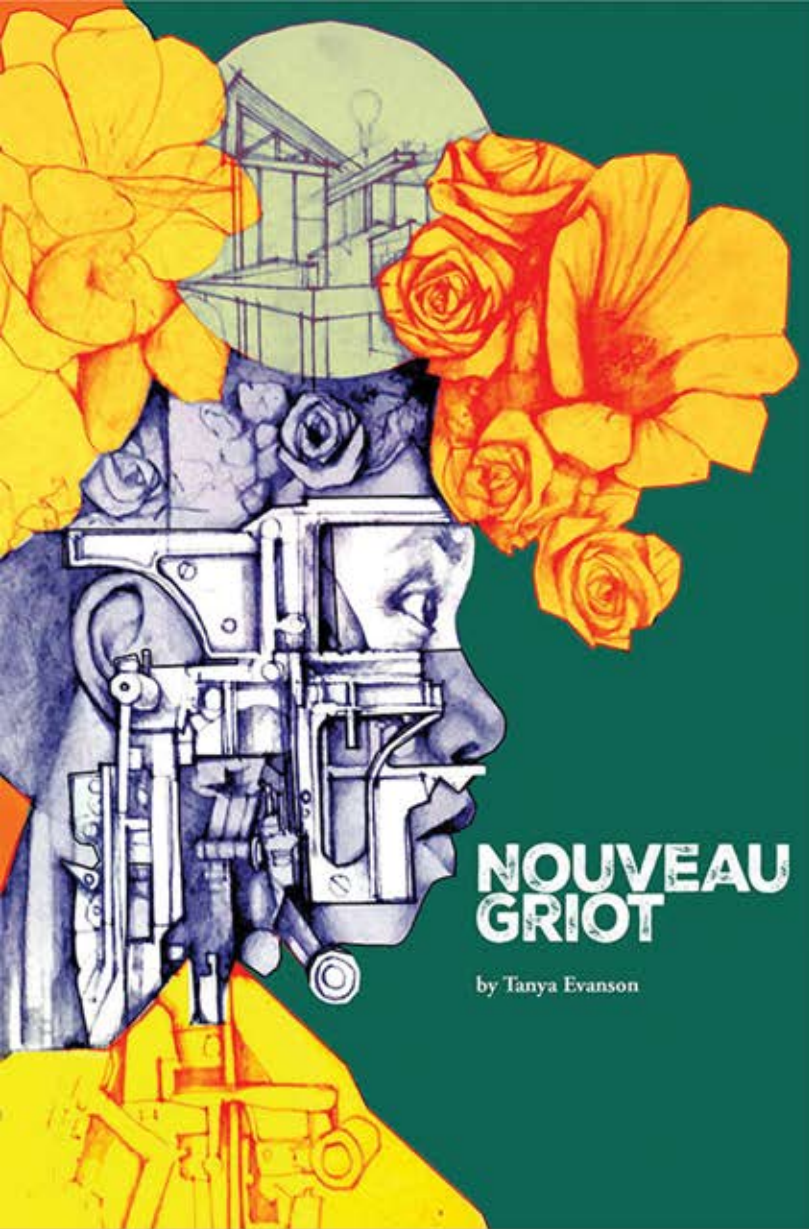
After self-publishing six artist books, *Bothism* (2017 Ekstasis Editions) is her first published poetry collection. Her most recent, *Nouveau Griot* (2018 Frontenac House), gathers the texts from her four studio albums. She has also published recently in *Arc Poetry*, *WSQ-Feminist Press*, *Making Room: Forty Years of Room Magazine* (Caitlin Press) and *Resist Much/Obey Little* (Dispatches Editions). With fiction forthcoming in *Changing Face of Can Lit* (2020 Guernica Editions), she is at work on a novella and moonlights as a whirling dervish.

PRODUCER

Director of The Banff Centre Spoken Word Program since 2012, this intensive biennial residency in the Canadian Rockies gathers world-class faculty and international artists in a deep exploration of literature in performance.

ARTS EDUCATOR

With a Bachelors degree in Creative Writing and English Literature from Concordia University and a background teaching English as a Second Language, Evanson has been facilitating innovative literary arts workshops for youth, at-risk youth, black/indigenous/people of colour, and emerging/mid-career/established writers across Canada and abroad since 2005. She is interested in the return of literature to its oral, poetic, mystic and rhythmic roots.



Nouveau Griot is the result of 20 years on stage and in studio. It is the text from four spoken word audio recordings made between 2004-2016: *Invisible World*, *The Memorists*, *Language for Gods* and *ZENSHIP*. This work is in the continuum of the griot, which is a french African word meaning “poet, singer and traveling musician to whom supernatural powers are often attributed.”

Nouveau Griot

Tanya Evanson

Twenty Years of Spoken Word

Frontenac House 2018 ISBN 9781927823842

75 Pages \$19.95 CAD

frontenachouse.com | amazon.com

Tanya Evanson's work is profoundly stunning and shimmering. Her spoken word evokes the hag, the maiden, and sage woman simultaneously... She was at once a mighty whirlwind, a cascading waterfall spilling liquid, luminous words. Evanson's poetry leads the listener and watcher into the beauty of God's heart.

- Naa Afua Dadasen Cooper, Ph.D.

Tanya Evanson is given to high-stakes, high-energy, verbal performance--what some folks describe as Spoken Word--Poetry that didn't die when the Great White Dude (Now Dead) Modernists said it did. In *Nouveau Griot*, Evanson compiles a career's worth of searing verse and sensual observation. Canadian poetry has never really had a "Beat"--or beatific moment. BUT--that moment has arrived in Evanson's poems--a bit of Amiri Baraka cut with a little Rumi.

- George Elliott Clarke

7th Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2016-17)

B
A
C
K
C
O
V
E
R

R
E
V
I
E
W
S

The poems in *Nouveau Griot*...transmit, even in print, the energy of live performance. These are rambunctious, quick-witted, sonorous poems that slide up and down emotional scales with distinctive rhythm and cadence as they probe themes of travel and place, language and identity, relationships and the poet-singer's own dual Antiguan-Canadian affiliations.

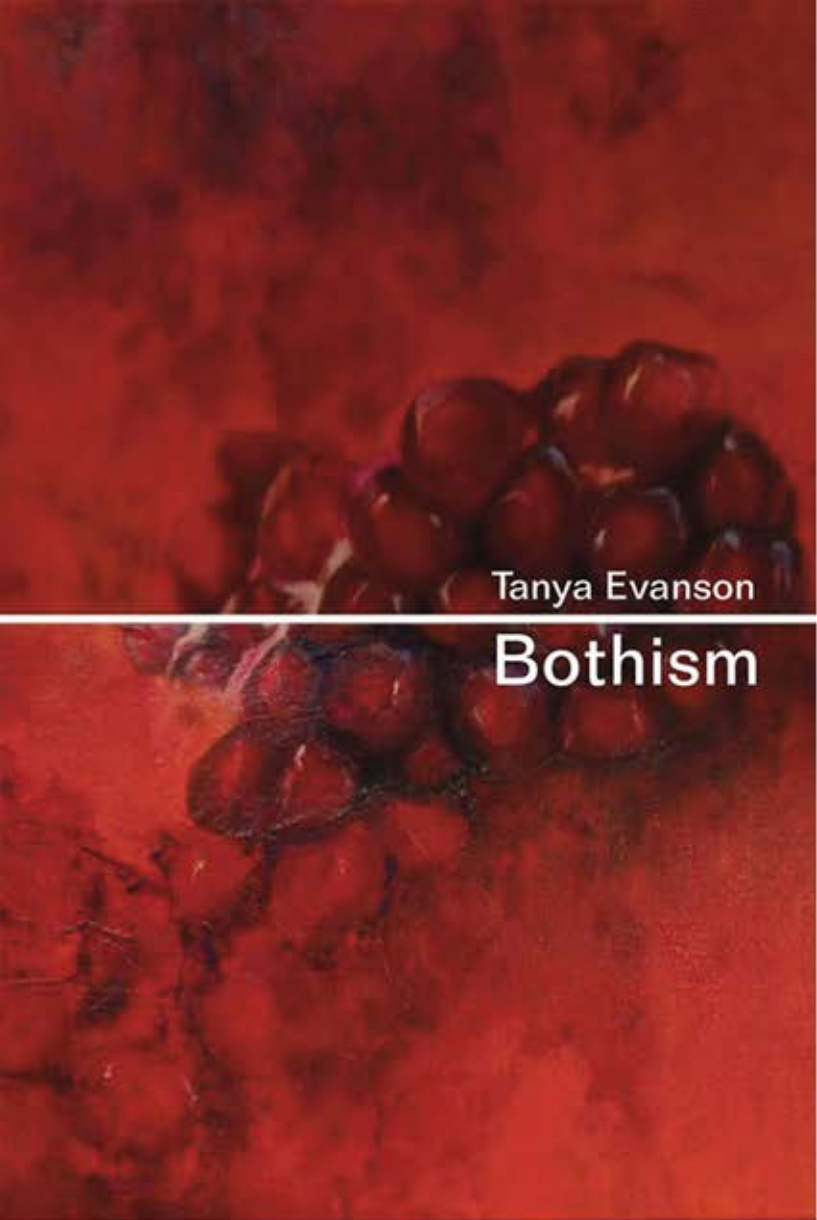
- Christine Wiesenthal

Alberta Views, Canada January 2019

Nouveau Griot, the second collection from Antiguan-Canadian multidisciplinary artist Tanya Evanson, is a retrospective on twenty years of art that takes you full circle through the career of an exhilarating and underrated fixture in the Canadian poetry scene. Tanya Evanson's work takes a bird's-eye approach to humanity and spirituality, with a friendly but existential questioning of the folly of Western life. She establishes herself as a contemporary griot – a West African traditional leader whose roles often include poet, singer, and historian. What she achieves through this position of authority is an omniscient wisdom; Evanson knows something that we don't, but she's willing to show us the way.

- Marcela Huerta

Montreal Review of Books Spring 2019



Tanya Evanson

Bothism

Bothism is an experimental Sufi text. It is both sorrow and joy, day and night, content and form, dot and circle, the threshold between worlds. It moves from unity to multiplicity and back again exploring that which can be split and reunited: a cell, a relationship, society, faith, time, words on the page. It posits that if one thing is true, then the opposite must also true, and when asked to choose, the poet's answer is always both.

Bothism

Tanya Evanson

Experimental Sufi Poetry

Ekstasis Editions 2017 ISBN 9781771712194

52 Pages \$23.95 CAD

ekstasiseditions.com | amazon.com

Bothism both contains and liberates a play of opposites. It applies various techniques to its cause: constraint-based short fiction, concrete poems in which language experiences the Big Bang, undergoes mitosis, or undertakes a lettrist occupation of the moon. It overflows with ecstatic lyric verse as it beautifully depletes its conceit. In Bothism, all things miraculously reveal that they contain their opposites: Revulsion cedes to attraction, contradiction celebrates confirmation, and bondage embraces freedom.

- Kaie Kellough

Bothism by Tanya Evanson is a collection of poems and it is a long koan. It is the butterfly and the bee, the float and the sting, and a re-arrangement of the terms of our binaries. As she so brilliantly puts it, this 'road leads the way to itself.' Open this book and your road of reading will lead you to the ineffable voice of Tanya Evanson.

- Wayde Compton

B
A
C
K
C
O
V
E
R

R
E
V
I
E
W
S

While Bothism is focused on the presentation of contradiction – “the truth and its opposite” – there is no sense of distance between them. Rather than posing contradictions as a way of showing difference, she is posing them as a way of showing harmony, as with “the reverence of abandonment.” Instead of two points on a line, Evanson shows us two points on a circle, and spins us until they come together.

- Marcela Huerta

Montreal Review of Books Spring 2018

Evanson presents us with a burning exploration of time and nature through experimentation. ... Evanson never lets her experimentations exorcise the beauty she has seen in the world from her work. In fact, it seems like that is the answer to her queries. ... The comfort of uniformity is replaced with the chaos of multiplicity. Yet, this is only a problem if we fight it. If we should choose to accept this as the state of all things and find in it the beauty, we can rise up. Bothism is a celebration of the principle that is not only becoming increasingly ubiquitous in 2018, but which may be the key to our survival as a species on this planet.

- Paul Falardeau || Pacific Rim Review of Books Issue Twenty-Four Vol. 13, No.1 Jan 2019

TANYA EVANSON

audio recordings

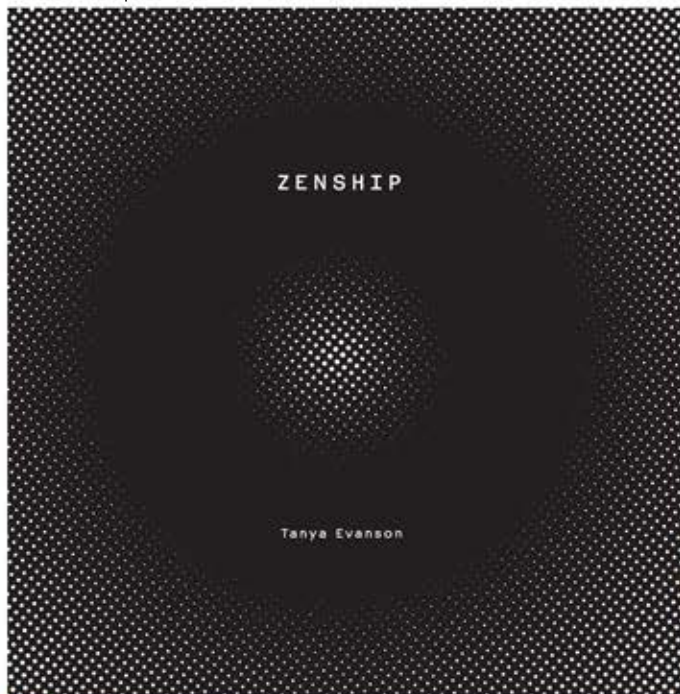
Bandcamp iTunes CDBaby

ZENSHIP

“experimental and deeply spiritual”

MotherTongue Media 2016

10 tracks \$12 CAD

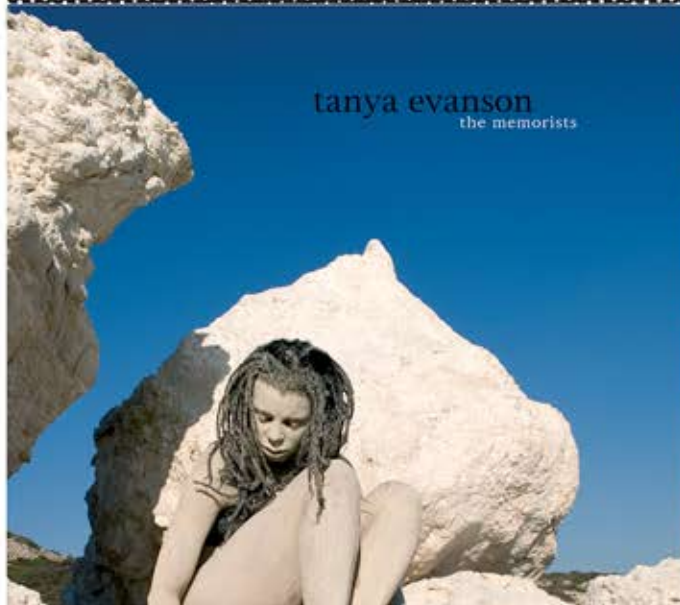


LANGUAGE FOR GODS

“spoken word and dub, listen and learn”

MotherTongue Media 2012

16 tracks \$12 CAD



THE MEMORISTS

“powerful voice and taut storytelling”

MotherTongue Media 2008

15 tracks \$12 CAD



INVISIBLE WORLD

“spoken world”

MotherTongue Media 2004

16 tracks \$12 CAD