

## BRUCE RICE



Bruce Rice is the previous Saskatchewan Poet Laureate, an essayist, and editor living in Regina, Saskatchewan, on Treaty 4 Territory and the Métis homeland. He grew up in Prince Albert and returned to the province after ten years in the Maritimes. Bruce holds a B.A. from Saint Thomas and a MSW degree from Dalhousie University. Bruce writes about community, reclaiming the voices of those who live on the margins, and how we are transformed by landscape even as we leave our footprints on it. He has a children's book and six books of poetry. His awards include two Saskatchewan Book Awards, and a Saskatchewan Book of the Year nomination. Bruce has collaborated with artists on performances incorporating dance, music and film. Rice's first book, *Daniel*, won the

Canadian Author's Association Award. Judges said it, "portrays life's hardships with an elegance of language which is stunning." His work ranges from social document and critique, to meditations on art, landscape and wilderness. He says, "I became a better poet when I surrendered to beauty."

### **Books**

- *Standstill: A Hopewell Earthworks Daybook and Other Essays*. Long Road Press, 2024.
- *The Vivian Poems: Street Photographer Vivian Maier*. Radiant Press, 2020.
- *The Trouble With Beauty*, Coteau Books 2014.
- *Dorothy McMoogles With Kumquat and Bugle*, with artist Wendy Winter, Wild Sage Press 2014.
- *Life in the Canopy*, Hagios (now Radiant Press), 2009.
- *The Illustrated Statue of Liberty*, Coteau Books, 2003.
- *Descent into Lima* Coteau Books, 1996.
- *Daniel*, Cormorant Books, 1988.

### **Awards**

- CBC Poetry Prize Longlist, 2022, 2018 and 2008.
- Saskatchewan Book Award for Poetry shortlist, 2021 (*The Vivian Poems*).
- *The Malahat Review* Long Poem Prize shortlist, 2017.
- League of Canadian Poets' Colleen Thibaudeau Award, 2106. Volunteer award for founding the Canada-wide Mayor's Poetry City Challenge.
- Saskatchewan Book Award for Poetry, 2015 (*The Trouble With Beauty*).
- *Briarpatch Magazine*, Writing in the Margins Creative Nonfiction Award, Best Regina Entry, 2014.
- *The Malahat Review* P. K. Page Founders' Award for best poem appearing in *Malahat* in 2013.
- Saskatchewan Book of the Year nomination, 2009, (*Life in the Canopy*).
- John V. Hicks Manuscript Award, 2008, 2011 (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place).
- City of Regina Award, Saskatchewan Book Awards, 2003 (*The Illustrated Statue of Liberty*).
- *Grain Magazine* Anne Szumigalski Award, for best poem in *Grain* in 2002.
- Saskatchewan Writers Guild Literary Award (twice).
- Canadian Author's Association Award for Poetry, 1989 (for *Daniel*).

### **Magazines, Broadcasts**

- *The Antigonish Review*, *Ard Poetry Magazine*, *Briarpatch*, *Canadian Author and Bookman*, *CV2*, *CBC Radio*, *Dalhousie Review*, *The Dance Current*, *Ekphrastic Review*, *Event*, *Fiddlehead*, *Freelance*, *Grain* (8 issues), *The Malahat Review*, *Prairie Fire*, *Transition*, and *Unbroken*.

### ***Anthologies***

- *Resistance*. University of Regina Press, 2021.
- *Heartwood: Poems for the Love of Trees*, League of Canadian Poets, 2018.
- *Refugium: Poems for the Pacific*, Caitlin Press, 2017.
- *Best Canadian Poetry in English 2014*, Tighrope Books.
- *The JLG (Jean Louis Godard) Project*, Regina, 2014.
- *Regina's Secret Spaces: Love and Lore of Local Geography*, Canadian Plains Research Centre, 2006.
- *Reading the River: A Traveller's Companion to the North Saskatchewan River*, Coteau, 2005.
- *Facing the Lion*, Beacon Press, 1996 (essay).
- *Beyond Borders*, New Rivers/Turnstone Press, 1992.
- *100% and 200% Cracked Wheat*, Coteau Books (humour), 1989 and 1992
- *Open Windows*, Quarry Press, 1988.
- *Heading Out: The New Saskatchewan Poets*, Coteau 1986.

### ***Performance and Video***

- Poem sequence, 1968. On SWG's [The Poet and the Poem Saskatchewan](#). 17-minute video poem in response to George Floyd death and current calls for an end to anti-Black racism and systemic discrimination.
- The Poet and the Poem Saskatchewan. Poet Laureate interviews with interviews with Saskatchewan poets. SWG YouTube Channel.
- [Dead Méris at Batoche](#). YouTube poem, audio poem with image by Joe Fafard, 2019.
- *spring is a stony partner* - multidisciplinary performance with Bruce Rice (poetry), Robin Poitras and Johanna Bundon (dance), Peter Dickof (guitar), and Richard Deiner (film), presented at the Cathedral Village Arts Festival, 2013. The work was also produced as a film with Bruce Rice, Shayna Stock (voice), Peter Dickof and Richard Deiner.
- *Cathedral Chronicles*, with The Poets Combine and photography by Gordon Hunter. *Chronicles* was written for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Regina's Cathedral Village Arts Festival. Presented in 2011 reprised in 2012 by popular demand.
- *Tabloid Love*, with The Poets Combine,
- Globe Theatre's "On the Line" series. Dramatized excerpts from *The Illustrated Statue of Liberty*.
- *The Home Show*, with the Correction Line.

### ***Editing***

- Poetry and nonfiction: Coteau Books, Hagios Press (imprint of Radiant Press), Wild Sage Press.
- Saskatchewan Writers' Guild manuscript service.
- Private editing of poetry and nonfiction manuscripts.
- Several issues of SWG's *Windsript*, a magazine of writing and art by Saskatchewan youth.

### ***Teaching***

- Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Mentorship Program, 2023.
- School and writers' group workshops as Saskatchewan Poet Laureate, 2019-2021.
- Sage Hill Writing Experience, Regina Teen Program, 2014, 2015.
- Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Poetry Course, 2015.
- Other half-day and full-day workshops.

### ***Literary Juries***

- Janice Colbert Award (U of T)
- Canadian Authors Association Awards, (poetry category)
- Saskatchewan Arts Board
- Saskatchewan Writers Guild Mentorship Program
- Sage Hill Writing Experience.

## ***Memberships***

- *League of Canadian Poets.*
- *The Writers' Union of Canada.*
- *Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.*
- *Saskatchewan Filmpool.*

## ***Volunteer***

- National Council, The Writers Union of Canada, 2018-2021.
- National Council, League of Canadian Poets, 2012-14.
- President and Vice-President, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild.
- Cathedral Village Arts Festival Literary Committee.
- Saskatchewan Partnership for Arts Research, Advisory Committee.
- President, Sage Hill Writing Experience.

## **What the Critics Say**

“This is Rice on pilgrimage... *Standstill* is a collection one experiences and this exemplary writer's finest book to date.”

- *SaskBooks forthcoming (Standstill: A Hopewell Earthworks Daybook and Other Essays).*

“...beautiful work, deep and full of consolation”

- *Barry Dempster (The Vivian Poems: Street Photographer Vivian Maier)*

“There's a sweep and beauty to Bruce Rice's work...there's something haunting that feels like years in the making. He is a master of light: it's as if every poem is a new way of seeing.”

- *Judges, 2015 Saskatchewan Book Award for Poetry (The Trouble With Beauty)*

“Rice is a master.”

- *Judges, Saskatchewan Book of the Year (Life in the Canopy - shortlisted)*

“Rice is a poet of potent and unexpected thought, who inhabits the level of consciousness beneath the surfaces of things.”

- *Prairie Fire (The Illustrated Statue of Liberty)*

“Rice portrays life's hardships with an elegance and simplicity of language which is stunning.”

- *Judges, Canadian Authors Association Award Poetry (Daniel)*