

# IN THIS ISSUE

Three stories for Valentine's Day by Kyle McKinnon, Anna Foschi and Darlene Madott

Franco Ricci recalls the history of Ottawa's St Anthony's Church

Maria Giura discusses her memoir, *Celibate*, with Maria Pia Spadafora

Rosanna Micelotta Battigelli reviews David Bellusci's poetry collection

Silvia Falsaperla describes a changing Sicily

Felicia Zuniga contemplates talent

Glenn Carley contemplates death

Robert Norton's *Artiste* is the featured photo



Photo ©Darlene Madott. Heart by Voona Design, @voona.wool

## Features

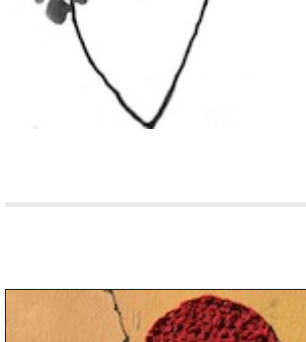


### ESSAY

#### Love Comes Around

by Kyle McKinnon

Some people hate Valentine's Day. They see it coming and they hiss and boo and say that it's stupid. Even under threat of the dog house, they say it's a made-up Hallmark holiday driven by sales, not to be taken seriously. I used to be such a person, but given the way the pandemic has neutered nearly every ceremony and campaign, I am less inclined to act insulted. [More...](#)

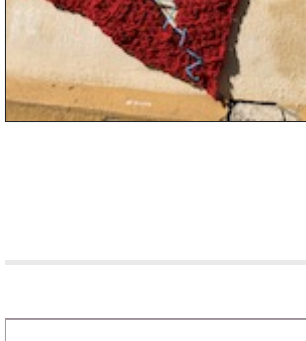


### FICTION

#### Keeping Promises

by Anna Foschi

The baby fig tree finally found a home. The scion survived in a flowerpot through the cold and rain of Vancouver's winter, a remarkable feat for a *fico fiorone* from sun-drenched Southern Italy. [More...](#)




### NONFICTION

#### More

by Darlene Madott

Their life in each other's keeping lasted sixty-seven years. Until my father's death, Mom had never been alone a day in her life. Her attempts to learn now, the vocation of widow, the vocation of alone, began at age eighty-seven, and endured another three years. [More...](#)



*Here and Now: An Anthology of Queer Italian-Canadian Writing*

This is the most comprehensive volume yet of queer Italian-Canadian writing, and a milestone in Italian-Canadian studies and Canadian literature. The book includes short stories, poems, memoirs, excerpts of novels, plays and film scripts in English that take readers on a journey that interweaves private and public spaces, eliciting love and anger, laughter and tears.

**Longbridge Books**  
ISBN: 978-1-928065-20-3  
English: 275 pages

**Publication Date: June 2021**  
**Pre-Order Price: \$31.45**

**Click [HERE](#) to pre-order.**




### HERITAGE

#### Faith and Fraternity: Ottawa's Sant'Antonio da Padova Church

by Franco Ricci

The Italian-Canadian community of Ottawa is Roman Catholic by tradition. In the historical development of the community, the Church of St Anthony of Padua helped restore meaning and gave stability to the uprooted lives of the growing immigrant population. The Church not only reinforced religions faith but also ... [More...](#)

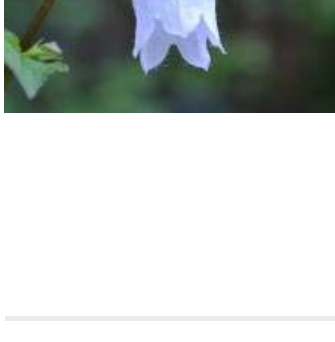
Read Quebec.  
Read a book  
from here.



**[aelaq].org**  
Association des éditeurs de langue anglaise du Québec  
Association of English Language Publishers of Quebec

Discover English-language books written, published, or translated in Quebec. Poetry, fiction, children's books, graphic novels, politics and social history, fresh English translations of Francophone literature—Read Quebec presents a diverse array of literature from here.

## Writings



### CLOSE-UP

#### When It Is Time

by Glenn Carley

Death begins the way it always does, so many times, with a phone call out of the blue. My wife and I were on an errand and our daughter relayed a call to say that a matiarich had died. It happened on the weekend; the visitation was yesterday and the funeral tomorrow, according to our cousin. [More...](#)

## Subscribe to Accenti Online

Support our efforts to provide diverse and engaging cultural content. Subscribe to Accenti for as little as \$5 a month and enjoy unlimited access to all our online content.



### CHANGING SICILY

#### A Crowded Bus on Kennedy Boulevard

by Silvia Falsaperla

La Playa was the beach that Costanza's father frequented as a boy. He had told her stories about spending the long afternoons at the Playa with his mates, the neighbourhood urchins of Via Trovatelli, a poor working-class street in Catania, swimming and carousing in the warm waters of the Ionian. [More...](#)



### POETRY

#### Wasted Talent

by Felicia Zuniga

But what if you stood before Him  
at the close of your moments  
still stuffed with  
unused talents? [More...](#)



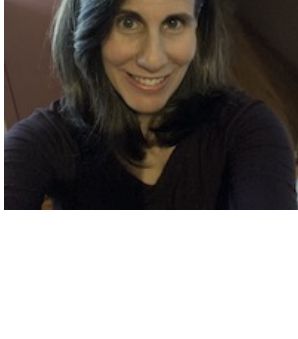
**Creative Spaces**  
Queer and Italian Canadian

Documentary film premiere and panel discussion with Steve Galluccio, Chris Di Raddo, Liana Cusmano and Domenic Beneventi.

Presented by the Frank Iacobucci Centre for Italian Canadian Studies at the University of Toronto and Accenti Magazine. Hosted by Licia Canton, director of the documentary. Moderated by Paolo Frascà.

Wed. March 3, 2021, 3:00 to 5:00 pm. On Zoom  
Click [HERE](#) for more details. Click [HERE](#) to register.

## Art Scene



### INTERVIEW

#### In Conversation with Maria Giura, author of Celibate: A Memoir

by Maria Pia Spadafora

*In Celibate: A Memoir (Apprentice House Press, 2019)*  
Maria Giura recounts the deep crisis and sense of displacement she experienced for many years, and her hard-won journey to inner peace. [More...](#)



### REVIEW

#### Reflections on Timeless Rhythms in David Bellusci's *Age of Innocence*

by Rosanna Battigelli

The existential pondering unique to human beings is explored in this series of poems, as Bellusci takes us on philosophical outings while still connected to earthly realities. [More...](#)



### FEATURED PHOTO

#### Artistes

by Robert Norton

"Artistes" was a finalist in the 2020 Accenti "Capture an Italian Moment" Photo Contest. [More...](#)

## Announcements

### Accenti Contests 2021

**Thanks to everyone** who entered the Accenti Photo, Writing and Poetry Contests, which closed on February 2.

**Look for an announcement of the shortlists in late April, and the winners in May.**



### Tell Us About Your "Covid Experience"

**Attention Writers, Poets, Journalists, Photographers, Illustrators, Cartoonists and All Creative Individuals!**

The Covid-19 pandemic has turned the world upside down. For more than a year now, life as we knew it has been upended. More than two million lives have been lost, the world economy has been battered, and people everywhere have had to contend with alternate ways of working, socializing, learning and receiving services. **Tell us how you or others you know have coped until now.**

Accepted submissions (images and articles) will receive an honorarium of up to \$200. Submission deadline: March 15, 2021. Click [here](#) for submission guidelines.

### Let's Write!

**Is the pandemic slowing you down?** Do you need a little push to move your project along? Connect with fellow writers on Zoom and get your writing done. Socialize during the breaks. Hosted by Licia Canton, Editor-in-Chief of Accenti Magazine.

Free admission. Click [here](#) to know more. Space is limited. This is not a workshop but **a gathering of writers who support and inspire one another.** Emerging writers and students welcome.

### Accenti Mobile App Coming Soon

We are pleased to announce that the Accenti Team is working on the development of an Accenti Mobile App for both Android and Apple platforms. Our stats reveal that more than half Accenti readers read Accenti on a mobile device. So stay tuned for an enhanced Accenti reading experience!

*This project is made possible in part thanks to the financial support of the [Government of Canada](#) through the Canada Periodical Fund.*

## Advertise in Accenti!

Download our Media Kit.