

Biographical Note

Sue Goyette was born in Sherbrooke, Quebec, but is now a long-time Nova Scotian. She published her first collection of poetry, *The True Names of Birds*, in 1998 with Brick Books. She also published her second and third collections—*Undone* (2004) and *Outskirts* (2011)—with Brick Books. The publication of her fourth collection, *Ocean*, in 2013 represented a shift in publishers to Gaspereau Press, based in Nova Scotia. Gaspereau Press published *The Brief Reincarnation of a Girl* in 2015, *Penelope: In First Person* in 2017, *Anthesis: A Memoir* in the spring of 2020, and *Solstice 2020: An Archive* in the spring of 2021. Recently, Sue was named Halifax's Municipal Poet Laureate (2020–23).

Her poetry has won the Pat Lowther Memorial Award, the Atlantic Poetry Prize, the CBC Literary Prize for Poetry, the Earle Birney Prize, the ReLit Award, the Nova Scotia Established Artist Recognition Award, the National Magazine Award (Silver), the Atlantic Independent Booksellers Choice Award, and the Bliss Carman Poetry Award. *The True Names of Birds* (now in its seventh printing) was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award for poetry, and *Ocean* (also in its seventh printing) was shortlisted for the 2014 Griffin Poetry Prize, perhaps Canada's most prestigious prize for poetry. *Ocean* was the recipient of the 2015 Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia Masterworks Arts Award. Sue was guest editor of the 2013 edition of *The Best Canadian Poetry in English*. She was a judge for the 2017 Griffin Poetry Prize and edited *The Griffin Anthology* (House of Anansi Press, 2017). *Ocean* was recently translated by Georgette Leblanc, an Acadian Nova Scotian and Canada's Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2018–19). The French-language translation, *Océan*, was published by Les Éditions Perce-Neige in 2019. *Ocean* has also been translated into Spanish and German.

In addition to her collections of poetry, she has also published a novel, *Lures* (HarperCollins, 2002). Met with critical acclaim, *Lures* was shortlisted for the 2003 Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award,

which is awarded each year for a novel or a book of short fiction written by a full-time resident of Atlantic Canada. Sue has recently edited, and provided an introduction for, *Resistance*, an anthology of poetry about sexual assault and abuse published by University of Regina Press.

Sue has been a mentor to many, both formally and informally. Formally speaking, she has had a significant role in the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia Alistair MacLeod Mentorship Program, working with emerging authors to hone their craft. She has also participated in the MFA Creative Writing Program at University of Guelph and has offered master classes at Concordia University. Informally, she has counselled many, many of Nova Scotia's writers on building a writerly life.

Sue has also served as the Writer-in-Residence at Dalhousie University and the University of Prince Edward Island. She has been teaching students in the Creative Writing Program at Dalhousie University since 2007. She has also been faculty at the Banff Centre for the Arts, the Sage Hill Writing Experience, the Blue Heron Writing Workshop at St. Francis Xavier University, Mount Saint Vincent University, and the NSCAD School of Extended Studies, and has worked for the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia. Sue completed a graduate degree in Women and Gender Studies at Saint Mary's University in 2021.