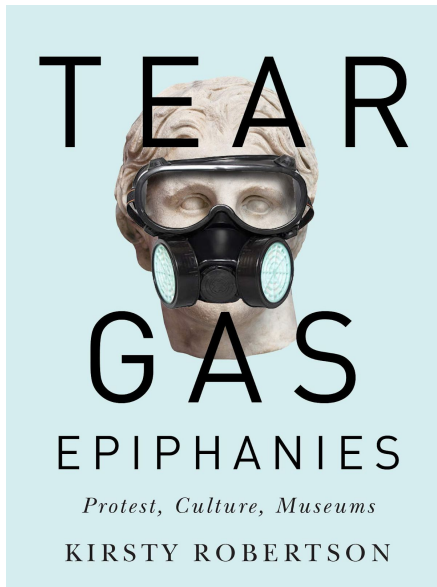


**Kirsty Robertson's *Tear Gas Epiphanies*
Honored with the ARLIS/NA 2020 Melva J. Dwyer Award**



Tear Gas Epiphanies: Protest, Culture, Museums by Kirsty Robertson, an original scholarly examination of the phenomenon of protest within and against Canadian museums, was presented with the 29th annual Melva J. Dwyer Award by the Art Libraries Society of North America's (ARLIS/NA) Canada Chapter. The book was published in 2019 by McGill-Queen's University Press (MQUP).

Tear Gas Epiphanies was selected from among 11 Canadian art and architecture titles nominated for the 2020 award.

Robertson's book addresses a timely topic through comprehensive research and lucid, engaging writing. *Tear Gas Epiphanies* casts Canadian cultural institutions in a new light by examining them as sites

of struggle and negotiation, while seeking to parse out their complex and messy histories in the later 20th and early 21st centuries. The result is an ambitious survey punctuated by meaningful case studies which articulate that political action must be considered as a significant aspect of cultural institutions' histories and cannot be overlooked. Robertson critically examines intersections between, national identity, institutional critique, social responsibility and accountability in museum policy-making, Decolonization, indigenization of museum spaces, political economy, environmental activism in resource extraction economies, and museum funding sources.

The book offers substantial new contributions to the author's previous scholarship on topics in visual culture, art institutions, and activism and is bolstered by an extensive research apparatus. Robertson's thorough archival research is structured by keen observation and documentation of contemporary events, original synthesis, and thought. This is well supported by lengthy notes and bibliography, judicious and meticulously attributed photographic illustrations, and a comprehensive index.

Tear Gas Epiphanies is positioned to become an essential reference work in critical museum and curatorial studies in Canada.

Kirsty Robertson is an Associate Professor of Contemporary Art and Museum Studies at Western University.

Honorable mention was given to *Inside Killjoy's Kastle: Dykey Ghosts, Feminist Monsters, and Other Lesbian Hauntings*, edited by Allyson Mitchell and Cait McKinney and published in 2019 by UBC Press.

The Melva J. Dwyer Award was presented by Suzanne Rackover, Melva J. Dwyer Award Sub-Committee Chair. Jury members of the 2020 ARLIS/NA Melva J. Dwyer Award Sub-Committee were Sara Ellis, Amy Furness, and Viveca Pattison Robichaud.

The Melva J. Dwyer Award was established in recognition of the contribution made to the field of art librarianship by Melva Dwyer, former head of the Fine Arts Library, University of British Columbia. It is given to the creators of exceptional reference or research tools relating to Canadian art and architecture. Dwyer was a champion of the arts and of art librarianship who mentored a generation of ARLIS/NA colleagues.

About Melva J. Dwyer (October 29, 1919 - November 13, 2017)

With a diploma in piano and a master's degree in history, Dwyer joined the University of British Columbia Library after completing her MLIS at the University of Toronto. Dwyer quickly set to work building the first major art library in western Canada, relying on her expertise and helped considerably by a large monetary donation. In 1967, she became the first chair of CARLIS, the Canadian Art Libraries Section of the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services Division. This group later migrated to ARLIS/NA to become the Canadian Chapter. Throughout her career, Dwyer was active in ARLIS and IFLA, and travelled extensively to further develop connections with colleagues and book dealers. She retired from the University of British Columbia in 1984.

About the Art Libraries Society of North America

Founded in 1972, the Art Libraries Society of North America is a dynamic, international organization of more than 1,000 individuals devoted to fostering excellence in art and design librarianship and image management in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The membership includes architecture and art librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers, students, and others interested in visual arts information. To serve this diverse constituency, the Society provides a wide range of programs and services within an organizational structure that encourages participation at all levels.

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