

# The jury.



*Dionne Brand*

Acclaimed poet and novelist Dionne Brand has been appointed as Toronto's third Poet Laureate. She has published nine volumes of poetry, has been short-listed for the Governor General's Award and in 2006 won the Harbourfront Festival Prize.

She is a professor of English at the University of Guelph.

*"I count myself in that tradition of writers who take up the hard questions, writers who are engaged, who want to see a more just world and who think that writing, imagining, is a meaningful way of effecting such an outcome. I count myself lucky to be part of that genealogy of poetry and of writing."*



*Michael Awad*

Michael Awad's abstract urban photographs have been exhibited at the PowerPlant Contemporary Gallery, in the TTC and internationally. Large scale commissioned works hang in the collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, Pearson International Airport, and the Office of the Mayor of Toronto. He holds Masters degrees in Architecture and Urban Design.

*"The technology of communication may change, but the art of storytelling will always be timeless."*



*Royson James*

Royson James is the urban affairs columnist with the Toronto Star. He has commented on and analyzed the physical, social and political development of the city for more than two decades.

*"Storytelling is the artful painting of images with words that link hearts, people, communities, villages, cultures and, if we are lucky, nations."*



*Ruba Nadda*

Ruba Nadda studied English Literature at York University and Film Production at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She has made several award-winning short films, and wrote and directed the features, I Always Come to You (2000), Unsettled (2001), Sabah (2005) and Cairo Time (2009).

*"The secret to art always come from great storytelling. And there are no shortcuts. If you have a great story that you are crazy about, you don't need to hide behind high speed car chases or fancy effects. People love nothing more than a good old fashioned well told story from the heart."*



*Wayne Doyle*

Wayne Doyle is the Senior Manager of Corporate Communications at Canon Canada. In this role, Wayne is responsible for building the company's profile as an excellent corporate citizen. Prior to coming to Canon, Wayne was the Arts and Entertainment Editor at a daily newspaper just north of Toronto.

*"Each and every one of us has a story that is uniquely our own. No one else on the planet has the same story - celebrate your individuality in every story you tell."*

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