

Invisible Cities Network



celebrates
Decade One
1 April 2011

*Showcasing self-publishers,
musicians and artists since 2001*

WWW.InvisibleCitiesNetwork.ORG

TWITTER: <http://www.twitter.com/ChristinaCN>

Retrospective How did ICN begin?

The 'Indie' movement

On April first, 2001, we set up our original writers' group based on the Plateau de Montréal. The intention was to reach out to emerging and actual self-publishers in Montreal.

From there we evolved into a grassroots 'indie' movement, attracting independent artists of all disciplines: writing, publishing, drama, Spoken word, music, sculpture, photography, graphic arts, fine arts, and more.

In the early years, ICN staged Spoken Word, cabaret performances and a Book and Creative Arts conference in 2005.

Hundreds of artists and writers have attended an estimated 65 meetings over the last ten years.

They are a mix of students, professional artists, employed and self-employed people, as well as retirees, who share an interest in—often a passion for—literature, music, art, writing, self-publishing and/or collaborative performing.

There are now 325 or so members and friends on the ICN mailing list.

A decade later, the Invisible Cities Network web site attracts an increasing number of visitors every year.

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**By Artists
For Artists**



**ICN
Conference
2005**

Apart from ICN public performances, our most ambitious event to date by far was the ICN 'Book & Creative Arts Conference' held in Sept 2005.

125 people attended the conference. Among the more well known attendees was Pat Donnelly of the Montreal Gazette who praised the event highly. Also Peter Wintonick, documentary film maker, winner of the 2006 Governor General's award, and Montreal Gazette cartoonist, Terry Mosher, 'Aislin.'



ICN 'Book & Creative Arts Conference,' September 2005

It was a truly extraordinary day, and people were still talking about it months afterwards.



One reason it was so successful (aside from the really engaging speakers, expert panelists, published Book & CD display, live entertainment, coffee on tap and marvellous food) was the fact that so many of us already knew one another through our network.



So many conference attendees who were newcomers were welcomed into our community on that day.

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INTERACTIVE SHOWCASE

ICN also collaborated on the first INTERACTIVE SHOWCASE event held at the Mainline Theatre space in 2006. This independent concept (networking opportunities for business and the arts) was launched ICN co-director, David J Cox.

David's second Interactive Showcase was featured as one of the concluding events of the 2006 Fringe Festival held at Parc des Amériques on blvd. St. Laurent. Then CJAD radio host, Stuart Nulman, attended as guest speaker that day.

The third Interactive Showcase at Café Van Houtte near Berri Metro, in December 2006, raised \$500 for Children's Wish Foundation.



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**Our
Website
&
Twitter**

Invisible Cities Network web site launched in May 2005, offers a showcase to emerging artists and their productions and events. Very popular still are the regular ICN email announcements posted virtually daily. This is how members share and receive news on their upcoming productions and events. The number of visitors to our web site is increasing. Our archives contain almost 1,200 messages of praise and thanks from the ICN membership and friends.

The ICN network is an independent group that receives no outside support or funding of any kind. As a loose network of artists and writers, our aim is to support our members and create a public showcase for ourselves and our work.

Founders:

**Christina Manolescu
Cristina Perissinotto.**

Directors:

**David J. Cox
Nancy Grant**

**An
Invitation**

**JOIN
INVISIBLE CITIES NETWORK**

Email: christina@princechameleon.com

Self-publishing Workshops

We share expertise and offer training and support in Self-publishing. This was one of our early mandates and continues to be at the heart of what we are trying to achieve. With that in mind, we offer a day-long workshop-seminar along with a course-book in Self-Publishing. Details are posted on the ICN web site. For more details, visit:

<http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-index.php?page=support+and+training>

Collaboration

QWF
ELAN
CAA
CWS
MEDIAVILLE
MECCA

Whenever possible, we collaborate with other groups: **ELAN** (English Language Arts Network), as well as the organiser of the **Yellow Door** Poetry Readings (Ilona Martonfi), **Canadian Authors' Association** (Ken Kalman), **Canadian Writers' Society** (Rosalie Avigdor), **Crime Writers of Canada** (Nancy Grant), **QWF** (Lori Schubert), **MECCA**, (Estelle Rosen), and **Mediaville**. Almost all of these groups were represented at the ICN Conference Fair in 2005.

Theatre Reviews

Independently and, later on, as a member of **MECCA**, Invisible Cities Network posted, on the ICN web site, more than 60 reviews of Montreal theatre performances. These reviews, which showcase local actors and theatre companies, continue to be available online.

**Making the
Invisible
visible**

Why the name Invisible Cities?

As a fledgling group with an experimental mandate, we began under the veil of invisibility.

Our original co-founder, Cristina Perissinotto, now a professor of Italian language and literature at the University of Ottawa, was the first to coin our name and identity: **Invisible Cities**, inspired by the book of the same name by Italian author, Italo Calvino, in which he describes a series of imaginary cities, symbolic of deeper realities or states of mind.

We interpret the term somewhat differently. To us, 'Invisible Cities' expresses the notion of artists of all disciplines toiling in obscurity, often in isolation, who nonetheless exist and are real. A decade later, we are certainly more visible than before. Our intention—and this, too, is a work in progress—is to become more visible, individually and collectively, with the passage of time.

JOIN

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Some Author-Publishers near you

Some Author-Publishers near you

1. Acclaimed, award-winning novelist and poet, **Ann Diamond**, has published a novel through lulu.com entitled, My Cold War.
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=131
2. **Jeannette Moscovitch** has published a novel, 'The Expatriate,' from Culturama Press.
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=549&highlight=moscovi
3. **Rosa Bergola** has published a volume of poems, 'Awakening to the Peace within,' from Feather Press. http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=522&highlight=bergo
4. **Author, Pulse** (pseudonym) has published the non-fiction book: The Tree of Life. Translated by Christina Manolescu from the original French version: L'Arbre de Vie.
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=452&highlight=pulse
5. **Irene Even**, of Yardena Publications, has received enthusiastic critical reviews for her memoir, A Life of the Twentieth Century.
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=15

6. Bilingual author, **Pierre Lasry**, of Midbar Publications, won the prestigious J.I Segal award for his self-published novel, Une Juive en Nouvelle France. He also penned the English version of this book entitled, Esther, A Jewish Odyssey. http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=41&highlight=lasry

7. **Christina Manolescu**, of Prince Chameleon Press, has published a novel entitled, Baglady, illustrated by **Mary Fitzpatrick**. The novel 'Baglady' was previously a selection of the Roxboro Library Reading Club. <http://www.princechameleon.com>

8. **A.D. Morvaye** (pseudonym) has published a novel, 'Waldensong Saturnalia' from Prince Chameleon Press. <http://www.princechameleon.com>

9. **NAT Grant**, who published with Llumina Press, attained success with her first two Montreal-based espionage novels in the Race Series. http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=13

10. **David J. Cox** has published his first illustrated volume of poetry, Love Pulp, from Words Written Write. <http://www.wordswrittenwrite.com>

11. **Leila Peltosaari** of Tikka Books has published a non-fiction book, Dancing with Fear, Tips and Wisdom from Breast Cancer Survivors. More details at <http://www.tikkabooks.com>

12. **Wang-Ching Liu** has published a book and CD for learning Chinese, with her imprint: NAN-PAT-VIC PUBLISHING. <http://www.nan-pat-vic-publishing.com>

13. **Len Richman** has published a memoir, *Raindrops, Glimpses Moments* with Llumina Press. www.llumina.com; http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=366

14. **Alex MacLeod**, who published with Trafford, presents a very unusual and fascinating book entitled, 'The Splendor of the Goddess.' It has garnered praise from people such as Jeanette Paul of WARM (Writer's Association of Resourceful Minds), and Harvey Shepherd of the Montreal Gazette. http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=60

15. **Angela Leuck** brought out her latest volume of Haiku poetry, *Flower Heart*, published collaboratively with Gingko Press.

16. Sculptor and Publisher, **Bozena Happach**, of INHOUSEBOOKS, recently launched a new book by **Stan I.S. Law**, entitled: *One Just Man*. Stan I.S. Law's short story *Around the World* was short-listed for 2005 CBC Literary Award. See: <http://inhousepress.netfirms.com>

- 17. Don Bapst**, formerly from Montreal, has published the novel danger@liaisons.com.
<http://donbapst.com/danger%40liaisons.com.html>
www.Lulu.com;
- 18. Catherine Kierans**, of Kerrycroft Editions, has published a book of her research on dogs and their owners entitled: **Unconditional Love**. Her book launch at Nicholas Hoare Bookshop on Greene Avenue attracted a sell-out crowd:
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=35
- 19. D. B. Crawford's** novel, Hideaway, is published with Book America.
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=67
- 20. Trina Wilko**, Faculty Supervisor in Early Childhood Education at Concordia University, Montreal, as a consequence of the ICN 2006 Conference, got inspired and brought out her first book, 'The Lively Lines of Linus,' a learning activity book for children. Trina published with Trafford. http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=111
- 21. Shaun Fawcett**, M.B.A. publishes a series of online and print writing guides from Final Draft Publishing: <http://writinghelptools.com>
- 22. Ronald Price**, U.K. has published a series of sports history pamphlets from 3-2 Books. The company recently ceased publishing activities.

- 23. Barbara Sala**, illustrator and fine artist who publishes with Trafford, introduces both French and English versions of her illustrated children's story, *Celestine and the Magic Geranium*.
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=38&highlight=sala
- 24. Michel Semienchuk** took the ICN self-publishing seminar and published his first novel under the imprint, Sweet Baby Jenkins Press.
http://www.invisiblecitiesnetwork.org/tiki-read_article.php?articleId=45&highlight=michel
- 25. Ruth Badanes Reiner** published a warm-hearted funny book about modern families and divorce called *Divorce: Dips, Dives and Daffodils*.
- 26. Whilma Kinsey**, of Sienna Publications and Design, took ICN's Self-publishing workshop and went on to self-publish her book, *Flying on the Ground*.
- 27. Cynthia Morris**, artist and teacher, attended one ICN meeting when she was just starting out; consequently she produced and published an illustrated memorial booklet for a deceased teaching colleague. The book is now being used as a reader by adult ESL students at her school.