

Beverley Brenna – CV (abbreviated)
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
<http://www.beverleybrenna.com>

Beverley Brenna is a full-time freelance writer, editor, and visual artist. She is the author of 19 books for young people and 2 scholarly titles, all with traditional publishers. Her work has earned a Printz Honor, a Dolly Gray Award, and a Stuchner Award for humour. It has also been shortlisted for a Governor General's Literary Award and listed on CBC's Young Adult Books That Make You Proud To Be Canadian.

Bev's editorial work with various traditional publishing houses in Canada has resulted in 37+ published projects that include picture books, early readers, early chapter books, middle-grade novels, young adult novels, and children's non-fiction.

Bev has had solo exhibitions of her watercolour and acrylic landscape paintings in public galleries across Saskatchewan, and numerous group shows presented commercially in Saskatoon, with a number of exhibitions forthcoming.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., 2010, University of Alberta, Language and Literacy
 B.Ed ; M.Ed.; B.A. with Great Distinction (English) University of Saskatchewan
 Special Education Teacher Certification, University of Saskatchewan
 Community Arts & Artisan Certificate (2026), University of Saskatchewan

WORK EXPERIENCE

Children's Editor, Red Deer Press (2021 – 2025)
 Other Freelance Editing: ThistleDown Press (2022 – present)
 Writer in Residence, Saskatchewan Writers' Guild (Rural) (winter term, 2024)
 Professor, University of Saskatchewan (2010 - 2022) *Emerita status, 2022
 Classroom and Special Education Teacher, Saskatchewan
 Special Education Consultant, Saskatoon Public Schools

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH *3 titles with content about art and artists

A Chocolate Love Letter (picture book), DC Education Canada, 2027
What If There Are Alligators? (middle-grade novel for ages 7 – 10), Pajama Press, 2026
 **Sadi's Dragons* (middle-grade novel for ages 8 – 12), ThistleDown Press, 2026
Francine Garcia and the Recipe for Joy (middle-grade novel for ages 8 – 12), Yellow Dog Press/Great Plains Press, 2026
I'm Here: YA Stories of Identity (edited anthology; multiple genres; 19 stories by writers from across Canada writing for teens), Red Deer Press, 2026
 **The Girl with the Cat* (picture book for ages 5 - 9), Red Deer Press, 2020;
 winner of the 2022 G. Murray & Edna Forbes Foundation Children's Literature

Award, Saskatchewan Book Awards

Because of that Crow (middle-grade novel for ages 8 – 12), Red Deer Press, 2020

Sapphire the Great and the Meaning of Life (middle-grade novel for ages 8 – 12), Pajama Press, February, 2019; winner of the **Betty Joan Stuchner Oy Vey! Funniest Book Award**, 2021

Fox Magic (young adult/middle grade novel, magic realism), Red Deer Press, 2017; Recommended Title from The Canadian Children's Book News

The Bug House Family Restaurant (poetry for ages 5 - 12), Tradewind Books, 2013

The White Bicycle* (young adult realistic fiction novel), Red Deer Press, 2012; winner of a **Printz Honor Book Award and **shortlisted for the 2013 Governor General's Literary Award**

Falling for Henry (historical YA/MG fantasy novel), Red Deer Press, 2011

Waiting for No One (*Wild Orchid* sequel), Red Deer Press, 2010; **shortlisted for the Canadian Library Association Young Adult Book of the Year Award**; a 2012 "Woozles' Battle of the Books" Teen List Title; winner of the **2012 Dolly Gray Award**

Something To Hang On To (young adult one-act play & short stories), Thistledown Press, 2009; starred selection and listed as a "title of exceptional caliber" by the Canadian Children's Book Centre; shortlisted for a Saskatchewan Book Award

The Moon Children (middle-grade realistic fiction novel), Red Deer Press, 2007; shortlisted for a SK Book Award; long-listed for the Children's Book of the Year, CLA; Silver Birch shortlist; starred selection from the Canadian Children's Book Centre

Wild Orchid (young adult realistic fiction novel) Red Deer Press, 2005; **CBC's List of 100 Young Adult Books That Make You Proud To Be Canadian**; shortlisted for the Canadian Library Assoc. Young Adult Book Award and the Manitoba Readers' Choice Award; starred selection from the Canadian Children's Book Centre; shortlisted for a Saskatchewan Willow Award and the Ontario Library Association's White Pine Award; listed on the New York Public Library's Recommended Books for the Teen Age, 2007

The Keeper of the Trees (middle-grade fantasy novel) Ronsdale Press, 1999; shortlisted for a Saskatchewan Book Award

Spider Summer (junior realistic fiction novel), ITP Nelson, 1998 (out of print)

**available as a free pdf from www.beverleybrenna.com

Daddy Longlegs at Birch Lane (Smithsonian picture book, Soundprints Press), 1997 (out of print) **available as a free pdf from www.beverleybrenna.com

SCHOLARLY BOOKS

Brenna, B., Dionne, R., & Tavares, T. (2022). *Contemporary Canadian Picture Books: A Critical Review*. The Netherlands: Brill Publishing, 226 pp.

Brenna, B. (2015). *Stories for Every Classroom: Canadian Fiction Portraying Characters with Disabilities*. Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars' Press, 225 pp.

POETRY

Bev's poetry has been published in anthologies and magazines including: *The Auteur*, *Contemporary Verse II*, *Dandelion*, *Grain*, *Harvest*, *The Prairie Journal*, *Transition*, *Trout*, *Western People*, and *Zygote*, with individual poems in collections by Coteau Books, Redwood Coast Press, and Cranberry Tree Press. She has had three 20 minute collections of poetry, as well as selections of short fiction, produced by CBC Radio, locally and nationally.

Most recently her poems have appeared in *Apart* (Radiant Press); *Resistance* (University of Regina Press); and *Life of Pie* (Rolling Pins Press), and her poem "Travels with my Mother" appeared as part of a juried exhibit at Government House, Regina, SK in spring, 2025. A selection of Bev's haiku appears in *Heartbeat and Thunder: A Saskatchewan Haiku Anthology* (2025) published by Haiku Canada.

PLAYS

Performance of original Dramatic Monologue "Wild Orchid", Cabaret of Monologues, Sarasvati Productions, Winnipeg, Manitoba, March, 2017 (Hope McIntyre, Artistic Director)

Musical Play "Eggsperiments", *Mask & Melody Magazine*, 1988

SHORT FICTION

2005 Adult short story "Foil Butterflies" broadcast by CBC Radio (*Between the Covers; Gallery*)

2003 Adult short story "Queen of Hearts" produced by CBC's *Gallery*

2001 Y.A. short story "Old Wives' Lake" in *Beginnings* (Ronsdale Press)

1999 Adult short story "Looking for Marielle Barnes," CBC's *Gallery*

1998 YA short story "Toe Jam" in Thistledown's humour anthology *Opening Tricks*

1998 Adult short story "Over the Line" broadcast on CBC Radio

1998 MG story "Higher Ground" in *Winds Through Time* (Beach Holme Press)

1996 "The Dragon Tamer" YA short story, *Takes* (Thistledown Press)

RESIDENCIES

Hambidge Center, Rabun Gap, Georgia; 2017

Wellstone Center in the Redwoods, Soquel, California; 2017

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Bev has completed numerous manuscript evaluations for programs by the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild, The Writers Union of Canada, and the Canadian Society of Children's Authors, Illustrators, and Performers. She has also been a panelist for CANSCAIP and provided Jury Duty for the Saskatchewan Arts Board and the Canada Council. Her articles have appeared in SWG's *Freelance* (including a series of 4 in the "Writers Ask" Column, 2025); CANSCAIP NEWS; SCBWI News; and the CARFAC SK newsletter.

A longtime educator, Bev has championed literacy education and cheered for Canadian children's literature. In her role with the University of Saskatchewan, she has developed and taught courses in literacy education and children's literature, and worked as a graduate supervisor in Education and Arts & Science (Creative Writing). In 2004 she contributed as a 1:1 mentor for the Saskatchewan Writers' Guild Mentorship Program. She has also provided consulting for the Canadian Children's Book Centre and completed a term on the Saskatoon Public Library Board.

Bev has participated twice as a visiting author on Canadian Children's Book Centre provincial tours (in Prince Edward Island and Quebec) and has also contributed to the Ottawa Writers' Festival and the Yukon Young Writers Conference as a workshop leader and speaker. She has presented at Saskatoon's Word on the Street and been a panelist and workshop leader at the Saskatchewan Festival of Words in Moose Jaw, SK.

VISUAL ART EXHIBITIONS

Bev has recently enjoyed terms as an invited guest of the Plett Studio for the Thickwood Hills Studio Trail (August, 2024; 2025; 2026). Her work has been selected by Dandelion Studio for a number of group exhibits including Saskatchewan's Art Now, and she has contributed to fundraisers for the Saskatchewan Council on Aging and the Saskatoon Food Bank. Her work is in private collections across Canada.

UPCOMING/RECENT EXHIBITIONS

B. Brenna; Love Letter to the Prairies" (solo exhibition) Humboldt Gallery (January-February, 2028) and Art Gallery of Outlook (September-November, 2028)

B. Brenna; Love Letter to the Prairies" (solo exhibition), Station Arts Centre, Rosthern (September – October, 2027)

B. Johnston, **B. Brenna**, B. Conly, & M. Plett; "Iris at the Club Again" (group exhibition), University Club, University of Saskatchewan (September 1 – December 30, 2027)

Group Show, Certificate in Art and Artisanhip; Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, University of Saskatchewan (October 27- November 6, 2026)

B. Brenna; “Haiku Landscapes” (solo exhibition), Five Corners Café, Saskatoon (March 15 – June 15, 2027)

B. Johnston, **B. Brenna**, B. Conly, & M. Plett; “Soft Landing for Dragonflies”, St. Thomas More Gallery, Saskatoon (January 16 - March 15, 2027)

B. Brenna (February, 2027); “Love Letter to the Prairies” (**solo exhibition**, commercial gallery; 30 paintings), Hues Art Supply, Saskatoon.

B. Johnston, **B. Brenna**, B. Conly, & R. Clarke; “Landscape Interpretations” (group exhibition) Dandelion Gallery, Saskatoon (November 14– December 1, 2026)

PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS

B. Johnston, **B. Brenna**, B. Conly & M. Plett, (January 14 – February 28, 2026); “Iris at the Pomegranate” (group exhibition, 6 paintings); Pomegranate Gallery, Persephone Theatre, Saskatoon.

B. Johnston, **B. Brenna**, B. Conly, & M. Plett with special guest artist Rigmor Clarke (January 17– August 31, 2025); “Iris at the Club,” group exhibition, commercial space, 40 paintings; University Club, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK.

*Bev also worked as coordinator/curator of this show (80 paintings total from 5 artists)

B. Brenna (June 1 – July 31, 2025); “Interpretations,” group exhibition (with Blanche Johnston and Bonnie Conly), Five Corners Café, Saskatoon, SK.

“The Iris show is gorgeous, the art adds so much life to the space and it does not go unnoticed.”

–Renae Snyder, Manager, Five Corners Cafe

B. Brenna (March 29 – June 22, 2025); “Travels with my Mother” (single piece of poetry and art) for Family+ (group exhibition), Queen Elizabeth II Gallery, Government House, Regina, SK.

B. Brenna (January 18 – April 13, 2025); “Prairie Days” (watercolour and acrylic) (**solo exhibition**); Five Corners Café (commercial space); 15+ paintings; Saskatoon, SK.

B. Brenna (December 5 – February 28, 2025); “Winter Joy” (group exhibition), commercial gallery; 15 paintings; The Edit Boutique, Saskatoon (with Blanche Johnston and Linda Hault); Reception December 6, 5 – 7pm.

B. Brenna (December 25 – February 25, 2025); “Walking Home” (group exhibition with Myra Clarke), The Refinery, Saskatoon, SK. Reception January 13, 3:30 – 6pm.

B. Brenna (2024); “Reading the Prairie” (**solo exhibition**, public gallery; 45 paintings, 4 six-foot poetry banners), The Chapel Gallery, North Battleford, August 24 – Sept 5 (Public Reception Sept 11, 5 – 8 pm).

Brenna, B. “Prairie Spaces” (2024) (**solo exhibition**, public gallery; 22 paintings); Last Mountain Lake Cultural Centre: Elsie Scherle Gallery (Curator: Erik Hood) January 20 – March 16 (Public Reception January 20).

“These soft, sensory, floating images are very beautifully executed”
–Erik Hood, Adjudicator/Curator, LMLCC

Brenna, B. “breathing room” (2024) (**solo exhibition**, public gallery; 12 paintings); The Broadway Health Collective (Curator: Paul Buffel) January 2-March 29.

COMMERCIAL GALLERY REPRESENTATION

--Dandelion Gallery, Saskatoon (fall, 2022 – present) [Dandelion Art Framing & Gallery](#)

ART PUBLICATIONS (representative sample)

Brenna, B. (2026). Turning the Page: An Author’s Experience Writing About Art and Artists in Books for Young Readers. CARFAC News, 38.4, pp 16 - 19.

Brenna, B. (2026). “Heartsongs: Musings on Hope and Togetherness”; a sequence of poetry and visual art. Together: Stories of Collective Impact (Special Issue), *Cache* (Centre for Advancing Collaborative Healthcare and Education). Contribution includes: Potato Salad; Eating the Crusts; Birdwoman; Mrs. Olyshyn Advises; Bringing Summer to Blue Farm in February; Crocus Poem; Travels With My Mother (poetry); Gladness for this Day; January Slough; Blue Farm; Crocus Time; Prairie (visual art). May (Volume 4 (2), pp 7 – 10; 14.

Brenna, B. (2026). “Words and Images: A Partner Dance” (essay) and “Wetlands in Haiku and Acrylic” (mini-series of five landscape/haiku including “Close to Home/May morning”; “The Beauty of the Morning/fish jump; “Fields Full of Singing/marshy bank; “Under the Cloths of Heaven/prairie rainforest; and “Calm All Nature as a Resting Wheel/between the rocks), Blank Spaces magazine, June, pp. 45 – 48.

Conly, B., Johnston, B., Plett, M., & **Brenna, B.** (2025) Self-proclaimed unstoppable: Saskatchewan Artist Rigmor Clarke. CARFAC Newsletter, Saskatchewan; September/October, pp. 16 – 18.

Brenna, B. (2025). “Summer’s Flight”—a series of landscape paintings presented in *Blank Spaces*, a Canadian literary magazine, September, 2025, Volume 10, Issue 1 (cover image “A Bright Exhalation of the Soul”; interiors pp 21-27 including “Dreaming of the

Lake,” “Wetlands,” “Close to Home,” “Skating Pond,” “Blue Farm,” “Summer’s Flight,” “Gladness for this Day,” “View from the Regina Highway,” “Storm Passing,” “January Slough,” “South Fields,” “Looking Down One Road,” “Crocus Time,” “Prairie.”

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA)
Member, Can. Soc. of Children’s Authors, Illustr. and Performers (CANSCAIP)
Member, Canadian Artists Representation Le Front Des Artistes Canadiens (CARFAC)
Member, IRIS (a collaborative art group)
Member (juried application), Persephone Theatre/SPC Playwrights’ Unit (2016-17)
Member, Professional Creator, Canadian Children’s Book Centre
Member, Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild
Member, Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI)
Member, Writers’ Union of Canada, 2011

GRANTS

Canada Council, 2026; 2013; 2011; 2008; 2007
Creative Saskatchewan, 2025
IBBY, 2011
Saskatchewan Arts Board, 2025; 2023; 2013; 2012; 2006; 2005
SSHRC, 2019; 2012

RESEARCH

Bev is now a Professor Emerita at the University of Saskatchewan where her research interests include literacy and Canadian children’s literature.

**Select “Archives” tab on Bev’s website to view individual research articles*