



Decolonizing the Garde: Avant-Garde Canadian Writing and the Indigenous Renaissance

Gregory Betts
(University College, Dublin/Brock University, Canada)

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4-6 p.m., P 207 (Philosophicum)



Indigenous art has always been interconnected with the avant-garde, and it is increasingly fallacious to speak of the difference between Indigenous and avant-garde art. My talk will highlight some of the achievements and dynamics of avant-gardism in the contemporary Canadian context, including highlighting some of the implications of the Indigenous Renaissance on the category of avant-garde art and literature. The first part of my talk will elaborate on the idea of avant-gardism, especially in Canada, while the second half will focus on what happens to this category when we attend to Indigenous art and culture.

Gregory Betts is the current Craig Dobbin Professor of Canadian Studies at University College Dublin. While he is a poet, with six books to his name, he is primarily known for his research into the Canadian avant-garde. On that subject, Betts wrote the definitive study called *Avant-Garde Canadian Literature: The Early Manifestations* (University of Toronto Press) and recently, just this year, published an essential status-update of contemporary avant-garde writing called *Avant Canada: Poets, Prophets, Revolutionaries* (co-edited with Christian Bök, published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press). He is the former Director of Canadian Studies at Brock University, where he is a Professor of Canadian Literature.