



The Latin word, Inspiritus, means “breathe” and contains the word for “spirit”: together, to breathe in and be filled with the spirit, which is what it means to be alive. It is also the root for the word inspiration and in the creative sense, to be filled with the Muses, to be filled with the gods or God. The logo represents a breath of air, a gust of wind, the winds of change, and a spirit, a force, that carves its way forward.

In the word is also our philosophy of community, “In Spirit, Us.”

inspirituspress.com

about

Inspiritus Press is a small publisher hoping to revitalize independent, ambitious and cutting-edge literature by connecting it to a broader public across disciplines and social spheres, both within the city of Toronto where we are currently territorialized, and in a global context deterritorialized by the world wide web. We aim to create spaces for work that doesn't fit in current literary scenes or paradigms, but aims towards the highest aspirations of literature as an ongoing tradition spanning history. We want to give writing with the integrity and individuality of outsider art access to the audiences, dialogues and communities that strengthen, ground and engage literary writing. We seek work that, as our name suggests, we will be inspired by, and that will inspire in readers contemplation or passion, fresh ways of seeing and a drive to make the world more beautiful. Work that connects the seemingly unconnected as invisibly yet inexorably as winds or radio waves. Work that can inhabit the empty space of an alienated world as translucently as air while radically transforming it. Work that is filled with life-giving energy, elusive freedom, and unfamiliar, mysterious dimensions.

“Salvation can only come from the breath, that is to say from a higher influence, anterior to us.”

- Henri Bosco



members

The members of Inspiritus Press are comprised of artists from various parts of Canada outside of Toronto and our collaborators are international through our online connections. our diverse voices bring a variety of experiences to the direction of the press as well as bring new creative energy to the collective's work in events and publishing. while the current members are mostly male-identifying we foresee that the ambition of our initiatives will be able to bring more members from more diverse backgrounds.



alvin wong/caraparcél/richmond hill – director



gabriel wainio-théberge/baroquespiral/montreal – producer/social media coordinator



aaron sheng/strata/stouffville – external advisor





stanford cheung/scarborough - editor



daven sharma/north york - editor



marc di saverio/hamilton - editor



initiatives/works

Inspiritus primarily publishes books and multimedia, in physical and electronic formats, and hosts live multimedia events centred on the written word.

Our resources currently allow us to print mostly on the chapbook scale, up to small paperback novellas or standard-length poetry collections, within limited runs of 150-200 copies. We hope to be able to expand to full-length books and wider releases.

From 2020 on we will be publishing in cycles of 2-3 main releases, at a single date, per year, plus various multimedia side projects such as audio albums (music or voice drama), poem videos etc. releasing as we produce them. The main releases will be sold in a limited physical run of 200 copies, with half (more or less depending on the author's wishes) designated for bookstores in Toronto and half available for order online. After the print run, they will go up for sale in e-book format permanently through our website. Publication formats for other projects may vary, and some aspects of publication may vary based on the wishes of the author.

We will be soliciting but are open to submissions for both main release books and other projects.



initiatives/appearances

We host two main readings per year in Toronto, one in spring and one in fall season, as well as possibly a reading in Montreal, and a virtual reading in VRchat. The readings feature six to ten performances by a balanced mix of (2-3) our core of previously published authors and staff, (2-3) known and acclaimed local authors, and (2-3) new or “outsider” voices not established in literary spaces. For the latter two categories we will be opening free submissions, and hope to take as many readers from submissions as possible, but in the absence of submissions will solicit from local talent from outside the literary box.

In addition to the seasonal reading series we will host staggered book launches of our main releases, featuring the author and one-to-two opening readers from the Inspiritus stable.

Our readings include multimedia elements that may vary between readings, such as video projections, as well as cutting-edge music between readers. These elements will be held to the same standard of craft and inspiration as the readings themselves. We approach readings as organically unified artistic creations in themselves.

We plan to host our readings in accessible and innovative venues, such as Toronto’s The Brandscape, Montreal’s Anteism Books, and some you might have never thought of hosting a literary reading in before!



wired connections

Inspiritus Press' online presence is not just a promotional instrument for our physical releases and live events but a core component of our creative production. All our social media presences will serve as bases for active engagement with our readers, including taking submissions or suggestions of work we should look at, answering questions, fielding criticisms about our content or approach, and just getting to know us.

Our website (inspirituspress.com) will eventually sell electronic copies of all our releases (including, once we can convert all of it, our back catalog) and may host some electronic-exclusive content.

Our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/inspirituspress/>) is primarily dedicated to promoting our live events and connecting with local writers.

Our Twitter (twitter.com/inspirituspress) curates and produces a regular stream of content, as well as following, connecting with and promoting other writers and artists - and other publishers/publications - who resonate with our aesthetic and philosophy, from around the world.

Our Instagram ([instagram.com/inspirituspress](https://www.instagram.com/inspirituspress)) will showcase elegantly presented excerpts and short work from our authors as well as submissions, and establish a presence in the rapidly growing "Instagram poetry" scene.

We also plan to release a podcast featuring some of our main authors & friends, and even stream events, writing and other live content on Twitch.

Last but not least we plan to host a yearly reading in VRchat, in a special zone built for the reading experience, a carnivalesque world of custom avatars and designed reality. This will allow us to host authors we have published, as well as submissions, from outside the physical confines of our territorialization in Toronto. Dress code: be whatever you want to be.



impact

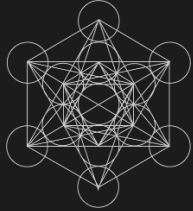
In its first phase under editor Steven “Takatsu” Lee, Inspiritus Press forged new connections between a generation of writers and readers both in and outside of Toronto, keeping one foot in the “literary world” of the Toronto reading circuit, independent book market etc. and one in the infinitely wider world of alienation and interconnection beyond. Our groundbreaking initiatives included our involvement with the Wattpad Literary Fiction Network - a space for ambitious and unconventional work on one of the most popular new literary platforms, aided by Takatsu’s success on Wattpad with the first English language cell phone novel, *Secondhand Memories* - and *Bring The Noise Street Poetry*, which brought poetic recitation directly into public space on the streets of Toronto.

In our second phase, marked by Takatsu’s departure and Alvin Wong’s tenure as editor, we plan to break into even newer fields, through VRchat readings, a carefully maintained network of online and real connections, collaborations with illustrators and voice actors, and more!



allies/rivals

Projects in a similar spirit you could compare us to, and which we might associate/collaborate with, include:



Metatron Press (<http://www.metatron.press>)

SURFACES

Surfaces (<https://www.surfaces.cx>)

NEUTRAL SPACES

Neutral Spaces (<https://neutralspaces.co>)

Back Patio Press

Back Patio Press (<https://backpatio.press>)

on * a * beat

On A Beat (onabeat.com)

「君、本物ですか」

Lainzine (<https://lainzine.org/>)



contact

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