

Alcuin Awards, Vancouver

The theatre of Emily Carr University of Art and Design in Vancouver once again played host to the Alcuin Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada presentation on September 22, 2016. John Maxwell of Simon Fraser University ably emceed the event.

Following the presentation of citations to recipients, comic artist Robin McConnell engaged authors Nick Bantock, Johnnie Christmas and Sarah Leavitt in conversation about the practice of graphic storytelling. Nick Bantock, well-known for his Griffin and Sabine series, brought the perspective of an established artist

to the discussion, while Johnnie Christmas and Sarah Leavitt added the perspective of a fresh generation. Bantock now finds the work is a matter of joy, while Christmas and Leavitt continue to practise in search of the ease he described. While each speaker approaches graphic storytelling from a different perspective, all agreed that images add a fresh dimension to text, illuminating words as much as words explicate the images. The two strands weave together to complete the final thread of the story readers follow to its end. (Text and photos by Peter Mitham)



