

# G

**Gagnon, Madeleine** (b. 1938), French-Canadian poet, fiction writer. Born in Amqui in the Matapédia Valley, of Huron ancestry, Gagnon studied piano in her childhood and adolescence. She pursued her musical studies at the Music Conservatory and later, in parallel, her literary studies. Having completed her MA in philosophy at the Université de Montréal and her doctorate in Aix-en-Provence in 1968, she became a professor of literature at the Université du Québec à Montréal (1969–82). She also taught at the Université de Montréal and the Université de Sherbrooke. She published her first book, a collection of short stories *Les morts-vivants* ('The Living Dead'), in 1969. She has since published in numerous feminist journals such as *La nouvelle barre du jour*. One of her best-known texts is 'Body in Writing' published in *Coming to Writing* (1977) in collaboration with \*Annie Leclerc and \*Hélène Cixous, in which she attempts to retrieve the maternal body as well as her female filiation through the bodies of her grandmothers. She has written more than thirty volumes of poetry that explore the relationship between the female body and language, including *Lair* (1989) and *Just an Instant* (1998). Several of her poetry volumes were awarded prestigious Canadian and Quebecer prizes.

JV

**Gajadin, Chitra** (b. 1954), Surinamese

poet, children's writer. Born into an East Indian community in Suriname, Gajadin went to the Netherlands in 1972 to work as a writer and teacher. She writes in Dutch as well as in Sarnami. She has also translated from Sranantongo. Her first three collections of poetry – *Van erf tot skai: Een bundel gedichten* ('From Yard to 'skai': A Band of Poems,' 1977), *Padi voor Batavieren* ('"Padi" for Bataves,' 1979), and *De zon vloeit weg uit mijn ogen* ('The Sun Runs Away from My Eyes,' 1983) – provide the images of memories for the selections in *Kab ke yaad/Van wanneer een herinnering: 1977–1983* ('"Kab ke yaad"/ A Memory from Back When: 1977–83,' 1984). Gajadin has also written stories for children, most notably an adaptation of Rabindranath Tagore's play *Amal and the Letter from the King*.

DH

**Galanaki, Rhea** (b. 1947), Greek novelist, poet. Born in Iraklion, Crete, Galanaki earned her BA in history and archeology at the University of Athens. In the past decade she has emerged as one of Greece's most acclaimed novelists. Her novels include *The Life of Ismail Ferik Pasha* (1989), *Tha Ipografo Loui* ('I Shall Sign My Name as Louis,' 1993) and *Eleni, i Kanenas* ('Helen, or Nobody,' 1998). Poetry, however, has played a critical role in her development as a writer. Her collection of prose poems *The Cake* (1980), her most explicitly femi-

nist text to date, provides a bridge between her early epigrammatic poems *Plin Epharis* ('Albeit Pleasing,' 1975) and *Oribta* ('Minerals,' 1979) and her longer prose works, *Pu zi o likos?* ('Where Does the Wolf Live?,' 1980) and *Omokentra Diigimata* ('Concentric Stories,' 1986). She has also published critical essays on literature, in particular on the question of women's writing. In 1987 she received the Nikos Kazantzakis Literary Award. *The Life of Ismail Ferik Pasha* was the first Greek novel to be included in the UNESCO collection of representative works. Since 1979 she has lived in Patras where her husband Ilias Kouvelas teaches in the Medical School. They have one daughter.

KVD

Gallagher, Tess (b. 1943), US poet. Born in Port Angeles, Washington, Gallagher attended the University of Washington, Seattle (BA, 1963; MA, 1970) and the University of Iowa (MFA, 1974). She has been married three times, the last time to the writer Raymond Carver, who died in 1988. She has taught English and writing at several universities and colleges, including University of Arizona, Tucson and Syracuse University; she is currently a professor of English at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. She published her first volume of poetry *Stepping Outside* in 1974. Her voice is strong, clear, and passionate, her imagery dense, her characteristic themes love and loss. *Instructions to the Double* (1976) concerns family history, memories, and illusions. *Willingly* (1984), which is dedicated to Carver, is a portrait of their relationship. *Moon Crossing Bridge* (1992) is a work of grief and mourning. Other volumes include *Amplitude* (1987), *Portable Kisses: Love Poems* (1992), and *My Black Horse* (1995). Gallagher has published two volumes of short stories, *The Lover of Horses* (1986) and *At the Owl Woman Saloon* (1997). Her essays on poetry are collected in *A Concert of Tenses* (1986).

JEM

Gallaire, Fatima (b. 1944), French-Algerian dramatist. Born in Algeria, the eldest of eight children, Gallaire lives in Paris with her husband and twin children. Educated at the University of Algiers and the University of Paris VIII in film studies, she has won the Prix Arletty (1990) and the Prix de l'Académie française (1994) for her plays, in many of which she explores contemporary life in traditional Muslim settings. Performed amid controversy in New York, Paris, and Tashkent, her play *You Have Come Back* (1988) chronicles the return visit of an estranged, liberated woman to her homeland after her father's death. Leaving her non-Muslim husband and children in France, Princess tragically encounters a land transformed by intolerance and fanaticism. Gallaire's female characters find strength through collective action as in *Les Co-Epouses* ('The Co-Wives,' 1990), *Rimm, la gazelle* ('Rimm, the Gazelle,' 1993), and *Le Secret des Vieilles* ('The Secret of the Old Women,' 1996). Depicting the anguish of sexual desire, *Molly des sables* ('Molly of the Sands,' 1994) presents an isolated, immigrant wife living in Paris, while in *Madame Bertin's Testimony* (1987), an elderly couple reflect on the physical nature of their relationship.

JBG

Gallant, Mavis (b. 1922), Canadian short story writer. A Protestant born in Montreal, Mavis de Trafford Young shunted from school to school as a child. Married briefly, she acquired the name Gallant. She wrote for the *Montreal Standard* before moving to Europe permanently in 1950. Two novels display abiding motifs in Gallant's fiction: in *Green Water, Green Sky* (1959), a mother ruinously influences her daughter; in *A Fairly Good Time* (1970), a French-English marriage falls apart. Bilingual, and keenly aware of the accepted and the excluded in various places, Gallant writes knowledgeably about conflict between French and English cultures in many of her eleven story collections. Immigrants