

PRESS RELEASE

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Subject: Publishing, Literary Arts, Black Writers

ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF HUSH HARBOUR PRESS
Hush Harbour Press is the Black Feminist Literary Voice Canada has been missing.

Toronto, ON, CANADA (June 22, 2020) Author, editor and arts educator **Whitney French** and poet and body activist **Alannah Johnson** are announcing the launch of Hush Harbour Press. Hush Harbour is dedicated to the imagining of Black feminism in the tradition of Octavia E. Butler envisioning Black futures through literary and sonic storytelling with an emphasis on the revival of short fiction.

“In the spirit of Octavia E. Butler’s birthday, we offer this gift to our literary ancestor who has given us so much: critical analysis, radical imagination, speculative insight and Black hope,” French explains. “When we say, Hush Harbour, we are talking about the secret places where Black folks gather to get free. Our namesake, inspired by Camille Turner, who so boldly remapped Black histories into our spaces, echoes our commitment in doing the same thing in literature. This press is for us, by us.”

While Hush Harbour Press aims to fill a gap in Canadian publishing, they acknowledge the legacy of our Black queer feminist predecessors. In 1984, Sister Vision Press became the first Black feminist publisher in Canada whose mission was to publish works by Black and women of colour authors locally and in the Caribbean. For over 15 years, Sister Vision published over 75 writers in book-length works (including ahdri zhina mandiola, Djanet Sears and Dionne Brand) and over 200 women in anthologies. Since shutting its doors in 2001, there has been a visible gap in Black literary publishing. In 2020, Hush Harbour enthusiastically takes up the torch lit by Sister Vision to project a Black Canadian Future in this digital age of social media.

“There are so many nuanced stories within Black communities in Canada,” says Alannah. “Hush Harbour is how we seek to build a home and propel our histories forward and uphold a platform for Black voices beyond binaries and borders.”

Alongside its publishing mandate, Hush Harbour Press is also strongly committed to an ethical business model that fairly compensates its writers and employees. At this time, Hush Harbour Press is currently accepting financial and mentorship supports. For more information, visit www.hushharbour.com to read more about the press’ mandate and upcoming announcements.