

CRISTIAN, RÉKA

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Distinct American Destinies in Guillermo Verdecchia's Fronteras Americanas and Ian Ross' The Third Color

The talk will scrutinize the issue of distinct destinies in the dramatic world of two contemporary Canadian playwrights, both awarded with the prestigious Governor General's Literary Award (est. 1937): the Argentinian-born Guillermo Verdecchia (b. 1962) and the Métis-Canadian Ian Ross (b. 1968). Both writers deal with a subjective cultural history that shapes various destinies through an inter-American space and given time periods; theirs is an idiosyncratic story that does not count dates or anniversaries but instead it focuses on the experience and the destiny of the individual. Verdecchia's *Fronteras Americanas* (1993), which was written to "decolonize the imagination," has a peculiar political relevance in being conceived as a subjective history lesson on the issue of Latin diaspora in the Americas. Ross' *The Third Color* (2019) presents an idiosyncratic community history of Canadian peoples, created through the dialogue of two First Nations women spirits talking over time from the pre-settler period to the current day. While the latter is an oral history with symbolic storytelling, the former has a strong political appeal. Nevertheless, both plays depict distinct destinies that are bound in the web of the history of the Americas with many similarities for Latinx and First Nations.

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