



**Manitoba Arts Council  
Conseil des arts du Manitoba**

**2011 MAJOR ARTS GRANT**

**JOAN THOMAS**

**WRITER**



photographer: Bruce Thomas Barr

Joan Thomas is the author of two novels, *Reading by Lightning* (2008), which won the Amazon.ca First Novel Award and a Commonwealth Writers Prize, and *Curiosity* (2011), which was nominated for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize. Joan lives in Winnipeg.

**PROJECT:** After writing two novels set in the past, Joan Thomas is turning her eye to the uneasy present for her third book. No fossils this time, but three ordinary Canadians forced by circumstances to excavate their own lives. The novel's working title is *Help Island*, and it's set in a contemporary city that just might be Winnipeg.