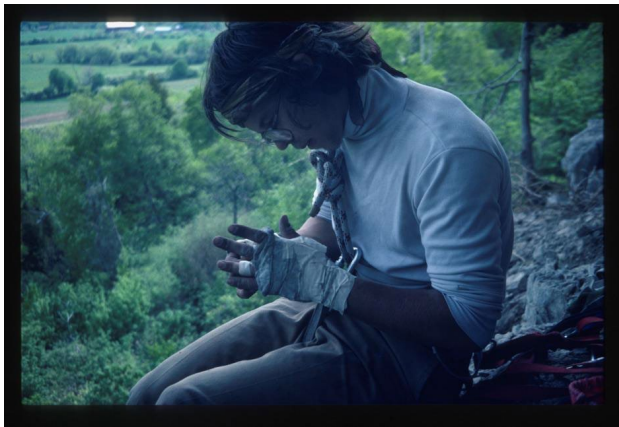


BANFF CENTRE MOUNTAIN FILM AND BOOK FESTIVAL

2019 SUMMIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

David Smart



David Smart was born in Etobicoke Ontario and started climbing in 1975 when he was 13 years old at nearby Rattlesnake Point. His early climbing partners included Yosemite regulars George Manson and Tom Gibson and soon he was travelling frequently to the Gunks in New York state. On his first trips to Yosemite Valley he climbed the Nose of El Capitan, the Northwest Face of Half Dome and other classic long routes.

He lived in Calgary in the early 80s where he developed a love for Yamnuska and the classic rock of the Canadian Rockies. He has also climbed in the Eastern and Western Alps, and throughout the UK and Europe. Throughout his career, he has been a prolific new route developer, climbing over three hundred new routes in Quebec, Ontario and Alberta. He continues to love discovering new climbing.

Smart fell in love with climbing books at the local public library. "I first came across the wider world of publishing through the medium of climbing literature, and I have always seen writing about mountaineering and climbing as an important discipline within the sport. As a kid, I always assumed that Chris Bonington, David Roberts, Gaston Rebuffat, Doug Scott and Royal Robbins and the rest were the best climbers because I could read their books."

He published his first guidebook *The Niagara Escarpment*, in 1984 and it went into two more editions. He also published *Ontario's Finest Rock Climbs* and a guidebook to *Devil's Rock* in Northern Ontario. His memoir, *A Youth Wasted Climbing*, was shortlisted for the Mountain Literature Award in the 2016 Banff Mountain Book Competition. He has also published two historical novels on climbing, *Above the Reich* (2017) and *Cinema Vertigo* (2018). His new book, *Paul Preuss, Lord of the Abyss*, is a biography of the Austrian Climber and has been longlisted for both the 2019 Banff Mountain Book Awards and the Boardman Tasker Award for Mountain Literature.

Smart has loved magazines for his whole life. He has written for Climbing, Rock and Ice, Alpinist, and the Canadian Alpine Journal. In 1999, with fellow climber Sam Cohen, he founded Grippéd; Canada's Climbing Magazine. The company now owns four titles and Smart is the editorial director. Grippéd's print and digital properties still remain robust and growing after almost twenty years. "I was proud to be able to provide a magazine that offered a voice for the Canadian climbing scene in which I made my own life," says Smart.

"I am honoured to receive this award from the Banff Mountain Festival, which has done so much for mountain culture. It is thrilling to think of being in the company of all of the great members of our community who have been awarded the Summit of Excellence in the past. I receive it with gratitude towards all those who I climbed with, everyone who supported my writing and especially my partner at Grippéd, Sam Cohen, my publishers, Don Gorman and Jerry Auld and my readers."