



PEDLAR PRESS



FALL 2013

Why shouldn't we, so generally addicted to the gigantic, at last have some small works of art, some short poems, short pieces of music [...] some intimate, low-voiced, and delicate things in our mostly huge and roaring, glaring world?

— ELIZABETH BISHOP

FALL 2013

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This is the voice of a pilgrim, the one who bends to see, leans to hear... Thammavongsa has distilled her meaning from her details so masterfully and with such confident wisdom that she seems to be reading nature. Through her eyes, we can believe we see the true meaning in things.

— ANNE MICHAELS

OTHER PUBLISHED WORKS

Found (Pedlar Press, 2007)

Small Arguments (Pedlar Press, 2003)

LIGHT

poems by Souvankham Thammavongsa

ISBN 1-897141-56-4

978-1-897141-56-4

September | paper | \$20

COVER ART Catharine Nicholson, *The Viable*, 2008

THE BOOK

Souvankham Thammavongsa's third book of poetry, *Light*, examines the word that gives the collection its name. There are poems about a sparkle, about how to say light, about a scarecrow, a dung beetle, a fish without eyes. Known for her precision and elegance, for her small clear voice, for distilling meaning from details, for not wasting words, Thammavongsa confirms her gifts with these new poems. *Light* is a work that shines with rigour, humour, courage and grit.

THE POET

Souvankham Thammavongsa was born in Nong Khai, Thailand, in 1978 and was raised and educated in Toronto. She won the 2004 ReLit prize for her first poetry book, *Small Arguments*. She is also the author of a second poetry book, *Found*, which was made into a short film and screened at film festivals worldwide, including TIFF and Dok Leipzig. Some of her new poems were written while she was a resident at Yaddo. Poems have appeared in many of Canada's literary journals and magazines, including *Canadian Literature*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *dandelion*, *Event*, *The Fiddlehead* and *The Windsor Review*. The poem "The Sun in Flannery O'Connor's The Violent Bear It Away" appeared in the anthology *Troubling Borders: Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora* published by the University of Washington Press in the United States. The poem "Perfect" was nominated for a National Magazine award. Thammavongsa was named one of "Best Under 35" writers in Canada in a special issue of *The Windsor Review*. She lives in Stouffville, Ontario.



OTHER PUBLISHED WORKS

The Reflecting Pool (Pedlar Press, 2009)

Gardens Aflame: Garry Oak Meadows of BC's South Coast (New Star Books, 2012)

AIR-PROOF GREEN

poems by Maleea Acker

ISBN 1-897141-57-2

978-1-897141-57-1

September | paper | \$20

COVER ART Wikimedia Commons, *Schwalbe am pool*

THE BOOK

Poems in Maleea Acker's second collection range over continents and countries, asking an essential question for our time: How do we live in the world? The poems seek always to approach that threshold between human and natural worlds, attending to what can be seen and sensed with a fine ear and eye. We meet one another at the threshold, through a "splice of intimacy," displaced, the poet says, finding temporary homes and intimacies with one another and with all living things.

From the long inhabited northeast mountains of Spain to the wild lakes and forests of upper New York State and Oregon, these poems look unflinchingly at philosophies we have created to relate to the phenomenological world. They draw from the work of Maurice Merleau-Ponty, from myth, film, geography and art, weaving an artful, considered argument for attention that abides through poetry.

THE AUTHOR

Maleea Acker holds an MFA in Writing from the University of Victoria. She has received writing fellowships from the Spring Creek Project (Oregon State University), Blue Mountain Center (New York), Fundación Valparaíso, Centre d'art i Natura (Spain), Banff Centre (Canada and Mexico) and St. Peter's College (Saskatchewan). She works as a writing instructor and is native to Vancouver Island.



JUANITA WILDROSE: MY TRUE STORY

a fictional memoir by Susan Downe
ISBN 1-897141-58-0
978-1-897141-58-8
October | paper | \$22

COVER ART Dana Holst, *The Socialite*, 2013

THE BOOK

In 1904, in Wichita, Kansas, Mallie gave birth to a baby girl, whom she named Juanita (after a Spanish novel) and Wildrose (for “the most beautiful of the flowers”). So began the long life of Juanita Wildrose, who lived, vividly, every ounce and minute of her one hundred and two years. And who died, inquiring of us in the room, “Where’s my mother?” Juanita, in her wonderful voice, tells the story of the little family’s moving from Wichita to Elk Creek, Texas County, Missouri, to an unseen piece of land bereft of a promised house, to clear it of rocks and enough trees to grow food. Mark, Elizabeth, and Ruth are born, Papa orders newspapers and prays too long before meals, Mama will see to it that each of her children leaves the farm in order to go to school, and is inexplicably separated from the love of God. Juanita is twelve when she leaves. This is also the story of Juanita’s mother and of the women who help her after Juanita leaves home, and of a young man “with the sweetest smile I ever saw.”

Juanita Wildrose is just wonderful—a heap of treasure out of a living past.

— ALICE MUNRO

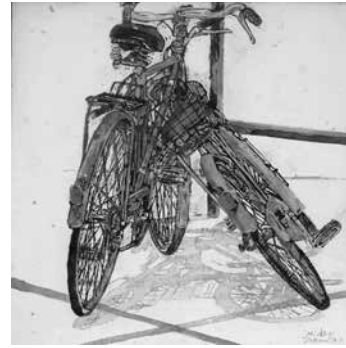
THE AUTHOR

Susan Downe lives in London, Ontario. She studied English and Philosophy as an undergraduate, at age forty she studied Gestalt theory and practice, and psychoanalysis, and practised in these fields for sixteen years. She is the daughter of a woman named Juanita Wildrose.

OTHER PUBLISHED WORKS

Between This...And This
(poems, Spanish Onion Press, 1998)

Little Horse
(poems, Brick Books, 2004)



THE OUTSIDE WORLD

[working title]

a novel by Barry Dempster
ISBN 1-897141-59-9
978-1-897141-59-5
November | paper | \$22

COVER ART Michael Zarowsky, *Lido Bike No. 31*

OTHER PUBLISHED WORKS

Poetry

Letters from a Long Illness with the World,
the D.H. Lawrence Poems
(Brick Books, London, Ontario, 1993)

Fire and Brimstone
(Empyrean Press, Montreal, 1997)

The Salvation of Desire
(St. Thomas Press, Toronto, 2000)

The Words Wanting Out, Selected & New Poems
(Nightwood Editions, Roberts Creek, 2003)

The Burning Alphabet
(Brick Books, London, Ontario, 2005)
Shortlisted for the Governor General’s Award

Love Outlandish
(Brick Books, London, Ontario, 2009)

Ivan’s Birches
(Pedlar Press, Toronto, 2009)

Blue Wherever
(Signature Editions, 2010)

Dying a Little
(Wolsak and Wynn, 2011)

Invisible Dogs
(Brick Books, 2013)

Fiction

Real Places and Imaginary Men
(Oberon Press, Ottawa, 1984)

Writing Home
(Oberon Press, Ottawa, 1989)

The Ascension of Jesse Rapture
(Quarry Press, Kingston, 1993)

THE BOOK

Set in 1966 in a Toronto suburb, *The Outside World* follows Robinson Tedley, a teenager, whose mother Florence, an agoraphobic, spends most of her time peering at the neighbours from her living room window, whose mentally challenged sister Lissy wants nothing more than to be outside in sunshine and whose father Ed is perpetually oblivious to the tensions within his home. How can Robbie take care of his mother and his roaming sister when he’s got so much to contend with in the outside world? Girls, love, sex, school. Bullies and friendships and growing pains, the force of his own fears and anger. Pressing against Robbie’s own difficulties are the troubles of a conservative 1950s mainstream, poised to resist the emergence of a sexual revolution, women’s liberation, the civil rights movement and war protests. A dark and engaging coming-of-age story that may remind readers of Miriam Toews’s *A Complicated Kindness* and Russell Banks’s *Rule of the Bone*.

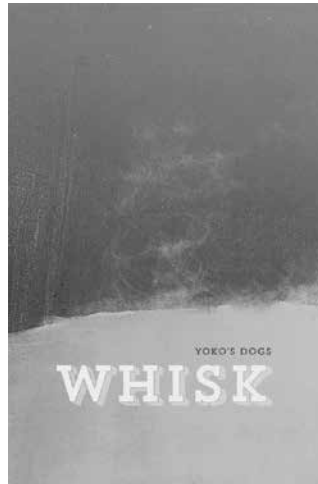
THE AUTHOR

Barry Dempster is an award-winning poet, author, editor and mentor. He lives in Holland Landing, Ontario.

RECENT RELEASES



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a long poem by Rachel Lebowitz
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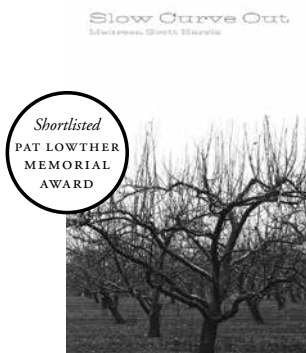
WHISK
a collaboration by Yoko's Dog
ISBN 1-897141-54-8
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NO ANGEL
prose by Annie McLurg
ISBN 1-897141-55-6
paper | \$20



CHURCH OF THE EXQUISITE PANIC: THE OPHELIA POEMS
by Carole Glasser Langille
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PAT LOWTHER
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AWARD

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poems by Maureen Scott Harris
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THE BOOK OF FROG
a fiction by Jan Zwicky
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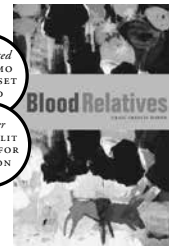


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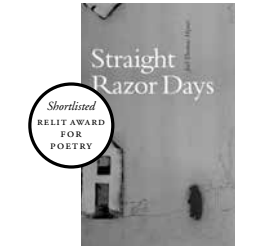


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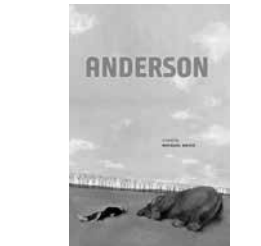


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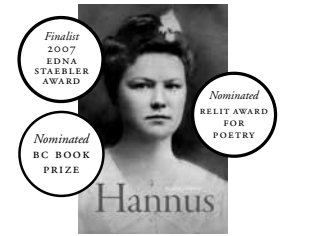
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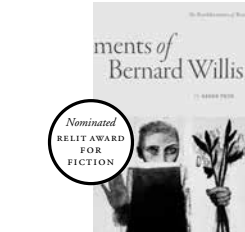
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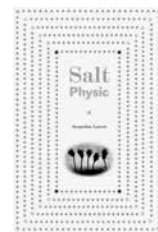
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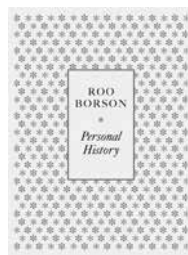
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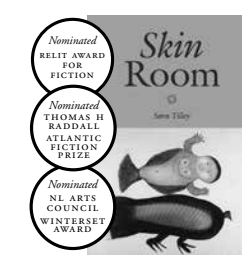
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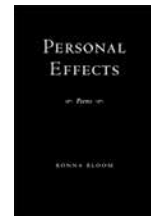
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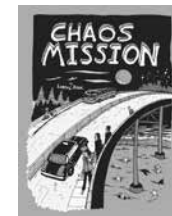
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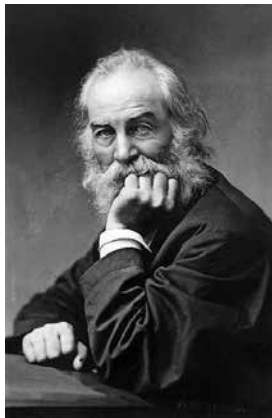
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BACKLIST

WHY “PEDLAR PRESS”?



How did you come to name the press Pedlar? Many have asked me. In 1996, searching for a name, I uncovered the little-known fact of Walt Whitman selling his *Leaves of Grass* door-to-door across America. A pedlar of poetry & of beauty & of a great love for the human & natural worlds: I believed, in 1996, that the image of a queer poet (who had suffered already more than his share of detractors), on the road in the dark with only a pronounced trust in the worthiness of his project, was an image that would sustain me across the vicissitudes, the blind alleys & cries in the night. And it has, a thousand times over.

Pedlar Press is dedicated to the memory of Walt Whitman’s agency & dignity & faith.
(Walt Whitman, May 31, 1819 – March 26, 1892)


PEDLAR
PRESS

BETH FOLLETT *Publisher*

113 BOND ST, ST. JOHN’S NL A1C 1T6 709.738.6702 feralgrl@interlog.com www.pedlarpress.com

Small, Gutsy (& Gorgeously designed by Zab Design & Typography)

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 Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada

 ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
15 YEARS OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF THE ARTS
15 ANS DE SOUTIEN DU GOUVERNEMENT DE L'ONTARIO AUX ARTS

There is no special trick about writing or painting either. I wrote constantly for fifteen years before I produced anything with any solidity to it. The thing of course is to make yourself alive. Most people remain all of their lives in a stupour. The point of being an artist is that you may live. You won't arrive. It is an endless search.

— SHERWOOD ANDERSON *in a letter to his son*

A