



Coach House Books
Spring 2015

Taking flight this spring

We've got lots to hoot and holler about

Guess whooo's turning fifty in 2015? Like Minerva's companion, Coach House has grown wise with age (or at least we hope), but we remain young at heart. And as we gear up for a year filled with hoot-enannys and rev-owl-ry, you're advised to keep your head on a strigine-like swivel for news about our fiftieth-themed fun. This spring we're hatching nine titles – a parliament, if you will – that might just have you up all night reading.

You'll want to make quick prey of our sharp-eyed nonfiction titles. *The Ward: The Life and Loss of Toronto's First Immigrant Neighbourhood* is for anyone who gives a hoot about how big cities deal with poverty and immigration. Reluctant night owls are sure to flock to RM Vaughan's *Bright Eyed: Insomnia and Its Cultures*. In *Theatre of the Unimpressed: Revitalizing Drama Through Artistic Risk and Failure*, Jordan Tannahill swoops in to rescue theatre from mediocre plays.

Gliding into bookstores you'll find *Fifteen Dogs*, André Alexis's quietly devastating novel that offers insights into the human condition via canine consciousness. Expect Jon Chan Simpson to ruffle feathers as he remakes the second-generation immigrant narrative in his debut novel, *Chinkstar*. And you'll be captivated by the Cardinal family, the avian-named brood at the centre of Élise Turcotte's haunting *Twenty-One Cardinals*, translated by Rhonda Mullins.

Our poets this season give it their owl, including David McGimspey, soaring to *Asbestos Heights*. Damian Rogers flies stealthily through the darkness in *Dear Leader*, while Ben Ladouceur's fledgling collection, *Otter*, burrows into the subject of intimacy between men.

Finally, as the Canadian distributor for Ugly Duckling Presse, we've spotted some of their latest offerings, which you'll find on page 12.

Here's to fifty more years. Hoot hoot, hooray!

COACH HOUSE BOOKS

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for the Arts

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un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

Canada



Ontario
Ontario Media Development
Corporation

The Ward

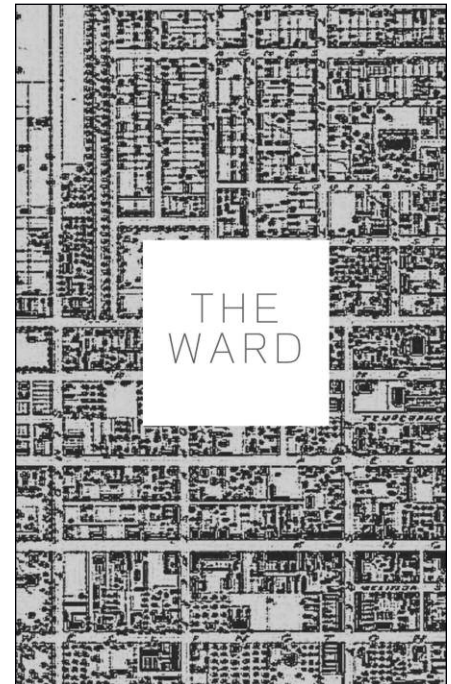
The Life and Loss of Toronto's First Immigrant Neighbourhood

edited by John Lorinc, Michael McClelland, Ellen Scheinberg and Tatum Taylor

The story of the growth and destruction of Toronto's first 'priority neighbourhood.'

From the 1870s to the 1950s, waves of immigrants to Toronto – Irish, Jewish, Chinese and Italian, among others – landed in 'The Ward' in the centre of downtown. Deemed a slum, the area was crammed with derelict housing and 'ethnic' businesses; it was razed in the 1950s to make way for a grand civic plaza and modern city hall. Archival photos and contributions from a wide variety of voices finally tell the story of this complex neighbourhood and the lessons it offers about immigration and poverty in big cities. Contributors include historians, politicians, architects and descendants of Ward residents on subjects such as playgrounds, tuberculosis, bootlegging and Chinese laundries.

With essays by Howard Akler, Denise Balkissoon, Steve Bulger, Jim Burant, Arlene Chan, Alina Chatterjee, Cathy Crowe, Richard Dennis, Ruth Frager, Richard Harris, Gaetan Heroux, Edward Keenan, Bruce Kidd, Mark Kingwell, Jack Lipinsky, John Lorinc, Shawn Micallef, Howard Moscoe, Laurie Monsebraaten, Terry Murray, Ratna Omidvar, Stephen Otto, Vincenzo Pietropaolo, Michael Posner, Michael Redhill, Victor Russell, Ellen Scheinberg, Sandra Shaul, Myer Siemiatycki, Mariana Valverde, Thelma Wheatley, Kristyn Wong-Tom and Paul Yee, among others.



ISBN 978 1 55245 311 7

5.75 x 8.75, 280 pages, paperback

B&W photos and illustrations throughout
\$25.95 CDN/US

POLITICAL SCIENCE/City Planning and
Urban Development – POL002000

EISBN 978 1 77056 419 0

MAY 2015

JOHN LORINC is an award-winning journalist who has written extensively on amalgamation, education, sprawl and other city issues. He is the recipient of two National Magazine Awards for his coverage of urban affairs. **MICHAEL MCCLELLAND** is a registered architect and founding partner of ERA Architects, and is well known for his contribution to the discourse surrounding heritage architecture and landscape architecture in Canada. **ELLEN SCHEINBERG** is a historian, writer and the president of Heritage Professionals, which specializes in archival, museum and information management initiatives. **TATUM TAYLOR** is a writer and heritage planner at ERA Architects. The editors live in Toronto.



Bright Eyed

Insomnia and Its Cultures

by RM Vaughan



ISBN 978 1 55245 312 4

4.75 x 7.5, 120 pages, paperback

\$13.95 CDN/US

Social Science/Sociology – SOCo26000

EISBN 978 1 77056 409 1

MAY 2015

ALSO BY RM VAUGHAN:

Troubled (978 1 55245 198 4)

Camera, Woman (978 1 55245 055 0)

The Monster Trilogy (978 1 55245 132 8)

RM VAUGHAN is the author of many books and contributes articles on culture to a wide variety of publications. His short videos play in festivals and galleries across Canada and around the world. He's based in Berlin and Toronto.

In shutting out shut-eye in favour of productivity, have we created an insomnia culture?

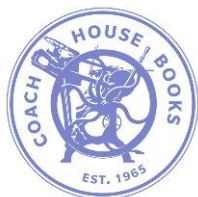
For forty years, RM Vaughan has been fighting, and failing, to get his forty winks each night. He's not alone, not by any stretch.

More and more studies highlight the health risks of undersleeping, yet we have never been asked to do more, and for longer. And we can't stop thinking that a lack of sleep is heroic: snoozing is a kind of laziness, after all. But why, when we know more about the value of sleep, are we obsessed with twenty-four-hour workdays and deliberate sleep deprivation?

Working outward from his own experience, Vaughan explores this insomnia culture we've created, predicting a cultural collision – will we soon have to legislate rest, as France has done? – and wondering about the cause-and-effect model of our shorter attention spans. Does the fact that we are almost universally underslept change how our world works? We know it's an issue with, say, pilots and truck drivers, but what about artists – does an insomnia culture change creativity? And what are the long-term cultural consequences of this increasing sacrifice for the ever-elusive goal of 'total productivity'?

'RM Vaughan ... [is] easily amongst the top five art critics working today. I've seen Vaughan turn phrases that have the forcefulness of Christian Viveros Faune, the plainspoken insight of Dave Hickey, and the lyricism of Peter Schjeldahl. Vaughan should never have to do anything but write.'

– Paddy Johnson, editorial director, *Art F City New York*



Theatre of the Unimpressed

Revitalizing Drama Through Artistic Risk and Failure

by Jordan Tannahill

How mediocre plays are killing theatre and what we can do about it.

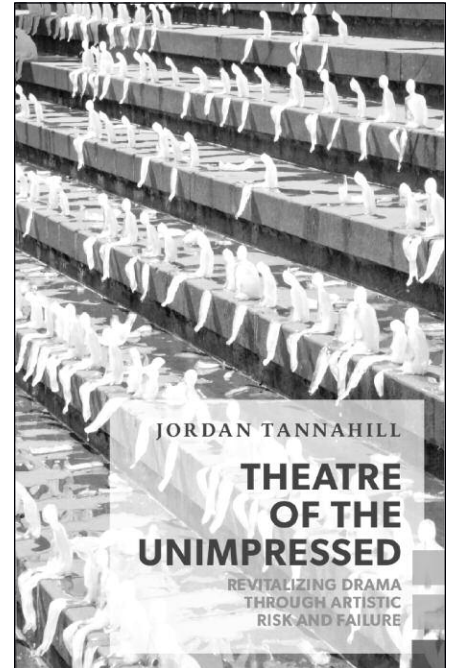
Theatre is a safe place for risk because there are no consequences to failure, perhaps aside from the bruising of one's ego. One might go so far as to suggest the entire institution of theatre exists in order to take risks that one simply cannot outside of it. It is a site where we envision what is possible within the world and the human condition.

A lot of plays are dull. And one dull play, it seems, can turn us off theatre for good. So, what can we learn from mediocre plays? After a year spent talking to theatre goers, theatre makers and non-theatre goers from Australia to Berlin, Jordan Tannahill addresses what he calls the culture of 'risk adversity' paralyzing the form.

Theatre of the Unimpressed offers a roadmap for a vital twenty-first century theatre, one that is less insular, less tentative and with better infrastructure. In considering dramaturgy, programming, pedagogy and alternative models for producing, he aims to turn theatre from an obligation to a destination.

'Jordan is one of the most talented and exciting playwrights in the country, and he will be a force to be reckoned with for years to come.'

– Nicolas Billon, GG-Award-winning playwright (*Fault Lines*)



ISBN 978 1 55245 313 1

4.75 x 7.5, 124 pages, paperback

\$13.95 CDN/US

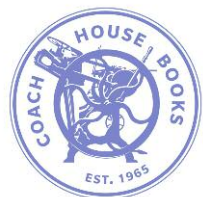
PERFORMING ARTS/Theatre/History
and Criticism – PER011020

EISBN 978 1 77056 411 4

APRIL 2015

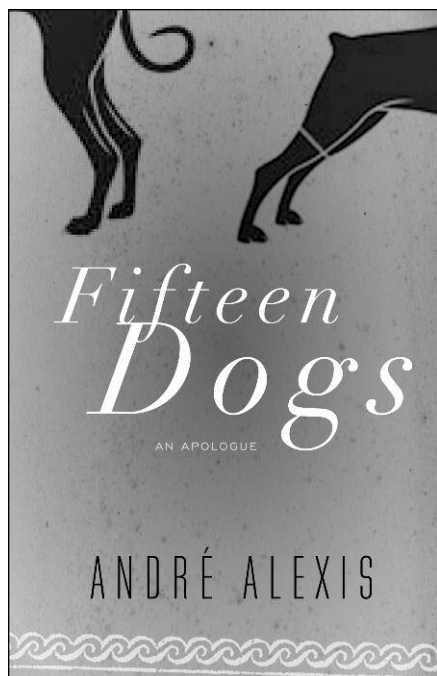


JORDAN TANNAHILL is a playwright and theatre director based in Toronto. Through his company, Suburban Beast, Tannahill has staged plays in theatres, galleries and found spaces. Jordan co-runs the alternative art-space Videofag out of a defunct barbershop in Toronto's Kensington Market. His collection of plays, *Age of Minority*, is a finalist for the 2014 Governor General's Award for Drama. His production of Sheila Heti's play *All Our Happy Days Are Stupid* will run at The Kitchen in New York City in 2015.



Fifteen Dogs

Fiction by André Alexis



ISBN 978 1 55245 305 6
5 x 8, 180 pages, paperback
\$17.95 CDN/US
FICTION/Literary – FICo19000
EISBN 978 1 77056 403 9

APRIL 2015

ALSO BY ANDRÉ ALEXIS:
Pastoral (978 1 55245 286 8)

ANDRÉ ALEXIS was born in Trinidad and grew up in Canada. His previous novel, *Pastoral*, was a finalist for the 2014 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. His debut novel, *Childhood*, won the Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Trillium Book Award, and was shortlisted for the Giller Prize and the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. His other books include *Asylum*, *Beauty and Sadness* and *Ingrid and the Wolf*. He lives in Toronto.

A beautiful allegory for humanity and a devastating insight into the canine mind. You'll never see Fido the same way.

Somewhere around midnight, Rosie, a German Shepherd, stopped licking her paws and wondered how long she would be in the place she found herself. She then wondered what had happened to the last litter she'd whelped. It suddenly seemed grossly unfair that one should go through the trouble of having pups only to lose track of them.

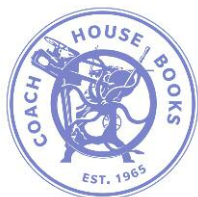
One summer night in Toronto, the gods Hermes and Apollo make a drunken bet about the possibility of human happiness. And so they grant human consciousness to a group of dogs overnighing at a veterinary clinic. Having suddenly been granted more complex thought, the pack is soon torn between those who resist language, preferring their old 'dog' ways, and those who embrace it. The gods watch from above as some of the dogs turn violently on one another until only three are left: wily Benjy moves from home to home, intelligent Majnoun finds a surprisingly human relationship with a kind couple, and Prince becomes a poet. For Hermes to win, one of the dogs must be happy at his death.

An utterly convincing and moving look at the beauty and perils of consciousness.

Praise for *Pastoral*:

'It's been clear since his debut novel, *Childhood*, that Alexis is one of our most distinctive and exacting prose stylists, and at its highest pitch, as in the breathtaking final paragraph, these are sentences that attain the level of the best music.'

– *Montreal Gazette*



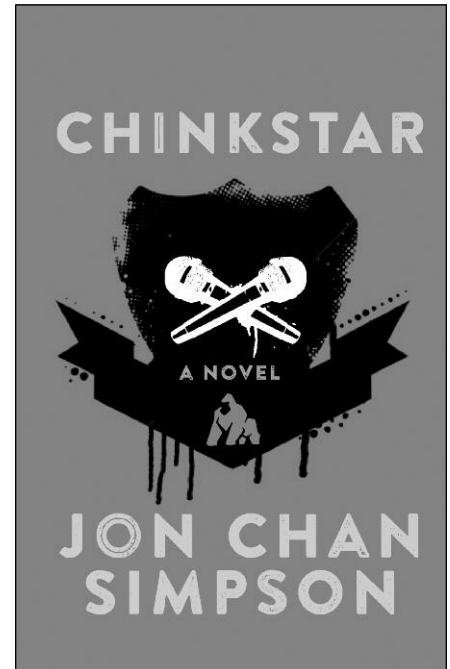
When the king of Chinksta rap disappears, his younger brother, Run, must navigate the unstable underbelly of a musical revolution.

Everything was about to change. In less than forty-eight hours, guy'd be taking the stage in Vancouver, owning an audience meant for some all-hype-no-talent young-money rapper, spitting next-level truths that'd have A&Rs scrapping for him coast to coast. He'd ink some paper and drop an album on the world it didn't even know it had been waiting for. All with game and swag to spare.

This was the edge, the almost-there, and we knew it.

Chinksta rap is all the rage in Red Deer, Alberta. And the king of Chinksta is King Kwong, high-schooler Run's older brother. Run isn't a fan of Kwong's music – or personality, really. But when Kwong goes missing just days before his crowning performance and their mom gets wounded in crossfire, Run finds himself, with his sidekick, Ali, in the middle of a violent battle between Red Deer's rival gangs, on the run from his crush's behemoth brother, and rethinking his feelings about his family and their history, his hatred of 'rice-rap' and what it means to be Asian.

With wit, verve and a flair for the rap lyric, Jon Chan Simpson mashes up the (graphicless) graphic novel and the second-generation-immigrant narrative to forge a bold new vision of what the novel can be.



ISBN 978 1 55245 306 3

5.25 x 8.25, 250 pages, paperback

\$18.95 CDN/US

FICTION/Literary – FICo19000

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JUNE 2015

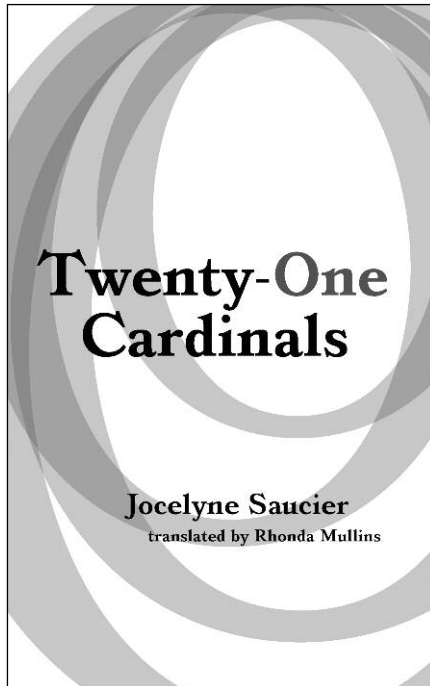


JON CHAN SIMPSON grew up in Red Deer, Alberta, and lives in Toronto. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto's MA creative writing program, and his work has been featured in *Ricepaper* magazine.

Twenty-One Cardinals

Fiction by Jocelyne Saucier

Translated from the French by Rhonda Mullins



ISBN 978 1 55245 307 0

5 x 8, 200 pages, paperback

\$17.95 CDN/US

FICTION/Literary – FICo19000

EISBN 978 1 77056 407 7

JUNE 2015

ALSO BY JOCELYNE SAUCIER:

And the Birds Rained Down (978 1 55245 268 4)

JOCELYNE SAUCIER is the author of several novels and the recipient of the Prix des Cinq Continents de la Francophonie and the Prix Ringuet de l'Académie des lettres du Québec. She was born in New Brunswick and now resides in Abitibi, Quebec.

RHONDA MULLINS is a writer and translator living in Montreal. *And the Birds Rained Down*, her translation of Saucier's *Il pleuvait des oiseaux*, was shortlisted for the Governor General's Literary Award, as was her translation of Élise Turcotte's *Guyana*.

An abandoned mine. A large family driven by honour. And a source of pain, buried deep in the ground.

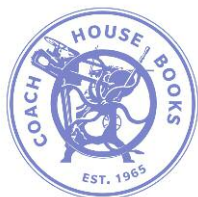
I wasn't yet born when the mine closed. There was dismay, despondency and wailing from the shacks, but not at our house. This was our moment. Northern Consolidated had just been tripped up by international finance and was being dragged along behind the plummeting price of zinc. It had reached the bottom and had wet itself. We weren't going to shed any tears. Our mine had been returned to us.

The twenty-one children of the Cardinal family have congregated to celebrate their father, who discovered the mine around which their now-desolate town was built. As the siblings run wild, we discover that Angèle, the only Cardinal with a penchant for happiness, is missing – although everyone pretends not to notice. Why the silence? What secrets does the mine hold?

Praise for the French edition of *Twenty-One Cardinals*:

'With its explosive, poignant, funny and tragic story and memorable characters, *Les héritiers de la mine* is an important novel ... Through the destiny of this large family, the author talks about Abitibi, where she lives, and of its broken dreams and cheated workers, the blind power of multinationals, the disappearance of villages and families decimated. Her protagonists have the makings of heroes, the stuff to withstand adversity; they may be local heroes, but their fight is universal.'

– *Voir* (translated from the French)



Asbestos Heights

Poetry by David McGimpsey

Asbestos Heights is the poke in the eye that misses and ends up somewhere else.

*If you tore off the tops of canola –
yellow canola flowers – would you
jump in a tub of canola margarine
just to make the best of despair?*

Implored by concerned readers to be ‘classy’ and ‘real’ for once, David McGimpsey has composed a sequence of canonical notebooks on all things ‘poetic’ and ‘poetical.’ Birds! Flowers! History! Sad leaders! The word ‘aubade’! They’re all here, in a serial, State Fair–bound collection of lyrics set in the working-class belvedere of Asbestos Heights.

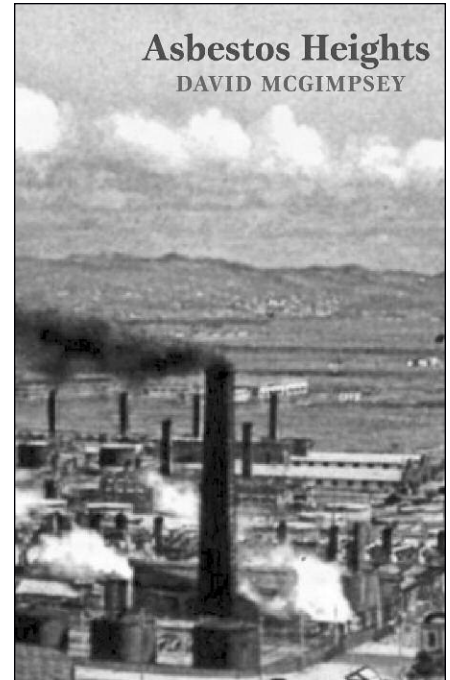
Among the refreshing lemon-lime sodas of the world and the rousing lyrics to ‘Bootylicious,’ *Asbestos Heights* amps up McGimpsey’s trademark sideswiping of formal rhetoric and prosody with pop *savoir faire* to find his boldest collection. Imagine Petrarch in a Tweet war about where to buy a good pair of dad jeans. Imagine Yeats but with a lot fewer swans. Imagine a poet who was told long ago that nothing good ever comes out of a place like Asbestos Heights.

‘David McGimpsey is unfuckwithable, poetry-wise, and I’ll stand on John Ashbery’s coffee table in my cowboy boots and say that.’

– Michael Robbins



DAVID MCGIMPSEY is the author of several books of poetry and short fiction. His poetry has been shortlisted for the Governor General’s Literary Award and the A.M. Klein Prize. He is also a musician, a fiction editor for *Joyland*, and his travel writing is a regular feature of *enRoute* magazine. He lives in Montreal, where he teaches creative writing and literature at Concordia University.



ISBN 978 1 55245 309 4

5 x 8, 112 pages, paperback

\$17.95 CDN/US

POETRY/Canadian – POE01 1000

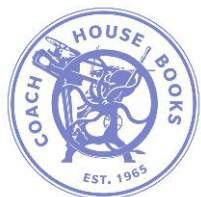
EISBN 978 1 77056 415 2

APRIL 2015

ALSO BY DAVID MCGIMPSEY:

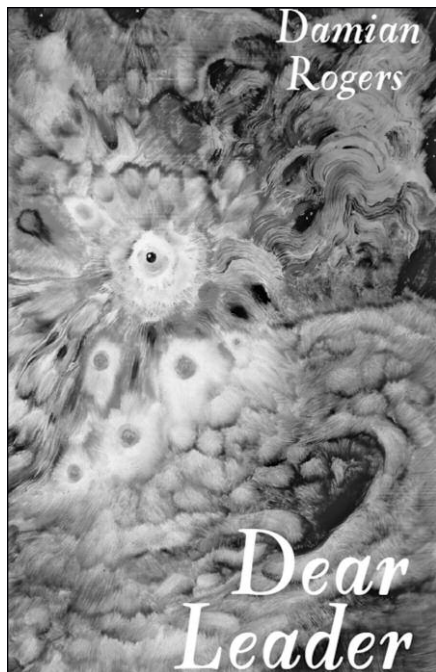
Li'l Bastard (978 1 55245 248 6)

Sitcom (978 1 55245 188 5)



Dear Leader

Poetry by Damian Rogers



ISBN 978 1 55245 308 7
5 x 8, 96 pages, paperback
\$17.95 CDN/US
POETRY/Canadian – POE011000
EISBN 978 1 77056 413 8

APRIL 2015



10 | POETRY

A psychedelic remix of religious texts, memory and borrowed biography, this collection sings a new kind of order into air.

I summon the ghost of the Chevrolet dealership, the one who drank Rothschild wine and cursed the federal reserve.

Is he revisiting the vines of Vietnam, or caressing his cache of semi-automatics, the collection he kept in case of coup?

In her second book, Damian Rogers examines the seductive loops of paranoia and longing, disordered thinking and the pursuit of power. These poems work to repair the scrambled narratives of a non-consensual reality through collage, stitching together forms ranging from the villanelle to experiments with the open field.

Dear Leader vibrates with a voracious intensity as it illuminates the blackest corners of a dream world in which women compete for the attentions of their gods and witches eat their lovers to survive, where even a trip to the post office carries the risk of descent.

Praise for *Paper Radio*:

'*Paper Radio* jumped out at me and I can't say why, but that's what you want poetry to do, and I never want to say why. Because it's real and talking to me. Because it's bloody and horrifying beauty. It's the Clash and Buckminster Fuller, Auden and Bowie.'

— Bob Holman

DAMIAN ROGERS is from the Detroit area and now lives in Toronto, where she works as the poetry editor of House of Anansi Press and as the creative director of Poetry in Voice, a national recitation contest for Canadian high-school students. Her first book of poems, *Paper Radio*, was nominated for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award.



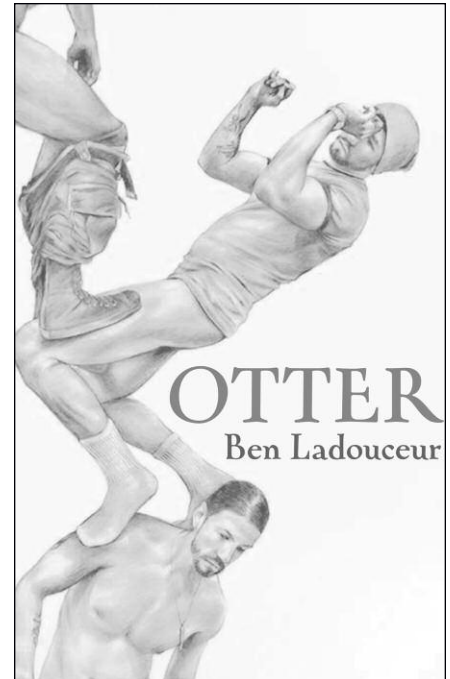
From the trenches of Verdun to gay bars to Parisian hotel rooms, *Otter* shares spaces with men.

*His body, like yours, would lie
mute as a plum
until a vigilant limb came
to a decision. As you might have guessed
I've come to one myself.*

Moving from the absurdity of the First World War to the chaos of today's cities, where men share beds, bottles of ouzo and shade from willow trees, these poems ask questions: If your lover speaks in his sleep, how do you know 'you' is you? What good is it to decorate a headstone? What if you think of the perfect comeback to a six-year-old argument? *Otter* fails, with style, to find answers.

'Ladouceur writes with an awareness of queer history, documenting it faithfully, but with his own twist ... This is poetry motivated by an honest wit.'

— John Barton in *Arc Poetry Magazine*



ISBN 978 1 55245 310 0

5 x 8, 88 pages, paperback

\$17.95 CDN/US

POETRY/Canadian – POEo11000

EISBN 978 1 77056 417 6

JUNE 2015



BEN LADOUCEUR is a writer originally from Ottawa, now based in Toronto. His work has been featured in *Arc*, *The Malahat Review*, *PRISM international* and *The Walrus*, and in the *Best Canadian Poetry* anthology. He was awarded the Earle Birney Poetry Prize in 2013.



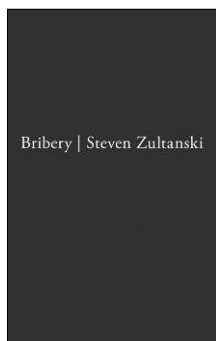
New from Ugly Duckling Presse

Birds of a feather flock together

Coach House is the Canadian distributor for Ugly Duckling Presse, a nonprofit publisher based in Brooklyn that focuses on new poetry, experimental prose, translation, lost works and artists' books. Below is a sampling of their latest titles on offer. Find out more at uglyducklingpresse.org or follow them on Twitter at @udpbooks.

BRIBERY

by Steven Zultanski

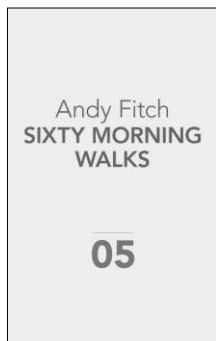


112 pp, 5.2 x 8
978 1 93702 730 8
December 2014
\$16 CDN

Bribery is a long poem in which the author confesses to unsolved crimes in New York City, rants about politics and lives for thousands of years. Subjects: Anger, Basket-play, Bickering, Capitalism, Cat in a Bucket, Cheesesteak, Clayton Lamar, Cockroaches, Criminality, Cruelty, Diana Hamilton, English (language), Family, Friendship, Globalism, Guilt, Harassment, Hate, Heterosexuality, Home, Human Body, Josef Kaplan, Jumping, Love, Luck, The Monocode, New York City, Obsession, Patriarchy, Poetry, Police, Pomegranates, President Obama, Scooters, Self-hate, Self-love, Sex, Sexual Difference, Speculative Thought, Sports, Symbolism, Tenderness, Time, Twitching, War of 2084, Work, The World.

SIXTY MORNING WALKS

by Andy Fitch

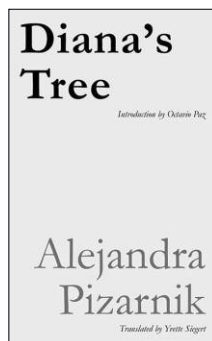


184 pp, 5 x 8
978 1 93702 719 3
November 2014
\$17 CDN
Dossier Series

Sixty Morning Walks is a sixty-part meditation inspired by Utagawa Hiroshige's kaleidoscopically shifting vantage on the ever-changing city. The project's companion piece, available on UDP's website, revisits many of the same New York locations, yet now with its language contracted out to an error-prone online transcription service. The unmediated/mediated idiom of these two halves disrupts any easy reading of the overall project as a lyrical or conceptual text.

DIANA'S TREE

by Alejandra Pizarnik, trans. by Yvette Siegert

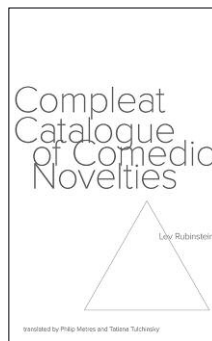


56 pp, 5 x 8
978 1 93702 735 3
December 2014
\$16 CDN
Lost Literature Series

Alejandra Pizarnik (1936–1972) was a leading voice in twentieth-century Latin American poetry. Her fourth collection, *Diana's Tree*, published in 1962, would both change and establish her poetic voice, and it contained the slimmest verses the poet would ever write. Its first publication contained a glowing introduction by Octavio Paz, also included in this edition. When Pizarnik committed suicide at the age of thirty-six, critics had already compared her to Sylvia Plath, and likened the scope of her literary influence to that of Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Celan.

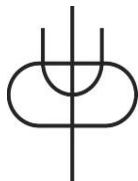
COMPLEAT CATALOGUE OF COMEDIC NOVELTIES

by Lev Rubinstein, trans. by Philip Metres and Tatiana Tulchinsky



448 pp, 5.5 x 7.5
978 1 93702 742 1
December 2014
\$22 CDN
Eastern European Poets Series

Ten years ago UDP published *Catalogue of Compleat Comedic Novelties*, a seminal body of work by Lev Rubinstein, one of the major figures of Moscow Conceptualism and the unofficial Soviet art scene of the 1970s and 1980s. This new edition collects, for the first time, all of Rubinstein's 'note-card poems' in a precise and sensitive English translation, and includes a preface by American poet Catherine Wagner, an introduction by translator Philip Metres and a short essay by the author.



CURATIONISM

How Curating Took Over the Art World and Everything Else
by David Balzer

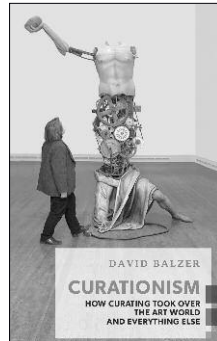
Now that we 'curate' even lunch, what happens to the role of the connoisseur in contemporary culture?

EXPLODED VIEWS SERIES

144 pp, September 2014

ISBN 978 1 55245 299 8

\$13.95 CDN/US



THE INSPECTION HOUSE

An Impertinent Field Guide to Modern Surveillance
by Emily Horne and Tim Maly

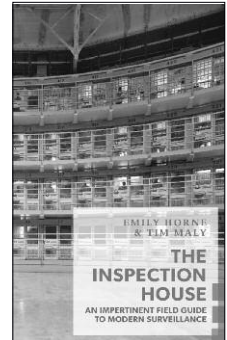
The Inspection House revisits Foucault's *Discipline and Punish* to explore the panopticon-like surveillance that defines modern life.

EXPLODED VIEWS SERIES

160 pp, October 2014

ISBN 978 1 55245 301 8

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THE TROUBLE WITH BRUNCH

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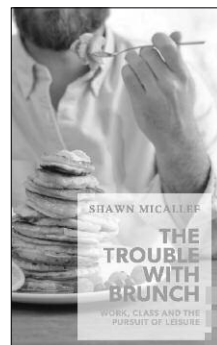
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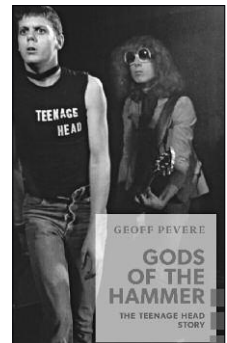
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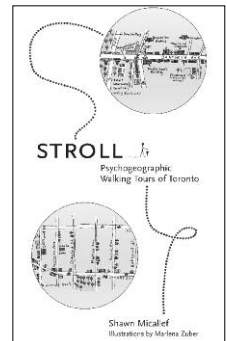
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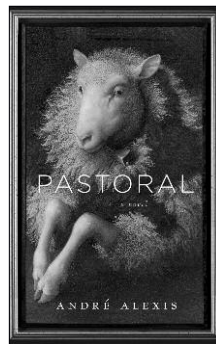


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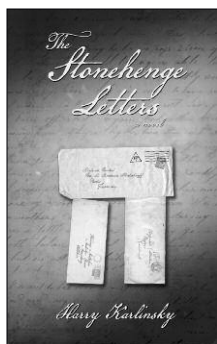


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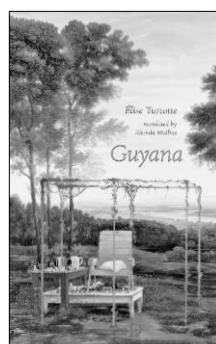


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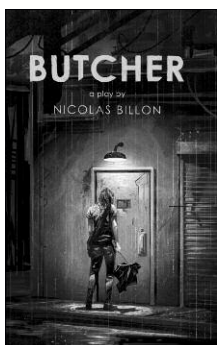


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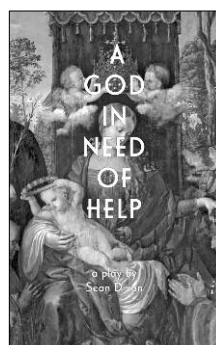


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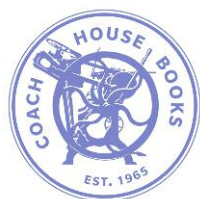


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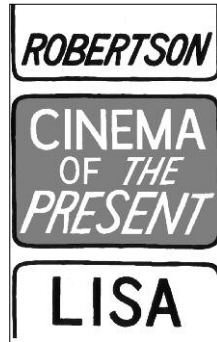
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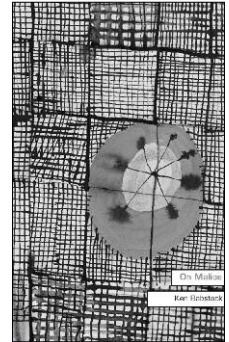


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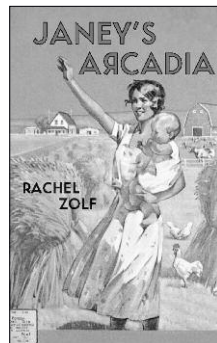


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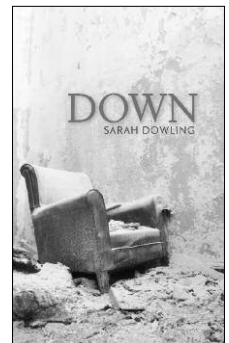


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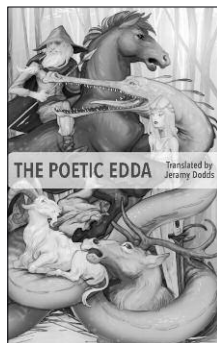
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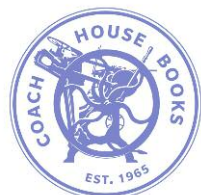
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