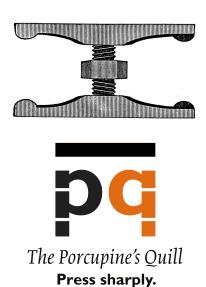


# The Porcupine's Quill

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

### Spring 2018



# Now Available as Exemplary e-Books

In recent years all of our frontlist, and select backlist, has become available in searchable PDF format designed primarily for use on tablets. Sixteen of these quality digital productions have been favoured with recognition by the eLit awards programme administered by the Jenkins Group of Traverse City, MI.

To date the collection as a whole includes almost 100 Porcupine's Quill titles as well as 19 backlist issues of the *Devil's Artisan*. To explore the range:

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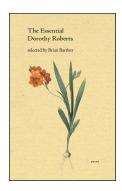
The collection features the poetry of P.K. Page, the wordless novels of George A. Walker and all sixteen titles in our Essential Poets series, showcasing work by Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, Don Coles, Daryl Hine, D.G. Jones, M. Travis Lane, Jay Macpherson, Richard Outram, P.K. Page, James Reaney and other luminaries.



STICKY fingers is a somewhat irreverent moniker we have adopted for a new digital imprint of the Porcupine's Quill that offers short, attractive, informative editions that probe the intersection between Canadian literature and the book arts, packaged exclusively for mobile devices.

Each chapbook is available in ePub for iPads and Android tablets, and Mobi for Kindle, and retails for \$2.99. The first three titles in the series explore the history of Coach

House Press, the career of printmaker Tony Calzetta, and George Walker's stunning re-imagining of Lewis Carroll's classic *Alice in Wonderland*.



# The Essential Dorothy Roberts selected by Brian Bartlett

M A R C H

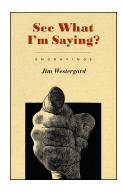
Brimming with powerful imagery and quiet but strong emotion, the latest in the Essential Poets series gathers together a selection of the best poems from Fredericton-born poet Dorothy Roberts's six-decades-long career.

Though she lived most of her adult life in the eastern United States, Roberts's poetry is rooted in the sights and sounds of her native New Brunswick. Her work exhibits a keen intelligence as well as a tough-minded tenderness, echoing the power and beauty of her beloved Maritime Canadian landscape and communicating her longing for the waterways and forests of her homeland.

The Essential Poets Series presents the works of Canada's most celebrated poets in a package that is beautiful, accessible and affordable. *The Essential Dorothy Roberts* is the seventeenth volume in the increasingly popular series.

Dorothy Roberts (1906–1993) was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Despite an itinerant childhood and an adult life spent primarily in the United States, her poetry remained rooted in her native land. The daughter of Theodore Goodridge Roberts and niece of Charles G.D. Roberts, she was encouraged by her family early on to write poetry. When she was twenty-one her first poetry chapbook, *Songs for Swift Feet*, was published under the pen name Gostwick Roberts. After years of raising a family and publishing short stories, she went on to write six more volumes of poetry, often featuring themes of nature, memory and the passage of time, with an emphasis on feelings of alienation and exile from her native land. Roberts died in Pennsylvania, her home for several decades, but was buried in Fredericton near the river she had loved since childhood.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56" POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-410-0



# See What I'm Saying? Jim Westergard

M A R C H

In his latest collection wood engraver Jim Westergard puts his artistic talents—and his wicked sense of humour—into play with equal effect, offering a series of visual interpretations of some of the more quirky words and phrases that pepper the English language.

Human beings rarely say exactly what they mean. The English language has evolved to embrace a dizzying array of linguistic tools that invite playful minds to introduce ambiguity and innuendo—and hilarity—into common parlance. In See What I'm Saying? Jim Westergard does just that, illustrating idioms with a series of exquisitely detailed engravings. Through these images, Westergard will insist you 'keep an open mind' and admonish you not to 'turn a blind eye' to the origin and evolution of colloquialisms. His visual interpretations are truly as 'rare as hens' teeth', as he might suggest himself—or he'll be 'a monkey's uncle'.

Jim Westergard was born in Ogden, Utah, in 1939. He was educated at a variety of colleges and universities in California, Arizona and Utah where he completed his BFA and MFA at Utah State. Westergard moved to Red Deer, Alberta, in 1975, became a Canadian citizen in 1980 and taught at Red Deer College until his retirement in 1999. Jim has been creating prints from wood engravings since his university days but had never completed a book-length collection until the letterpress edition of *Mother Goose Eggs* appeared in 2003 after a four-year struggle that included an unexpected hernia procedure and helpful hints from Crispin Elsted of Barbarian Press. Westergard continues to create wood engravings on the cantankerous old Vandercook SP-15 proof press which he has affectionately named the 'Spanish Fly'. Both the artist and the press still live in Red Deer.

\$18.95 • 112 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56" ART/Curiosities & Wonders • 978-0-88984-412-4



# Fluke Print Jeffery Donaldson



Jeffery Donaldson's sixth collection considers the implications of imprints, opposites and offsets—and in so doing creates a poetry that reflects on and re-imagines creativity, emotion and intellect. As Donaldson suggests, 'Both ends of this dull pencil have their say / and go together.'

Jeffery Donaldson's Fluke Print reflects on chance occurrences, on quiet familiar scenes and impressions—prints, if you will—in which 'Each word's a wake that, glancing, folds aside / in parting phrases, under a furrowed brow, / then opens into passing stillnesses...'. His is a poetic world in which myth and memory are fitting counterparts to science and knowledge; in which pain, passion and patience are equally worthy sources of inspiration; in which space and time are relative concepts, illusions of each other, points of intersection on a continuum that is vast and may, in the end, be unknowable.

In Fluke Print, Donaldson invites readers to don the mantle of a man filled with questions and doubt, to approach the cagey, skittish muse, to conjugate the moods of selfhood and to seek apprenticeship to a great scholar of being.

Jeffery Donaldson is the author of five previous collections of poetry, most recently Slack Action (Porcupine's Quill, 2011), which was commended by Poetry Daily, shortlisted for a ForeWord IndieFab award and shortlisted as well for the Hamilton Arts Council Literary Award for Poetry. Palilalia (McGill-Queen's, 2008) was a finalist for the Canadian Authors' Association Award for Poetry. Donaldson has also written works of criticism on poetry and metaphor. He lives in Hamilton, Ontario, where he teaches poetry and American literature at McMaster University.

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### The Rising Tide Mark Frutkin

APRIL

Rumours of the Second Coming of Christ abound in the City of Masks. Michele Archenti, publisher, former priest and current confidant to the mysterious skeleton-bearer Rodolpho, finds himself swept up in a rising tide of politics, ambition and lust in eighteenth-century Venice.

Venice, 1769. The City of Masks is awash with rumour. A strange man haunts the nearby island of Torcello, a skeleton strapped to his back. A wolf wearing a priest's cassock is spotted running through the fields. A mysterious courtesan bears signs of a most unusual form of stigmata.

Michele Archenti, former priest and devil's advocate, and current publisher of a scandalous collection of erotic poetry, becomes reluctantly embroiled in political intrigue. Called upon to defend the skeleton-bearer—his friend Rodolfo—against charges of heresy, Archenti must navigate the murky political waters as well as the less-frequented canals of Venice, and outsmart the ambitious new Inquisitor from Rome who vows not only to prosecute the heretic, but to see him burn. In the heady, uninhibited days of Carnival, the signs are ripe: the citizens of Venice prepare for the Second Coming of Christ.

Mark Frutkin is the author of over a dozen books of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. His works include the 2016 Trillium Book Award—winning Fabrizio's Return, which was shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book, and Atmospheres Apollinaire (Porcupine's Quill, 1988), which was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award, the Trillium and the Ottawa Book Award. Frutkin lives in Ottawa.

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# Jan in 35 Pieces Ian Hampton

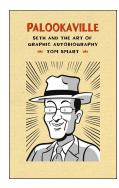


In his memoir of a life in classical music, acclaimed cellist Ian Hampton (Jan to his colleagues) shares stories of years of performance and camaraderie, incorporating his life-long dedication to the history and culture of classical music.

With charm, humour and a generous smattering of music history, cellist Ian Hampton takes readers into the cello section of the London Symphony Orchestra performing *The Rite of Spring* under the baton of Pierre Monteux; into a ubiquitous Bombardier snow-machine tracking across the Arctic tundra, late for a concert with members of the CBC Radio Orchestra; to a basement party where Ian plays Schubert with Stradivarius-wielding cellist Jacqueline du Pré; and on to the stage at Wigmore Hall in London, premiering the works of innovative Canadian composers with the Purcell String Quartet. Structured as if it were a concert, *Jan in 35 Pieces* revolves around thirty-five compositions that have influenced the course of Ian's long career. *Jan in 35 Pieces* is more than a memoir—it is an extravaganza of music history in which Hampton offers smart, playful glimpses into the world of a professional musician.

Born in London, England, in 1935, **Ian Hampton** is a cellist, educator and administrator. After stints with the London Symphony Orchestra and the Edinburgh String Quartet, he moved to Canada to become principal cellist of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. Ian is a founding member of the Purcell String Quartet and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, as well as Artistic Director Emeritus of the Langley Community Music School. In 2011, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Simon Fraser University. He lives near Vancouver.

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#### **Palookaville**

#### SETH AND THE ART OF GRAPHIC AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Tom Smart

RECENTLY ACCLAIMED



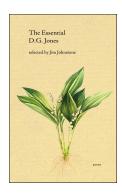
Art gallery director and curator Tom Smart examines the construction of self-identity and the wafer-thin distinction between fiction and autobiography in Canadian cartoonist Seth's series of graphic novels.

Canadian cartoonist Seth has created a dystopian reality in his *Palookaville* series of graphic novels. He struggles with existential questions about time, fate and identity. His bold, confident draughtsmanship depicts life in a bygone era and illustrates complex tales of the tragic consequences of living a static, inauthentic life.

In Palookaville: Seth and the Art of Graphic Autobiography, critic and author Tom Smart examines the microscopic separation between Seth's art and life, between his graphic fiction and the autobiographical elements that it reveals. Smart contends that Seth's characters are palimpsests, employed to convey a mythic story and to introduce Seth's own biographical details in the images he draws. Smart's analysis of the Palookaville story provides tantalizing clues into the artist's construction of identity, but more, it reveals art's ability to make sense of life, of the passage of time and perhaps even of our own humanity.

Tom Smart has worked at venues across Canada and the United States. He is currently Curator and Supervisor of Education at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives in Brampton, Ontario. Smart has organized many exhibitions of Canadian art and written extensively about Canadian artists and their times. His books and publications have helped to provide a deeper understanding of the rich traditions that inform the work of many of Canada's artists, among them Alex Colville, Tom Forrestall, Rosemary Kilbourn, Christopher Pratt, Mary Pratt and George A. Walker. Tom Smart lives in Toronto.

\$16.95 • 96 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56" ART/Popular Culture/Comics • 978-0-88984-397-4



# The Essential D. G. Jones selected by Jim Johnstone

RECENTLY ACCLAIMED



In this Essential—the fourteenth in the series—editor Jim Johnstone has selected the most important poems of Douglas Gordon Jones, one of Canada's great lyric poets, whose work straddles the chasm between the modern and postmodern eras.

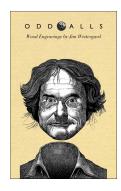
The poetry of D.G. Jones offers a portal to the natural world. Though his work initially tended toward formality and rigorous control, Jones's style gradually evolved to become looser, more instinctual, given to linguistic flexibility and visual experimentation. *The Essential D.G. Jones* celebrates this poetic transformation, presenting notable lyrics from all stages of Jones's career, along with three neverbefore published poems to round out the collection.

Jones was co-founder of the bilingual literary journal *ellipse*, and he actively promoted Québécois literature; this experience is reflected in the linguistic fluidity between French and English displayed in some of his poems. He was the author of ten books of poetry and won many awards including the Governor General's Award, once in 1977 and again in 1993. D.G. Jones died in March 2016.

Editor Jim Johnstone has prepared a critical introduction providing context for individual poems and explaining the progression of Jones's poetic practice. The book also contains biographical information and a bibliography of Jones's work, which enhances its value for poetry enthusiasts and students alike.

Jim Johnstone is the author of four books of poetry. He has won several awards, including a CBC Literary Award, Matrix Magazine's LitPop Award, The Fiddlehead's Ralph Gustafson Poetry Prize and This Magazine's Great Canadian Literary Hunt. Johnstone is the poetry editor at Palimpsest Press. He lives in Toronto.

\$14.95 • 64 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56" POETRY/Canadian • 978-0-88984-398-1



# Oddballs Jim Westergard



RECENTLY ACCLAIMED

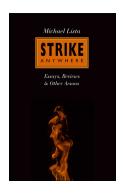
It is said that truth is stranger than fiction. Jim Westergard proves it with forty portraits and brief biographical sketches of historical figures who gained fame—or notoriety—through curious behaviour and circumstance.

This collection of wood engravings, accompanied by short pithy biographies, showcases fantastically detailed, warts-and-all portraits of some of history's most peculiar figures. Jim Westergard creates a veritable rogues' gallery, populated by notorious historical rebels and eccentrics like Rasputin, Pope Joan and Ned Kelly as well as lesser-known oddballs. Each portrait conveys not only skilled technique and natural ability, but also a whimsy and mischief that brings the image and its subject to life. The biographies are engaging, wryly humorous and sometimes tongue-in-cheek, conveying the ridiculousness of the person or situation being described. *Oddballs* pays tribute to the zany, bizarre, mischievous and just plain odd rascals who, by accident or design, have forced their way into the annals of history.

[The] prose is simple, lean, direct, and aims straight to the heart of the (partially perverted) funny bone.... Both prose and drawings are close-up, morbid, droll, ribald, irreverent, unexpected, but always artful and oh, so hilarious.'—from the Introduction by Barry Moser

Jim Westergard has been creating prints from wood engravings since the 1960s. He works on a cantankerous old Vandercook SP-15 proof press which he has affectionately named the 'Spanish Fly'. His book *Mother Goose Eggs* was released by the Porcupine's Quill in 2005. Jim Westergard lives in Red Deer, Alberta.

\$18.95 • 104 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56" ART/Curiosities & Wonders • 978-0-88984-389-9



#### Strike Anywhere

ESSAYS, REVIEWS & OTHER ARSONS

Michael Lista



RECENTLY ACCLAIMED

'I'd like to think that I'm polarizing the way a battery is,' explains Michael Lista in this collection of essays and reviews, 'energizing the flashlight by which you read in the dark only because it has a negative and a positive side. Assembled here, under one cover, are my cathodes and my anodes.'

—from the Introduction

In his self-described 'arsons', Michael Lista assesses with equal fire our literary darlings (Anne Carson, Don McKay), talented veterans (Steven Heighton, David McGimpsey) and promising newcomers (Steve Howell, Aisha Sasha John) of the poetic genre. He depicts a literary institution pathologically averse to the sustenance of a traditional repertoire and addicted to the empty calories of poetic experiments. Television, too, falls prey to Lista's jaundiced eye, from the militant sincerity of *The Bachelorette* to the receptacle of American anxieties that is *The Walking Dead*. Strike Anywhere acknowledges the inherent contradiction of poetic expression—that its power lies in its uselessness—but also recognizes that poets are, nonetheless, the happy few, 'the unacknowledged legislators of the world'. With thoughtfulness, wit and considerable humour, Michael Lista tackles the moral and aesthetic implications of storytelling in all its forms, from boob-tube blockbusters to the latest volume of verse.

Michael Lista is a nationally acclaimed poet, editor and literary critic. He is the author of two collections of poetry: Bloom (House of Anansi, 2010) and The Scarborough (Signal Editions, 2014). He served as poetry editor of The Walrus and wrote the popular column On Poetry for the National Post. Lista is co-editor of Partisan Magazine. He lives in Toronto.

\$25.95 • 224 pp • sewn, paperback • 8.75" x 5.56"
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