

Resuscitating the art of Canadian poetry

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## from The Body Vagabond

## Martine Audet translated by Antonio D'Alfonso

### from Orbits

every night stars hammer emptiness like rain falling from an impossible question

where do things that end the moment they begin escape to

what is a chair

I write something down and understand that the chair will not leave me

necessity blinks and self-destructs struck down like the universe

the chair asks nothing from me

a chair is the beginning my eyes

every night is the end of the chair

\* \* \*

our thoughts hide beneath tight overcoats

a brand new sun rises too thin to be feared

the dispassionate goodness of a corpse

I can still breathe when drowning in tears

\* \* \*

when faced with threats we can't keep walking for long

I swallow ropes and hoops and a day's efforts turn invisible

I'm ignorant of many things and so are you frightened stiff

I tear my hands to shreds like old clothes

\* \* \*

in our earth linen and dreadfully content fragrances of open roses and leaves fainting this is what we can account for this is what is lacking

oh for all that is slow dancing and dancing my hand overwhelmed

I have lost many of my faces my stone is in the garment of this sky

\* \* \*

the water tide turns over pebbles and you dream as I dream of the dead softly ringing

how to speak of that which tosses everything away

would our hearts still have meaning if they took the form of nothing I move forward

towards the sea broken trails running still

on the shore we wipe our feet on grass

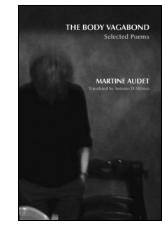
\* \* \*

on the table a new word finds its new day and replaces the previous day

I am sitting (not as easy as it seems) at times a word comes in a familiar colour its home fragile in need of dedication

\* \* \*

should we speak only of the blueness of the skygrip of the blueness of the sky Ekstasis Editions ISBN 978-1-77171-039-8 Poetry 100 pages 5 x 8 \$23.95 Now Available



Born in 1961, Martine Audet is the author of seven books of poetry. Her work has been published in the most important anthologies of French-language poetry in Canada. Her poetry has garnered illustrious awards, including the Prix Estuaires des Terrasses St. Sulpice and the Prix Alain-Grandbois.

She has been a finalist for the Governor General Award of Canada three times. Audet also co-wrote a book of poems for children with Michel Van Schendel. She is presently on the editorial board of the poetry magazine, Estuaire.

Antonio D'Alfonso is an award-winning writer and filmmaker. He was also a publisher for thirty-three years. He lives in Montreal and Toronto. His latest collection of poems, The Irrelevant Man, appeared in 2014.

be it faded and private or dirty and torn

we speak passionately the body of love quenches our restlessness

\* \* \*

on the river drunk on the sky the sun multiplies and divides itself in circles

(the river reminds me of the underside of your voice my hands their bones about to blaze up)

I raise my fingers to the breeze

how are we to stand on the rim of the day and lift love this light to our ear

# *from* The Terror Chronicles Normand de Bellefeuille

translated by Antonio D'Alfonso

### CHAPTER I

The there where it all begins because it is true it begins like this: me and my circumstance, there in a villa somewhere in Tuscany somewhere under the sun or was it somewhere in the rain in Edinborough easting haggis or was it on another day with me and my circumstance

exactly: the chapters of our autobiographies, that is me and I, are subject to barely noticeable chances, atmospheric, climatic, altitudinal; my circumstance and I prefer a geometry of ambiguity, yet an undisputable fact remains:

it began like this for me and my circumstance an awareness about reproduction an awareness about the indisputable idiocy of truth and of the no less distressing conceit awareness of fate weaned on inaccurancies and adaptations in foreign languages in colours unheard of with incalculable planetary figures

and already in a villa somewhere in Tuscany or was it in the rain in Edinborough eating haggis we were no longer sure to whom my circumstance and I owed our unquestionable coexistence collusion my circumstance and I agreed upon

exactly: who was it the Spanish Ortega y Gasset or the German Richard Avenarius who, on a sunny day or was it a rainy day, could have come up with this fascinating synchronicity between the world and the I? Facts weigh heavily on the German writer, and an undisputable fact remains:

#### it began like this

for my circumstance and me: a dreadful consciousness of Time the Great and the usual farewells in every house visited in every village with their stone throwers and every river forded on the dead bodies of cicadas on every road without Austria every road without Manitoba desperately left in a state of neglect my circumstance and me exactly: she is a twin, a singleton, a pagan, a fugitive; she is without a people; she is Slavic, Sloven, half-Arab; she is at once alone and all the possible circumstances in the world; yet an undisputable fact remains:

it all began like this, there on May afternoon when you found yourself alone as a unique circumstance

### CHAPTER II

The anchovy sauce in Collioure I will not say a thing I will not say a thing anymore that will not be in the nature of light I will not say a thing on pain confusion, the lying on that July morning the lying on that September morning not a word that will not be in the nature of light nothing, not a word about the disillusionment nor the words used for disillusionment not a word about the white surrending not a word about the exact term used for powdery white surrendering I will not say a thing expect perhaps on the tone used for Catalan confidence in front of the anchovy sauce in Callioure not a word that is not in the nature of the sea the herring, the quail and the première sauce not a word about the accidents of the sea nor about endangered species nor about cetaceans such as literary genres without method I will not say a thing that does not deal with you, you and your breasts without theory

not a word about what does not interest security guards of the city library not a word about the rushes of the soul nor about the sixteenth sign of the Zodiac not a word about the roe deer and its constellation not a word about what is not energy or the experience of energy or the light and the experience of light not a word about the grace of writing yet I will mention the dancing of the mind before saying a thing about stupid imagination but not a word about the healing powers of poetry not a word about healing or the opposite of healing

not a word if it is not about poetry

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Normand de Bellefeuille's first book appeared in 1973 and DeBellefeuille has never stopped writing important books since. He is the author of essays and novels, but it is his poetry that has brought him fame. In 2000 he won the Governor General's Award for Poetry. He has been a literary critic, a professor, and



an editor. He is presently the Editor in Chief at the Éditions Druide.

Antonio D'Alfonso is an award-winning writer and filmmaker. He was also a publisher for thirty-three years. He lives in Montreal and Toronto. His latest collection of poems, The Irrelevant Man, appeared in 2014.

such as the moment of its application and the opposite of this application death visited all the way to its extreme blinding limit not a word about what is not true to me the dive into the dark vanity of my solitude I will not say a thing except perhaps on the tone used for Catalan confidence in front of the anchovy sauce in Callioure

I will not say a thing so do not insist, my love!

# *from* Silence is a Healing Cave Yolande Villemaire

#### 20.

Deep indigo night Flowing into sweet silence In droplets of peace

#### 21.

Sharing the silence Feeding a peace egregore Music of our souls

### 22.

A subtle dancer Hieratic priest moving space In the public place

## 23.

Traffic noise and rain Day folding into stillness Cat dreaming cat's dream

## 24.

The peal of church bells Downloading a new software Looking at the sky

### 25.

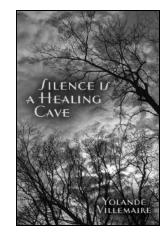
A cat with gold eyes Golden channel on water Day of gold dust sparks

## 26.

Poets & healers Matrix of soul families In lilac-rose ray

### 27.

A red haired mermaid Telling her mermaid story Silence in green eyes Ekstasis Editions ISBN 978-1-77171-006-0 Poetry 104 Pages 5 x 8 \$23.95 Now Available



**Yolande Villemaire** is one of Quebec's most prolific writers, proficient in both poetry and prose. She has given poetry readings and performances around the world. Her novel La vie en prose won an award from the Journal de Montreal in 1980 and her poems, L'armoure received a Radio-Canada award in 2002. She



also received a Quebec-Mexico poetry prize in 2008 and the Career Award from Quebec's Council of Arts and Letters in 2009. She has published more than twenty-five books, four of which are available in English translation from Ekstasis Editions: Midnight Tides of Amsterdam, Poets & Centaurs, India, India and Little Red Berries. Yolande Villemaire lives in Montreal and is the director of TOTEMPOÉSIE.

## *from* Blue Kék Attila F. Balázs translated by Elizabeth Csicery-Rónay

### Blue

Is blue the colour of patience? Is this why the sea and the sky turn grey when harmony and patience and the sensuality of emotions are spent?

Isn't the sea, ever angry, that moved into your eyes?

Can you only swing on its waves?

Sweep my fear far away like the carcass of an octopus

BLUE!

### You Forgot to Cry

you no longer wonder at dolphin leaps, great thoughts orgy of love behind walls the light touch of love as it dissolves into stiff forms

tear that has collected in the corner of your eye dissolves into the century's dust that has nestled in your pores lo, your eyes are brighter your features softer the light streams into the room discreetly

you forgot to cry

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Attila F. Balázs, Hungarian writer, poet, literary translator and publisher, was born in Transylvania in 1954. In 1994 he established the publishing house AB-ART, where he is the company director. He is the editor of the literary magazine Poesis International and the general editor of the literary journal



Szőrös Kő. He has received several literary awards, including the literary translator award of the Romanian Writers' Association, and Lucian Blaga award in 2011. He is member of Slovakian, Hungarian and Romanian writers' organisations.

## from Of Amber Waters Woven Annick Perrot-Bishop translated by Neil B. Bishop

In Long, Secret Rivers

### Your Wings, Bare-voiced/ Tes ailes, à voix nue

Tu es venu au monde dans un délire de pluies. Frissons obscurs, halètements. Paisible frayeur. Attente au creux de l'infime où tout existe déjà. Oiseaux, mers entières, se ruent dans ton cœur. T'appartiennent comme le temps. Ce silence en dérive où s'immisce l'angoisse.

You came into this world amidst frenzied rain. Obscure shivers, pantings. Calm fear. Long waiting deep within the infinitesimal, where everything already exists. Birds and whole oceans flood your heart. Belong to you like time itself: that drifting silence, gradually pervaded with dread.

Tes ailes, à voix nue. Dans un crèvement d'eaux. Ton souffle ample, prêt à avaler la vie. La mémoire te revient comme une forêt de cris. L'été enflammé d'ambre s'étale sur ta peau. Saison aux désirs fougueux.

Your wings, bare-voiced. In the breaking birthwaters. Your ample breathing, eager to feast on life. Memories flood you like a forest of cries. Amber-flamed summer spreads over your skin. Season of fiery desires.

Ton corps se défait, se mêle à mon corps. Comme une terre rouge, une mer lisse. Une senteur d'algue et de limon. Derrière nous, la pesanteur des chagrins et des ressentiments. Ta légèreté sera la mienne aux limites de la raison. En moi, tes ailes se glissent, poussées par cent soleils.

Your body dissolves, mingling with mine. Like red earth, or a calm sea. Like scents of algae and silt. Behind us, the weight of sorrows and resentments. Your lightness shall be mine, on the frontier of sanity. Within me, your wings glide, thrust by a hundred suns. Toi, comme une saison. Un champ où je m'allonge en quête de chaleur. Le battement de ton sang m'emporte vers un passé lointain. Un avenir, à la croisée des routes. Cette longue marche ensemble, malgré les cailloux et la boue. À la rencontre de ce qui nous effraie. Présence invisible dans la sépulture de nos pas.

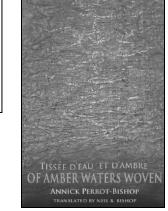
You, like a season. A field where I lie down, thirsting for warmth. Your throbbing blood carries me off towards a distant past. A future, at a crossroads. This long march together, despite the stones and mud. To meet what we fear. That invisible presence in the tomb of our footsteps.

## Nos mains, en chuchotis. Rivières de sable. Caresses qui coulent tout au long du jour. Un feu me tisse et ma joie s'allume, mouillée d'attentes. Ton monde creuse ses reflets dans le labyrinthe de ma chair. Et tu t'émerveilles de sa tiédeur profonde.

Our hands, whispering. Rivers of sand. Caresses flowing the whole day long. Fire weaves through me and my glee kindles fierce, moist with desires. Your world casts its radiance within the labyrinth of my flesh. And you revel in my warm depths.

Je retourne aux racines de ton corps. Dans ces minuscules planètes qui se figent un instant, avant de reprendre leur course folle. Ta chair lactée, criant au sortir de la nuit. Cette naissance prolongée qui fait mal. Te griffe jusqu'à l'âme.

I return to the roots of your body. To these minuscule planets that stop for a second, then zoom off on their frantic course. Your milky flesh, crying out as it leaves the night. This drawn-out birthing, so painful. Clawing you to the soul. Ekstasis Editions ISBN 978-1-897430-79-8 Poetry 262 Pages \$25.95 6 x 9 Now Available



Annick Perrot-Bishop is a Francophone Canadian author of multicultural background (Vietnamese, Indian and French). A resident of St. John's, Newfoundland, she has published some sixty short stories and translations in literary journals and anthologies as well as five books. Her highly-acclaimed



poetry collection Femme au profil d'arbre (Éditions David) was published by Ekstasis Editions in Neil Bishop's English translation as Woman Arborescent (2005). In Long, Secret Rivers is Neil Bishop's translation of Annick Perrot-Bishop's En longues rivières cachées (Eds. David), a translation for which he won First Prize in the prestigious John Dryden Translation Competition (2008), organized by the British Comparative Literature Association and the British Centre for Literary Translation.

À la frange des cils, un instant volé à l'angoisse. Une rumeur nue qui se mêle aux craquements de la nuit. À la soif lente des ombres. Au loin, un froissement contre le ciel gris. Mon désir de toi se recroqueville. Comme une fin d'été.

On the fringe of my eyelashes, a moment stolen from dread. A fragile murmur mingling with the crackling night-sounds. With the slow thirst of shadows. Far off, a rustling against the gray sky. My desire for you shrivels. Like a dying summer.

Mon âme se fripe de sommeil, s'engourdit de siècles. Au fond, un soleil craque, se fissure. S'épanche. Un murmure de chaleur crève l'ennui. Une tache d'or s'étale dans l'obscurité sanguine.

My soul is rumpled with sleep, the numbness of centuries. Deep within, a sun fissures, cracks open. Stretches out. A murmur of heat breaks the languor. Golden spot spreading forth within dark blood.

## *from* RedShift Patrick White

Tenderly the evening descends into a dark bliss

Tenderly the evening descends into a dark bliss and lays its poultice like a cool leaf against my forehead and draws the fever of the day out of the night. I ease back on my elbows like an easel down by the river. When I'm burnt, I make a blister and cushion myself with water, a more useful approach to tears. The mosquitoes swarm like insistent circumstances that thin my blood, but a soft wind is blowing them away from Pearl Harbour. The long blue grass yields as easily to a man as a deer. I want the stars near enough to overhear what they're whispering. Still amazing to me I can embrace all of them with a thought as if they were my idea in the first place and feel humbled and exalted at the same time by the sublimity of their radiance and the strangeness of my own. The river sustains its clarity by wandering.

Single male in the autumn of life, I've let go of so much the only thing left to let go of is the letting go itself. I've forgone the commotion of inducing myself into creation. Things will fall out by themselves. Playfulness return to surrealistic perversity to explain the shape of the universe and fools like me counter-intuit the crazy wisdom of squandering their lives on voices in the distance leading them on deeper into the subtleties of a poetic narcosis that haunts them like the face of a beautiful woman they once knew.

Don't we all belong to a nobility of longing, even though we don't live up to it, and start to grasp and scratch like dead branches screeching across an intransigent windowpane on a stormy night that let's us look at the fire, but doesn't let us in?

Where do you go with your serious spirit when you've been rejected by your solitude? Do you know the secret art of being enhanced by the qualities of anything you're not attached to, without killing off the desire for what you're missing? Live with gratitude for the abyss in your heart it's impossible to fill like a grave that took more out of you than it put back in.

You can be adorned by your failures. You can be humiliated by your victories. Coming and going, your path can be strewn with roses or thorns. You could be walking on stars. You could be lying down beside a river at night like I am savouring a sorrow you like the poetic taste of, because it includes everything within it like the skin of the dew and the moon as the source of life.



Ekstasis Editions ISBN 978-1-77171-027-5 Poetry 186 Pages 6 x 9 \$24.95 Now Available **Patrick White** is the former poet laureate of Ottawa. He has published eight books of poetry and his work has been translated into five languages and appears in hundreds of national and international periodicals and anthologies. Winner of

the Archibald Lampman Award, Canadian Literature Award, Benny Nicholas Award for Creative Writing, he was also a runner-up for the Milton Acorn People's Poet Award. He is founding editor and publisher of Anthos, a Journal of the Arts, Anthos Books, and producer-host of Radio Anthos, a popular literary radio show.

Even sweeter than a rainbow body of light or an atmosphere with ocean to match, this last touch of clinging before you evaporate into the mystery of everything you're leaving behind.

No more than you can pour water out of the universe through a black hole, can your mindstream be poured by time into the uncomprehending darkness of the black mirror you're looking for an image in tonight in the eyes of all these stars shining down upon us, knowing our starmud is just as old as their light and we're not wandering orphans lost in their shadows.

We're firewalking on water like stars in the shapes of self-immolating swans, two parts flammable from the start, and one of oxygen like a toxin we depend upon for life like an alien export we adapted to. Same with death. Until you include it in the nucleus, inviting your enemy in to feast behind the gates that laboured like water to keep life in the seas, you're vulnerable to the delusion of your own exclusion like the face of an exile in your mirroring awareness. Don't underestimate the creative potential of the dark genius of death to come up with new paradigms of seeing and being that make us feel we lived our whole lives confined and blind in the coffin of a seed that stored a harvest of what we've reaped in a silo.

Out of the dead ore of the moon pours the white gold of wheat like metal from a stone in a starfield that yields more life than can be lost in the living of it. Without a sword. Without a ploughshare. Isn't it in the nature of our evanescence to move like light and water and wind from urn to urn of one sky burial to the next at sea and then the earth like a water clock that runs so urgently from full to an emptiness that has to keep expanding like the human heart just to contain it so when the cup's broken like a skull you can drink the whole of the sea and the sky in every single drop of your mindstream and the stars will still be climbing your roots up to the flowers within that bloom every year like a deepening insight at zenith into the dark generosity of becoming something even beyond the scope of death to imagine extinct?

## *from* Autumn Leaves Manolis

## ΣΩΣΙΑΣ

Σίγουρα δεν ήμουνα εγώ που έτρεχα χθες βράδυ στο προάστιο με το πουκάμισο ολάνοιγτο σαν ξεχασμένη ευσπλαχνία με την καρδιά περιφραγμένη στο γαλανό του αιθέρα λιόγερμα σαν όνειρο που ξέχασε από πού ήρθε δεν ήμουνα εγώ αλλά ο σωσίας μου μες το σακκίδιο που έκρυβε παλιά φωτογραφία δυο αστεριών που κολυμπούσαν στο λιμνάκι δίδυμα πρόσωπα ματιά μες στον καθρέφτη κι εκεί μια στάλα παραπέρα στεκόσουν εσύ και με παρώτρυνες στην αγκαλιά σου να λουφάξω το κόπο μου να ξεκουράσω μα `γώ κρατούσα πάνω μου σφιχτά εκείνο το μικρό το αντικλείδι έτοιμος να το βάλω στην οπή ν' ανοίξω σαν τραντάφυλλο τον κόσμο

## DOUBLE

Certainly it wasn't I who last night jogged amid the suburb houses with my shirt unbuttoned like forgotten piety with my heart encompassed by the auspices of the orange dusk a dream forgetful of its origin it wasn't I but my double who in his bag had hidden old picture of two stars swimming in a crystal pond twin faces, one mirror's glance and further on: a single drop you stood coaching me to hide in your arms my tiredness to release though I tightly held the little master key ready to place it in the hole and open the world like a bloomed rose Ekstasis Editions ISBN 978-1-77171-033-6 Poetry 188 Pages 6 x 9 \$23.95 Now Available



Manolis is a Greek-Canadian poet. His translation George Seferis: Collected Poems was shortlisted for the Greek National Literary Awards, the highest literary recognition of Greece. He was recently appointed an honorary instructor and fellow of the International Arts Academy, and awarded a Master's for



the Arts in Literature. Born in the village of Kolibari on the island of Crete in 1947, he emigrated to Vancouver in 1973 where he worked as an iron worker, train labourer, taxi driver, and stock broker, and studied English Literature at Simon Fraser University.. He now lives in White Rock, where he heads Libros Libertad, an unorthodox and independent publishing company.



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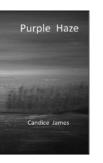
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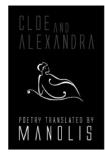
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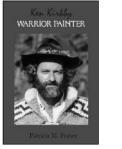
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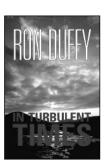
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