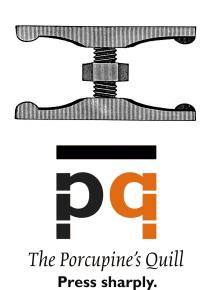


## The Porcupine's Quill

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO PRESS

Spring 2016



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or order through Google Play who will facilitate international sales in any number of local currencies. e-Book sales can also be accommodated through the book membership service Scribd. To date the collection features six titles by P.K. Page: Brazilian Journal, Coal and Roses, Hand Luggage, Kaleidoscope, Mexican Journal and The Essential P.K. Page; seven titles by wood engraver George A. Walker: A Is for Alice, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Book of Hours, The Life and Times of Conrad Black, The Mysterious Death of Tom Thomson, The Wordless Leonard Cohen Songbook; Trudeau: La Vie en Rose and all thirteen titles in our series of 'Essential Poets' featuring work by Margaret Avison, Earle Birney, Don Coles,

Tom Marshall, Richard Outram, James Reaney and Anne Wilkinson, as well as P.K. Page.

Other recent releases include Thoughts on Driving to Venus by Christopher Pratt and The Grand River by Marianne Brandis and Gerard Brender à Brandis.

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# Fabulous Fictions & PECULIAR PRACTICES Leon Rooke & Tony Calzetta



A fantastical literary experiment in which text and image collide to form an irreverent satire of society's indifference to the artist.

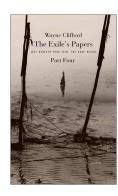
In Fabulous Fictions & Peculiar Practices, politics and economics sprawl comfortably alongside prurient dissertations on sex, marriage and aging as Leon Rooke and Tony Calzetta masterfully unfold a narrative of society's utter indifference to the sorry plight of the artist. In this unique confluence of image and text, a pompous bank president delivers a rousing oration to his number cruncher clerks, and the painter Cézanne confronts both a disquieting muse and the cold rejection of the artistic community. Art critics, revelling in their pedantry, take perverse enjoyment in professing ridiculous opinions. And God himself makes a cameo appearance—fearsome, irreverent and, it must be said, at times lecherous.

**Leon Rooke** is an energetic and prolific storyteller whose writing is characterized by inventive language, experimental form and an extreme range of characters with distinctive voices. He has written a number of plays for radio and stage, more than three hundred short stories, and seven critically acclaimed novels, including *Shakespeare's Dog*, which won the Governor General's Award in 1983. He lives in Toronto.

Since receiving his BFA from the University of Windsor and his MFA from York University, **Tony Calzetta** has exhibited continually in solo and group exhibitions. He works mainly on canvas and paper and at times in sculpture and printmaking. In addition to commissioned works, he is represented in public, corporate and private collections in Canada, the U.S. and Europe. He lives in Welland.

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## The Exile's Papers: Part Four Wayne Clifford



The final chapter of Wayne Clifford's sweeping sonnet sequence. In this volume, the exiled poet questions notions of truth, identity and salvation in his quest to describe and interpret a journey through life that is both familiar and unfamiliar.

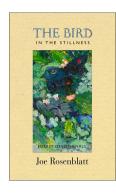
The culmination of decades of effort, Wayne Clifford's *Exile's Papers* is a four-part poetic journey that explores narrative duplicity, familial and romantic relationships, the correlation between love, sin and life, and finally, the notion that human life cannot be explained—or saved. The 143 sonnets in this final volume rely heavily on skepticism, and the notion that life is full of questions that cannot be answered by religion, science, history, or even experience.

'The Exile's Papers is sonnet-writing on a grand scale. An unfolding odyssey of personal revelation brimming with quixotic ruminations and existential paradoxes, Wayne Clifford's strapping new collection offers a masterclass on how a single form can assume a protean variety of shapes, sounds and voices. It also confirms the incantatory powers of one of our most unpredictable poets.'

—Carmine Starnino

Winner of the E.J. Pratt Prize early in his career, **Wayne Clifford** attended the International Writers' Workshop at Iowa City, and worked in the School of Journalism with Harry Duncan before returning to Canada, where he taught for many years in Kingston, Ontario. Wayne's first collection, *Man in a Window* (1965) was the first book published by Coach House Press. Wayne now lives on Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy.

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# The Bird in the Stillness FOREST DEVOTIONALS Joe Rosenblatt



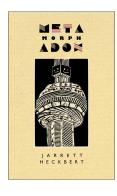
A lyrical pilgrimage through the lush forest of the Green Man and his woodland kin, Joe Rosenblatt's latest book of poetry offers up a spiritual feast in celebration of the natural world.

The Green Man's forest is full of spirits. From the loftiest cedar to the lowliest centipede, all life falls under the dominion and protection of the existential He Who Is Verdant. Circumspect eyes track defiant interlopers while decaying tree stumps nurse saplings with maternal tenderness. Tree branches entwine sensuously, and leaves rustle like the intimate whispers of lovers. A bird in the stillness waits, talons sharp, preparing to make a kill. The Bird in the Stillness presents a forest in chiaroscuro—a delicate ecosystem held in tenuous balance by cycles of life and death, light and darkness, companionship and solitude. It provides a rich buffet of physical, spiritual and artistic nourishment for any pilgrim who cares to walk the woodland path ... and acknowledge simultaneously that his warranty on breathing may be nearing its expiry.

Joe Rosenblatt is an accomplished author and artist who, over the course of five decades, has produced over twenty books of poetry, fiction and non-fiction. He was the second poet to be published by the legendary Coach House Press, which released *The LSD Leacock* in 1966. Rosenblatt has since received two major awards, including the Governor General's Award for his selected poems *Top Soil* (1976), as well as the B.C. Book Prize for *Poetry Hotel* in 1986. His poems have been translated into Italian, Swedish, Spanish and Korean. He lives in blissful seclusion in Qualicum Beach on Vancouver Island with his wife Faye and their generational cats, all of whom are depicted in his many drawings and paintings.

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#### The Porcupine's Quill / Spring 2016 Catalogue



### Metamorphadox Jarrett Heckbert



A wordless novel in which wood engravings tell a story of the perils of technological mediation to the ever-evolving human experience.

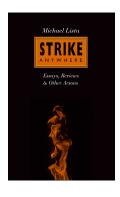
In a small corner of what was once known as North America, in the not-too-distant future, Neo-Toronto emerges as a prosperous island enclave after decades of war and unrest. In this world, knowledge is downloaded, learning is obsolete and cybernetic communication is the norm. Citizens wholeheartedly embrace a doctrine of immortality known as Singularity—a state of autonomy so complete that human contact is rendered unnecessary. The protagonist, depicted with a 'third eye' that heralds the transcendence afforded by Singularity, indulges in a playful romp through dimensions before suddenly embarking on a rampage. By the end of the narrative, the protagonist tires of its solitude and decides the only way to control its new found power may be suicide. After an unexpected reunion with its companion, the two posthumans are apparently saved by their friendship, though this act of love turns out to be nothing more than yet another illusion.

Jarrett Heckbert's Metamorphadox presents a cautionary tale of a society that has lost touch with physical reality. This suite of eighty-one wood engravings chronicles a chilling journey toward posthumanity in a dystopian future-world in which experience is always mediated and reality is undeniably, inescapably virtual.

Born in Toronto in 1994, **Jarrett Heckbert** is a dynamic young printmaker and student at OCAD University. His hybridized artistic practice includes philosophical theory in the production of visual art. *Metamorphadox* is his first book of wood engravings. He lives in the heart of downtown Toronto.

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# Strike Anywhere ESSAYS, REVIEWS & OTHER ARSONS Michael Lista



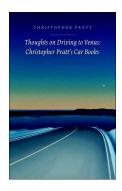
'I'd like to think that I'm polarizing the way a battery is,' explains Michael Lista in this collection of essays and reviews, 'energizing the flashlight by which you read in the dark only because it has a negative and a positive side. Assembled here, under one cover, are my cathodes and my anodes.'

—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 repetoire, 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 currently acts as co-editor of Partisan Magazine. He lives in Toronto.

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# Thoughts on Driving to Venus CHRISTOPHER PRATT'S CAR BOOKS with an introduction by Tom Smart

Painter and printmaker Christopher Pratt journeys through the Newfoundland countryside, assimilating thoughts, memories and impressions that inspire his work. As he drives, the planet Venus is straight ahead in his sights.

Christopher Pratt is known for his luminous, meticulous images of Atlantic-coast settings. Strongly influenced by the culture and landscape of Newfoundland, Pratt's still, crystal-clear images of archetypal island life convey more than landscape. They are richly imagined, almost hyperreal depictions of the land, imbued with memory and meaning. Thoughts on Driving to Venus allows readers an unprecedented glimpse inside Pratt's mind through the diary-like entries he made on numerous road trips from the late 1990s to the present. Some passages record the effects of colour, light and shadow on a scene—what he refers to as 'sketches'; some delve into personal recollections conjured by the landscapes seen through the windshield; others are reflections on his complex emotional ties to his homeland. The result is an intimate portrait of the creative process and realms of the imagination of one of Canada's most important contemporary artists.

Christopher Pratt was born in St. John's, Newfoundland. His works have been exhibited nationally and internationally, and have received many prestigious awards and honours. He was named a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1983 and lives and works in St. Mary's Bay, Newfoundland.

**Tom Smart** is an author, art gallery director, curator and columnist. He is noted for his award-winning critical biographies, catalogues and monographs on Canadian artists. His most recent work is *Christopher Pratt: Six Decades*. He lives in Toronto.

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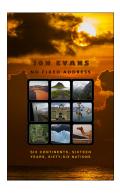
### Trudeau: La Vie en Rose George A. Walker

Master wood engraver George A. Walker presents a compendium of engravings celebrating the life of one of Canada's most well-known and charismatic politicians: Pierre Elliott Trudeau.

In a collection of 80 wood engravings, George A. Walker pays tribute to the life and career of former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau. Captivating and provocative, Trudeau served as Prime Minister during the 1970s and '80s, times marked by conflict and crisis, but also by a sense of nationalism, multiculturalism and Canadian pride. *Trudeau: La Vie en Rose* documents Trudeau's political achievements, events of cultural significance and famous friends while also capturing Trudeau's confidence, passion and irreverence. Highlighted are iconic images—Trudeau sliding down the banister at the Chateau Laurier Hotel; troops marching past Montreal City Hall during the October Crisis; Trudeau famously pirouetting behind the back of Queen Elizabeth in celebration of the patriation of the Canadian constitution. Presented without captions and open to interpretation in any language, it is a testament to the multilingual culture of Canada and a celebration of the man whose political legacy has had a profound influence on the definition of Canadian culture.

George A. Walker is an award-winning wood engraver, book artist, teacher, author and illustrator. He is Associate Professor at OCAD University in Toronto, teaching popular courses in book arts and printmaking. He illustrated the first Canadian editions of Lewis Carroll's Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Alice Through the Looking-Glass. He was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of Art for his contribution to the cultural area of Book Arts. George Walker lives in Toronto.

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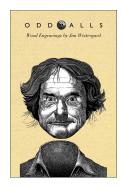
## No Fixed Address Jon Evans

The real-life adventures of award-winning thriller writer Jon Evans as he travels through sixty-six countries in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, the Americas, Australasia, and Asia over a period of sixteen years.

Jon Evans is no stranger to writing about daring escapades and exotic locales. In *No Fixed Address*, he chronicles his own real-life solo travels across sixty-six countries around the globe. Unafraid to be lost and alone in a world where technology has made it almost impossible to be either of those things, Evans seeks out new and intriguing places in which to experience vibrant cultures, landscapes, and wildlife. His eclectic adventures take him off the beaten path, from Cape Town to St. Petersburg to Beijing and points in between. His travelogues include everything from getting lost on the way to Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, flying in a Blackhawk helicopter over wartime Baghdad, savouring Mumbai's full-frontal assault on the senses, and travelling across seven time zones to reach Vladivostok. With a clear appreciation of history and politics, a reverence for the natural world, and a humorous, exploratory spirit sure to appeal to armchair travellers and dyed-in-the-wool backpackers alike, *No Fixed Address* vividly captures the sights, smells, and sounds of the far corners of the world.

Jon Evans was born in Kitchener and graduated from the University of Waterloo in 1996. He spent the next fourteen years working, writing, and travelling around the world before finally returning to Canada in 2010. Evans is the author of six novels. His journalism has been published in Wired, The Guardian, The Globe and Mail, and The Times of India, among others. His novel, Dark Places, won the 2005 Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. Evans currently lives in San Francisco.

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## Oddballs Jim Westergard

They say 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 found their way into the annals of history.

'[The] prose is simple, lean, direct, and aims strait 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.

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