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The Sharon Thesen Lecture Series

Okanagan Special Collections and Archives is pleased to host an exhibition in honour of and in supplement to the fourth annual Sharon Thesen Lecture.

Sharon Thesen is a renowned Canadian poet, writer, editor and critic who lives in Lake Country. She has written eleven monographs and chapbooks including *The Good Bacteria* (Anansi, 2006), *Oyama Pink Shale* (Anansi, 2011), and *The Receiver* (New Star Books, 2017) — all of which are featured in this eclectic exhibition.

In addition to her writing, she has edited two editions of *The New Long Poem Anthology* (Coach House Press, 1991; Talonbooks, 2001), two editions of Charles Olson's correspondence with book designer Frances Boldereff, and a Governor General's Award—winning selection of poems by Phyllis Webb, *The Vision Tree* (Talonbooks, 1982). Her most recent publication is *Refabulations* (Talonbooks, 2023) which collects and reanimates the longer poems from Thesen's œuvre, ranging from her first book, published in 1980, to today.

Thesen is Professor Emerita of Creative Writing at UBC's Okanagan Campus. The Creative Writing program at UBC intends for the Sharon Thesen Lecture to acknowledge her contributions to British Columbian and Canadian literature and to the Creative Writing Program at UBC Okanagan. In her honor, a different writer each year will give a lecture that tackles key issues of contemporary writing, poetics, and Canadian literature. By recording each lecture, we will create a wonderful resource of contemporary thinking by writers.

2023 Sharon Thesen Lecture by Nancy Holmes

When We Were Both Clothed Alike: Conversation Poetics

Nancy Holmes is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing in the Department of Creative Studies at UBC Okanagan. She has published six collections of poetry, most recently *Arborophobia* (University of Alberta Press, 2022). Her prior publication, *The Flicker Tree: Okanagan Poems* (Ronsdale Press, 2012), is a collection of poems about the place, people, plants, and animals of the Okanagan Valley in the southern interior of British Columbia. She is also the editor of *Open Wide a Wilderness: Canadian Nature Poems* (Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2009). With her colleague Denise Kenney in Interdisciplinary Performance, she worked on several initiatives of the Eco Art Incubator, a large-scale research project federally funded by SSHRC (Canada's Social Science and Humanities Research Council).

In her lecture, Holmes explores the quality of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poetry and reminds us that poems do complex work around division, balance and incorporating difference — a kind of thinking and communication that is key to contemporary problems.

"The Sharon Thesen lecture is a unique opportunity to explore important ideas through poetics, in the spirit of Thesen herself," says Holmes. "She has been a champion of the cultural value of poetry and the necessity of the artistic imagination."

The Exhibition

The 2023 Sharon Thesen Lecture will be delivered in The Corbishley Family Reading Room at UBC Okanagan Special Collections (OSC) and livestreamed to the public.

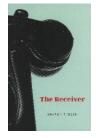
OSC serves as a dynamic access point for archival, primary source, and special collections reflecting the history and character of the Okanagan and neighbouring areas. The 2023 Sharon Thesen Lecture, presented by Nancy Holmes, provides a unique grounding for OSC to amplify the sense of place – The Okanagan – which has informed some of the works of both Homes and Thesen.

The exhibition includes selections from the works of prior Sharon Thesen Lecture presenters (2020-2022), including John Lent, Kevin Chong, and Matthew Rader. All of these writers can be considered Okanagan writers, too. From these departure points, relationships are drawn to local literary and artisan presses such as Kalamalka Press and Greenboathouse Press, both located in Vernon, B.C.

This year, the works of Nancy Holmes take centre stage. In a special sequence, the eight-volume run of *Lake: A Journal of Arts and Environment*, co-edited by Holmes and Thesen are highlighted along with some of the publications brought about through Holmes' research with the Eco Art Incubator.

A full bibliography of exhibition selections is included in this programme.

In the double display: Nancy Holmes and Sharon Thesen



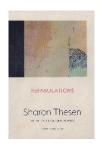
1. The Receiver (2017)
Sharon Thesen, author
Published by New Star Books
PS8589.H433 R43 2017



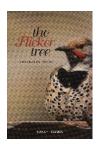
2. The Wig-maker (2021)
Sharon Thesen & Janet Gallant, authors
Published by New Star Books
PS8613.A459377 W54 2021



Radio New France Radio (1981)
 Sharon Thesen, author
 Published by Slug Press
 OKPAM 494

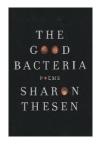


Refabulations: Selected Longer Poems
(2023)
 Sharon Thesen, author
 Published by Talonbooks
 PS8589.H433 R44 2023



 The Flicker Tree: Okanagan Poems (2012)

> Nancy Holmes, author Published by Ronsdale Press PS8565.0637 F55 2012



6. The Good Bacteria (2006)
Sharon Thesen, author
Published by Anansi
PS8589.H433 G65 2006

7. "Report from the Savage Fields: Sharon Thesen's 'The Fire'." The Capilano Review 3(5): The Sharon Thesen Issue (2008)

Nancy Holmes, author Published by the Capilano Press Society



8. Okanagan Galilee (2010)

Nancy Holmes, author Published by Alfred Gustov Press PS8565.0637 O32 2010



9. Oyama Pink Shale (2011)

Nancy Holmes, author Published by Anansi PS8589.H433 O93 2011



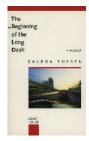
10. "Vernon, 1954." In Kalamalka Press Broadsheets (2019)

Sharon Thesen, author Published by Kalamalka Press OKPAM OS79



11. Holding the Pose (1983)

Sharon Thesen, author Published by Coach House PS8589.H433 H64 1983



12. The Beginning of the Long Dash (1987)

Sharon Thesen, author Published by Coach House PS8589.H433 B43 1987

13. News & Smoke: Selected Poems (1999)

Sharon Thesen, author Published by Talonbooks PS8589.H433 N48 1999

14. Aurora (1995)

Sharon Thesen, author Published by Coach House PS8589.H433 A87 1995

15. Confabulations: Poems for Malcolm Lowry (1984)

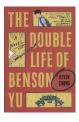
Sharon Thesen, author Published by Oolichan PS8589.H433 C6 1984

Perimeter cases 1-9: Past Lectures

1-2: Kevin Chong (2021)

Kevin Chong is the author of seven books of fiction and nonfiction, including the recent novel *The Double Life of Benson Yu* (Atria Books, 2023). Those titles have been named books of the year by Globe and Mail, National Post, and Amazon.ca, listed for a CBC prize, a BC Book Prize, and a National Magazine Award, optioned for film and TV, and published in the US, Europe, and Australia.ⁱⁱ

He is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at UBC Okanagan. Chong delivered the second Sharon Thesen Lecture in April of 2021, entitled "In the Middle of it All: On Writing, Teaching, And Middles During A Pandemic." iii



16. The double life of Benson Yu (2023) Kevin Chong, author Published by Atria Books PS8555.H648 D68 2023



17. Baroque-A-Nova (2001)
Kevin Chong, author
Published by Penguin Books
PS8555.H648 B37 2001

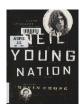


18. **Beauty plus pity (2011)**Kevin Chong, author
Published by Arsenal Pulp Press
PS8555.H648 B43 2011



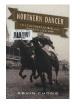
19. The plague (2018) Kevin Chong, author Published by Arsenal Pulp Press

PS8555.H648 P53 2018



20. Neil Young nation (2005)

Kevin Chong, author Published by Greystone Books ML420.Y75 C55 2005



21. Northern dancer (2014)

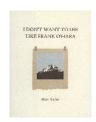
Kevin Chong, author Published by Viking SF355.N67 C46 2014

3-4: Matthew Rader (2022)

Matthew Rader studied writing at the University of Victoria and Banff, and has lived in Vancouver and Oregon. As the editor of a literary chapbook imprint, Mosquito Press, and co-founder of "Crash: Vancouver's Indie Writers Fest," Matt Rader released a debut collection of poetry entitled *Miraculous Hours* (Nightwood, 2005), nominated for the 2006 Gerald Lampert Memorial Award. It was followed by a second collection, *Living Things* (Nightwood, 2008), and a third, *A Doctor Pedalled Her Bicycle Over the River Arno* (Anansi, 2011). His most recent publication is 2021's *Ghosthawk* (Nightwood).

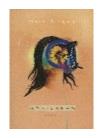
He is an Associate Professor of Creative Writing at UBC Okanagan. In 2022, he made a significant donation of his collection of literary chapbooks to Okanagan Special Collections; selections from this collection, which is still in a state of becoming, have been selected for this display. To access the full collection, ask for OKPAM 601.

Rader delivered the third Sharon Thesen Lecture in April of 2022, entitled "Atmospheric Moon River: Poetics as Climate." v



22. I don't want to die like Frank O'Hara (2014)

Matthew Rader, author Published by baseline press PS8585.A2825 A6 2014



23. Ghosthawk (2019)

Matthew Rader, author Published by Nightwood Editions PS8585.A2825 G56 2021

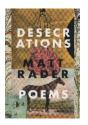


24. **Visual Inspection (2011)**Matthew Rader, author Published by Nightwood Editions PS8585.A2825 V57 2019



25. What I Want To Tell Goes Like This: Stories (2014)

Matthew Rader, author Published by Nightwood Editions PS8585.A2825 W43 2014



26. Desecrations: Poems (2016)

Matthew Rader, author Published by McLelland & Stewart PS8585.A2825 D48 2016



27. Living Things (2008)

Matthew Rader, author Published by Nightwood Editions PS8585.A2825 L59 2008



28. A Doctor Pedalled Her Bicycle Over the River Arno (2011)

Matthew Rader, author Published by Anansi PS8585.A2825 D63 2011



29. *Miraculous Hours* (2005) Matthew Rader, author Published by Nightwood editions PS8585.A2825 M57 2005



30. Sixteen Stories (2003) Matthew Rader, author Published by Mosquito Press OKPAM 601 Author's copy



31. [Natural Lives] ([2009?]) Matthew Rader, author [Published by Mosquito Press] OKPAM 601 Author's copy



32. Echo in the Heartwood (2001) Matthew Rader, author Published by Mosquito Press OKPAM 601 Author's copy



33. The Seasoned Runner (2004) Matthew Rader, author [Published by Mosquito Press] OKPAM 601 Author's copy



34. From The Lives of North American Trees (n.d.)

Matthew Rader, author [Published by Mosquito Press] OKPAM 601 Author's copy. Signed

5: Matthew Rader & Greenboathouse Press

Selections from the Matt Rader Chapbook Collection span cases four and five. His 2003 chapbook, *The Land Beyond*, forms a bridge linking his writing and collecting in relation to Greenboathouse Press. Case five is devoted to Greenboathouse Press in total.

"Greenboathouse Press is a small publishing concern producing short run, limited editions, printed letterpress and bound by hand."

i It is currently operated out of Vernon, B.C. by writer, editor, typographer, printer, publisher, Jason Dewinetz, who is himself originally – and now again – local to the Okanagan.



35. The Land Beyond (2003)

Matthew Rader, author
Published by Greenboathouse Press
PS8585.A2825 L36 2003



36. A Flame on the Spanish Stairs (2002)

Douglas Barbour, author Published by Greenboathouse Press OKPAM 601



37. Light and Char (2010) Jake Kennedy, author Published by Greenboathouse Press OKPAM 601



38. **Tengo Sed (2014)**Sean Rhodes, author Published by Greenboathouse Press OKPAM 601

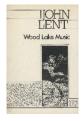
6: John Lent (2020)

Case six features the works of John Lent. Lent studied at the University of Alberta concentrating in his graduate studies on Modernist art movements and experiments with form. He pursued doctoral studies at York University on Malcolm Lowry and the issue of subjectivity, vii and following that taught Literature and Creative Writing at Okanagan College for more than thirty years.

During this same time, he published seven books of poetry, three books of fiction and one book of non-fiction (with Robert Kroetsch). Viii Additionally, he was involved in founding The Kalamalka New Writers' Society, Kalamalka Press and the Kalamalka Institute for Working Writers. He resides in Vernon, B.C.

Lent presented the inaugural Sharon Thesen Lecture in 2020. His lecture was titled "Aspects of Poetics in Contemporary Fiction and Poetry: a practical logic of legacies, a working arc of continuance."x

On Lent, this year's Sharon Thesen Lecture presenter, Nancy Holmes says he "pretty single-handedly created the contemporary literary culture in the Okanagan."xi



39. Wood Lake Music (1982) John Lent, author

Published by Harbour Publishing PS8573.E58 W66 1982



40. Cantilevered Songs (2009)

John Lent, author Published by Thistledown Press PS8573.E58 C45 2009



41. Frieze (1984)

John Lent, author Published by Thistledown Press PS8573.E58 F7 1984



42. Monet's Garden (1996)

John Lent, author Published by Thistledown Press PS8573.E58 M65 1996



43. So It Won't Go Away (2005) John Lent, author Published by Thistledown Press PS8573.E58 S6 2005



44. *The Path to Ardroe* (2012)
John Lent, author
Published by Thistledown Press
PS8573.E58 P37 2012



45. "Matins 32" in Kalamalka Press Broadsheets (2019)

> John Lent, author Published by Kalamalka Press OKPAM OS79 Broadsheet

7-9: John Lent and Kalamalka Press

Cases seven through nine show a composite of publications by John Lent and Kalamalka Press, with emphasis on a series of winners of the John Lent Poetry/Prose award.



46. Abundance: the Mackie House
Conversations About the Writing Life
(2007)

John Lent & Robert Kroetch, authors Published by Kalamalka Press PS8061 .K68 2007 Mackie Lecture & Reading Series #4



47. Low Vacancy (2021) Ben Robinson, author Published by Kalamalka Press PS8635.O25 L6 2021 John Lent Poetry/Prose Award



48. *DT: Dented Tubas* (2010)

Nikki Sheppy, author

Published by Kalamalka Press
PS8637.C4323 D46 2019

John Lent Poetry/Prose Award



49. *Grrrlhood* (2014)
Sean Rhodes, author
Published by Kalamalka Press
PS8603.U528 S84 2018
John Lent Poetry/Prose Award



50. Sugar for Shock (2018)
Susan Buis, author
Published by Kalamalka Press
PS8603.U528 S84 2018
John Lent Poetry/Prose Award



51. Wearing Your Pants (2015)
Nicholas Papaxanthos, author
Published by Kalamalka Press
PS8631.A639 W43 2015
John Lent Poetry/Prose Award



52. Atrophy (2020)

Erin Scott, author Published by Kalamalka Press PS8637.C685 A77 2020 John Lent Poetry/Prose Award



53. The Movement of the Triangle (2017)

Lindsay Cahill, author Published by Kalamalka Press PS8605.A399 M68 2017 John Lent Poetry/Prose Award



54. How To Make a Collage (2013)

Ariel Gordon, author Published by Kalamalka Press PS8613.0725 H68 2013 John Lent Poetry/Prose Award

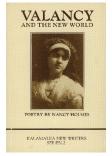


55. Bloom & Martyr (2016)

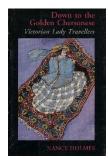
Helen Hajnoczky, author Published by Kalamalka Press PS8615.A3857 B56 2016 John Lent Poetry/Prose Award

Perimeter cases 10-17: Nancy Holmes

10: Nancy Holmes: Early Works & Kalamalka Press



56. Valancy and the New World (1988) Nancy Holmes, author Published by Kalamalka Press PS8565.0637 V35 1988 Out of print Winner of the Kalamalka New Writers' Prize A collection of poems about love, children, books and writers.



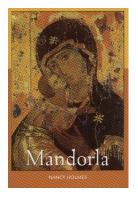
57. **Down to the Golden Chersonese: Victorian Lady Travellers (1991)**Nancy Holmes, author

Published by Sono Nos Press
PS8565.0637 D6 1991
Out of print
A series of poetic sequences and one short story about Victorian lady

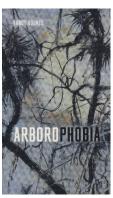
travellers, including Marianne North, Isabella Bird Bishop, Mary Kingsley, Mabel Loomis Todd and stay-at-home Emma Darwin.

11-12: Nancy Holmes: Monographs to present day

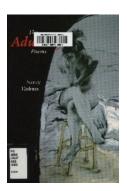
Continues the sequence of Holmes' monographs to her most recent publication. See also *The Flickr Tree: Okanagan Poems* in the double-sided display case.



58. *Mandorla* (2005) Nancy Holmes, author Published by Ronsdale Press PS8565.0637 M36 2005

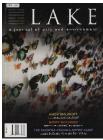


59. Arborophobia (2022) Nancy Holmes, author Published by University of Alberta Press PS8565.0637 A73 2022



60. The Adultery Poems (2010) Nancy Holmes, author Published by Ronsdale Press PS8565.0637 A88 2002 A collection of poems about love, lust, betrayal and pleasure.

13-15: Lake: A Journal of Art and Environment



Issue 1 (2007)



Issue 2 (2008)



Issue 3 (2009)



Issue 4 (2010)

61. Lake: A Journal of Art and Environment

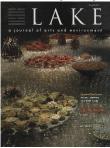
Sharon Thesen and Nancy Holmes, editors

Published by the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies PS8001 .L34

"Currently, there is no national literary or arts journal based in the Okanagan," says the journal's coeditor Nancy Holmes, Associate Professor of Creative Studies. "This journal is unique in focus: it is bound to become the key forum for artists working in this new and exciting area of nature-related thought and creation." XIII



Issue 5 (2010)



Issue 6 (2011)



Issue 7 (2012)

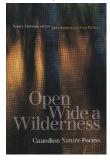


Issue 8 (2012)

Lake: A Journal of Art and Environment Sharon Thesen and Nancy Holmes, editors Published by the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies

PS8001.L34

16: Nancy Holmes: Nature and Wilderness



62. Open Wide A Wilderness: Canadian Nature Poems (2009)

Nancy Holmes, editor Published by Wilfrid Laurier University Press

PS8287.N38 O64 2009

An anthology of 200 years of Canadian nature poetry. Edited by Nancy Holmes with an introductory essay, "Great Flint Singing," by Don McKay.

16-17: Nancy Holmes and the Eco Art Incubator



63. Eco art incubator Cyprus: sites embodied (2018)

Nancy Holmes, author Published by Lake Publishing Society NX650.E58 E26 2018



64. Blue Frog (2015)

Nancy Holmes, author Published by Dig Your Neighbourhood, an imprint of Lake Publishing Society PZ7.E443 BI 2015



65. The Woodhaven EcoArt Project

Nancy Holmes and Lori Mairs, authors Published by [Lake Publishing Society] FC3849.K4 W65 2011 One book, one DVD



Perimeter cases 18-22: Sharon Thesen

18: Sharon Thesen and UBCO Literary Audio Research

UBCO, under the leadership of Dr. Karis Shearer, is an affiliate of the SSHRC Partnership Grant SpokenWeb. The partnership aims to develop collaborative approaches to studying the diverse collections of literary sound recordings from across Canada and beyond. Several items from Dr. Shearer's personal research collection, the *Soundbox Collection* showcase Thesen's works and Holmes' commentary.



66. Artemis Hates Romance (1980) Sharon Thesen, author Published by Coach House PS8589.H48 A78 1980





67. Sharon Thesen's Reading at Bowerings' (1986)^{xiii}

George Bowering, author Sharon Thesen fonds / Soundbox Collection, stewarded by the AMP Lab, UBC Okanagan Image credit Dr. Karis Shearer 2019.002.002^{xiv}



68. "Only the Imagination Carries Forward." Soundbox Signals Podcast (2020)[™]

Host Karis Shearer is joined by curator Amy Thiessen and special guest-poets Nancy Holmes and Sharon Thesen. Together they talk about a November 1986 recording on which Sharon Thesen visits Warren Tallman's English 205 class on November 14th, 1986.

19-20: Sharon Thesen

69. *The Sharon Thesen Issue. Capilano Review* (2008) Volume 3, Number 5 Reproduction



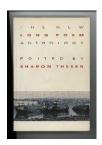
70. A Pair of Scissors (2000)
Sharon Thesen, author
Published by Anansi
PS8589.H433 P34 2000



71. The Pangs of Sunday: Selected Poems (1990)
Sharon Thesen, author
Published by McLelland and Stewart
PR9324.H38 P36 1990



72. **Selected Poems: The Vision Tree (1982)**Sharon Thesen, author
Published by Talonbooks
PS8545.E22 A6 1982



73. The New Long Poem Anthology (1991)
First edition
Sharon Thesen, editor
Published by Coach House
PS8279 .N47 1991



74. The New Long Poem Anthology (2001) Second edition

Sharon Thesen, editor Published by Talonbooks PS8279 .N47 2001



75. Charles Olson and Frances Boldereff: A Modern Correspondence (1999)

Sharon Thesen, editor Published by University Press of New England PS3529.L65 Z4834 1999



76. The Griffin Poetry Prize Anthology: a Selection of the 2003 Shortlist (2003).

Sharon Thesen, editor Published by Anansi PS8293 .G6795

21: Sharon Thesen and the Bowerings'

77. "Sharon Thesen: Poetry in Memory, and Growing Up There." The Capilano Review 3(5):2008.

Thea Bowering, author Reproduction



78. Weeping Willow (2005)

Sharon Thesen, author Published by Nomados Written for George and Thea Bowering in memory of Angela Bowering (1940-1999).

22-24: From the Baird Bowering Collection



79. "Untitled." In Voices: Poems for Karl and Talon (2001).

George Bowering, author Published by housepress OKPAM 294



80. "Untitled." In Voices: Poems for Karl and Talon (2001).

Sharon Thesen, author Published by housepress as a benefit for Talonbooks in an edition of 52 lettered copies, of which this one is HH. OKPAM 294

81. Kerrisdale Elegies (2008)

George Bowering, author Published by Pooka Press PS8503.0875 K4 2008a

82. Cars (2002)

George Bowering, author Published by Coach House Books PS8503.0875 C27 2002

83. From "Cars" ([2002?])

George Bowering, author
Published by above/ground press
OKPAM 269

84. Reading Writers Reading: Canadian Authors' Reflections (2006)

Danielle Schaub, editor and photographer Published by University of Alberta Press and Hebrew University Magnes Press Z1039.A87 R43 2006

Mobilizing Special Collections

BC Regional Digitized History



Coordinated by UBC Okanagan Library, BCRDH is a regional partnership involving numerous community memory institutions. Our goal is to work collaboratively with partner organizations to improve access to a wide range of local historical resources through digitization. bcrdh.ca

BC Wine Territory Memory



BC WINE TERRITORY

MEMORY PROJECT

Research at UBCO's Faculty of Management relating to the nature of BC's identity as a wine-producing region has led to Okanagan Special Collections adopting a focus emphasizing access to and interpretation of the records of the wine industry.

wine.ubc.ca/community

Okanagan Special Collections and Archives

UBCO's Special Collections and Archives acquires books, pamphlets, maps, audio-visual, photographs, and textual archives with relevance to the Okanagan, and other nearby regions, in BC's southern interior. Discover archival descriptions online at https://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/

Contact Us

Visit us Mondays through Thursdays, 11:00am to 3:00pm or contact us to make an appointment.

COM 004 | 3287 University Way | Kelowna BC

Phone: 250.807.9460 | osc-contact@lists.ubc.ca

Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies

The Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies has three departments: Creative Studies, English and Cultural Studies and Languages and World Literatures. The diverse programs housed in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies offer students the opportunity to create art in a variety of media and to reflect critically on the cultural production of others. https://fccs.ok.ubc.ca/about/

References and source notes

ⁱ Trifunov, D. (2023 September 22) "UBCO to host fourth annual Thesen lecture." *UBC Okanagan News.* https://news.ok.ubc.ca/2023/09/22/ubcoto-host-fourth-annual-thesen-lecture/

"Kevin Chong, MFA. ([2022?]). Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies. https://fccs.ok.ubc.ca/about/contact/kevin-chong/

Wellborn. P. (2021 April 6). "UBCO hosts second annual Sharon Thesen Lecture." Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies.

https://fccs.ok.ubc.ca/2021/04/26/ubco-hosts-second-annual-sharon-thesen-lecture/

iv "Rader, Matt." (n.d.). ABC Bookworld.

https://abcbookworld.com/writer/rader-matt/

^v Atmospheric Moon River: Poetics as Climate with Matt Rader. (2022). UBC Okanagan Events. https://events.ok.ubc.ca/event/atmospheric-moon-river-poetics-as-climate-with-matt-rader/

vi "Welcome to Greenboathouse Press." (n.d.). *Greenboathouse Press*. https://www.greenboathouse.com/

vii "John Lent: Bio." (n.d.). *The Writers' Union of Canada.* https://www.writersunion.ca/member/john-lent

/^{|||} --.

ix "Lent, John. (n.d.). "About." John Lent. https://johnlent.ca/about/

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