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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.
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

   Sharon Thesen, author  
   Published by Slug Press  
   OKPAM 494

4. **Refabulations: Selected Longer Poems (2023)**  
   Sharon Thesen, author  
   Published by Talonbooks  
   PS8589.H433 R44 2023
Nancy Holmes, author
Published by Ronsdale Press
PS8565.O637 F55 2012

Sharon Thesen, author
Published by Anansi
PS8589.H433 G65 2006

Nancy Holmes, author
Published by the Capilano Press Society

Nancy Holmes, author
Published by Alfred Gustov Press
PS8565.O637 O32 2010

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

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

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

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

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

   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
Kevin Chong, author  
Published by Arsenal Pulp Press  
PS8555.H648 P53 2018

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

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

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

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

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
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.” vi
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.

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

Douglas Barbour, 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, 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). 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.”

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

Sean Rhodes, author
Published by Greenboathouse Press
OKPAM 601
On Lent, this year’s Sharon Thesen Lecture presenter, Nancy Holmes says he “pretty single-handedly created the contemporary literary culture in the Okanagan.”

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

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.

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

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.O725 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

Nancy Holmes, author
Published by Kalamalka Press
PS8565.O637 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.O637 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.*
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.O637 M36 2005

59. *Arborophobia (2022)*
Nancy Holmes, author
Published by University of Alberta Press
PS8565.O637 A73 2022

60. *The Adultery Poems (2010)*
Nancy Holmes, author
Published by Ronsdale Press
PS8565.O637 A88 2002
*A collection of poems about love, lust, betrayal and pleasure.*
Currently, there is no national literary or arts journal based in the Okanagan,” says the journal’s co-editor 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.”

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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

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 Bl 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
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.

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)\(^{xv}\)
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

    Volume 3, Number 5
    Reproduction

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

    Sharon Thesen, author
    Published by McLelland and Stewart
    PR9324.H38 P36 1990

    Sharon Thesen, author
    Published by Talonbooks
    PS8545.E22 A6 1982

    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

Sharon Thesen, editor  
Published by Anansi  
PS8293 .G6795

21: Sharon Thesen and the Bowerings’

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).
    George Bowering, author
    Published by housepress
    OKPAM 294

    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

    George Bowering, author
    Published by Pooka Press
    PS8503.O875 K4 2008a

    George Bowering, author
    Published by Coach House Books
    PS8503.O875 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

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


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


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