



# PEDLAR PRESS

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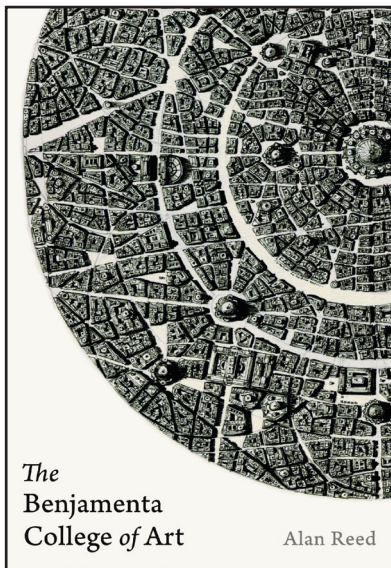
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*“Gutsy and  
gorgeous since  
1996.”*

Pedlar Press pursues its literary activities wherever humiliation and suffering and affronts to human dignity occur in Canada. That is, all across this country with its many broken systems. So much injustice cries out for literary attention. Pedlar authors and poets speak to injustices in their work, works of a challenging nature, works that do not accept the status quo, that make no compromise.

The house vision is to acquire and promote works of exceptional literary beauty that meet very high standards for excellence in writing while also disturbing the silences regarding the widespread breakdown of social and political systems. We see our effort as a praxis—a social action toward political ends. One literary work of integrity can make a pronounced difference in the lives of many Canadians.

# SPRING & SUMMER 2020



## The Benjamenta College of Art

ALAN REED

Fiction | Modern & Contemporary

ISBN-13: 978-1-989424018

ISBN-10: 1-989424015

\$21 CDN / \$19 US | trade paperback

5.0" x 8.0" | 144pp

March 2020

**An emerging artist is held in the fist of the unknown.**

Alan Reed's lyric novel, **The Benjamenta College of Art**, is a story about walking into an unknown world and meeting yourself there. At the Benjamenta College of Art, you can sit on the roof of a building and draw until supper because it is your designated work. Your life is an endlessly unfolding present. You will meet a woman you love and she will leave you. Space is reserved for whimsy at the Benjamenta College of Art, and because you feel both lost and safe, the Benjamenta College of Art's real existence may be in question. May we all enjoy a Benjamenta College of Art in our lifetimes.

*Here is a street. It is a narrow street and it is an old street, it is a street that winds and turns and as it winds and turns it knots itself up with other streets, because it is not the only street here, there are others, there are no end of others and all of these streets knot themselves up and lie tangled together, touching, but not quite. In the gaps between them are buildings and the buildings are piled one on top of another wherever there is room for one, and even where there is not room they somehow find a way to fit anyway and all together these buildings and streets and the buildings and streets just beyond them, and the ones just beyond those, all of this is a city.*

~from **The Benjamenta College of Art**

ALAN REED's previous works include the novel *Isobel & Emile* (Coach House Books, 2010), and a collection of poems, *For Love of the City* (BuschekBooks, 2006). Originally from Edmonton, he now lives in Montreal.

### SALES & MARKETING:

- Launch in Montreal, Winter 2020.
- Reading tour across Quebec in March 2020.
- Fifty review copies sent to literary magazines and other national media.



## Were There Gazelle

LAURA K. MCRAE

Poetry | Travel  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-897141991**  
**ISBN-10: 1-897141998**  
 \$20 CDN / \$18 US  
 trade paperback  
 5.0" x 8.0" | 96pp  
 February 2020

### Travel with a poet and catch hold of the sacred.

The speaker in Laura K. McRae's debut poetry collection, **Were There Gazelle**, has travelled long and hard, wide open to the world. The poems explore how moments can become fixed points in our memory, and how the senses and the strangeness of travel can awaken us to links between past and present, place and time.

*Arm brushes arm, feet shuffle on pavement, the sun is a hammer on the anvil of our heads.*

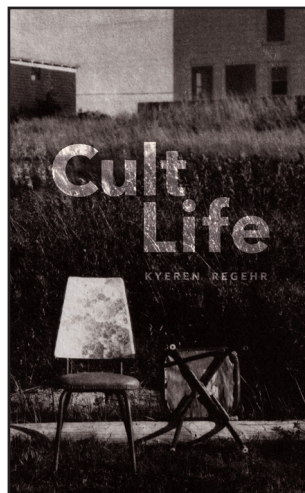
*Buy a postcard, book of photos?—No. I want this moment like clear light behind my eyes in the blaze of sun on marble domes. The Taj is never dim. Across the river, a young bride holds thumb and forefinger in a pincer—her photo will show her plucking the temple from its gardens.*

*The sky is a pigeon's wing, grey and iridescent, a black pearl lit from within.*

—from "It's a Far Cry"

"This is all-seeing poetry that aches and reaches outward, gathers in and offers open-handedly." —Maureen Hynes

LAURA K. MCRAE is a teacher in Toronto, ON, where she lives and writes. Her poems have appeared in many literary journals, and her chapbook *Distributaries* was published in 2016 by Frog Hollow Press.



## Cult Life

KYEREN REGEHR

Poetry | Spirituality  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-989424001**  
**ISBN-10: 1-989424007**  
 \$20 CDN / \$18 US  
 trade paperback  
 5.0" x 8.0" | 96pp  
 February 2020

### The desire for belonging and the need to escape.

Enlightenment may not be on everyone's bucket list, but for the three hundred devotees of the Master Teacher, "awakening" was their singular purpose. **Cult Life** follows three years in the life of the poet as a 20-something single mother whose spiritual devotion stood in juxtaposition to her search for worldly love. All the marvellous peculiarities of coterie life are laid bare through the voices of strange characters and the poet-narrator's own unflinching honesty. **Cult Life** is a crucible where philanthropists and sociopaths, artists and misfits, dare to seek the mystical, transcendent, something that calls from the realm of the soul.

"I read Kyeren Regehr's **Cult Life** in one 'speed-firing' swoop and after had that woozy-spinning-exhilarating disorientation you feel when you stumble out of a roller coaster. These poems, a pushme-pullyou chronicle of life inside an ashram, of a poet seeking and ultimately leaving a "New Religious Movement" in order to find herself as poet, are ones I never could have imagined. **Cult Life** is astonishing and Regehr's poetry, distinctive and brilliantly bizarre, 'basks in the felicity of sound.'" —Sylvia Legris

KYEREN REGEHR's poetry has appeared in literary journals and anthologies in Canada, Australia, and America. **Cult Life** is her first full-length poetry collection. Kyeren lives on Vancouver Island on the traditional territories of the Lkwungen speaking peoples.

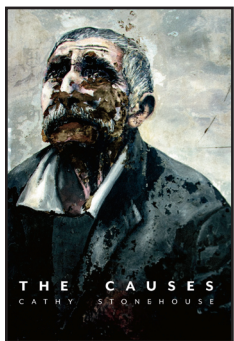
#### SALES & MARKETING:

- Launch in Toronto Feb. 2020.
- Reading tour across Ontario in Feb. 2020.
- Fifty review copies sent to literary magazines and other national media.

#### SALES & MARKETING:

- Launch in Victoria Feb. 2020.
- Reading tour across BC in Feb. 2020.
- Fifty review copies sent to literary magazines and other national media.

# BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS



## **The Causes** CATHY STONEHOUSE

Fiction  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-897141953**  
Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$22  
11 b&w illustrations

This complex and unsettling debut novel follows the young Argentine conscript José Ramírez from his torture on the bleak plains of the Falklands as he grapples with the loss of his father and his country as he knew it. Mysterious, gripping, poetic, and magic-realist, **The Causes** is a love story for a threatened planet.

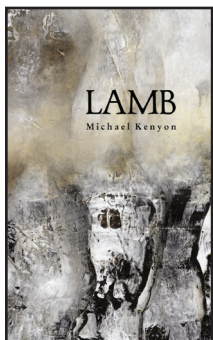
“Subjective, shifting, labyrinthine ... taut and fast-paced as a thriller.” —Keith Maillard



## **The Difficult** STAN DRAGLAND

Non-Fiction  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-897141977**  
Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$22  
1 b&w illustration, 1 b&w photo

Stan Dragland knows that engaging analytically with any worthy book is like wrestling with an angel. The struggle is not about winning, though that is exactly how some critics behave. **The Difficult** calls for open-minded, open-hearted, active reading, “reading as an event,” that promotes tolerance in a much-divided world.

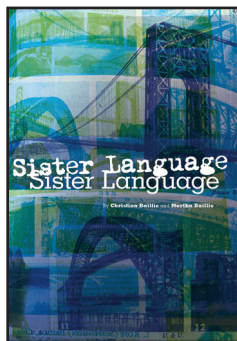


## **Lamb** MICHAEL KENYON

Poetry  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-897141915**  
Fall 2018 | trade paperback | \$20

Michael Kenyon’s long poem **Lamb** combs through time, history, identity, passionately seeking “something lost.” It enacts what Galway Kinnell says of poetry, that it “sings past even the sadness that begins it.” Singing through, Kenyon shapes a resonant world that is representative and yet very much his own.

“**Lamb** is an exquisite book of poems.” —John Lent

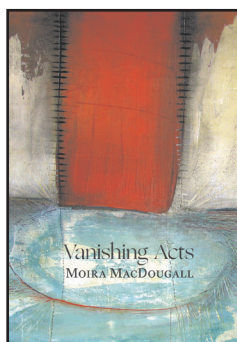


## **Sister Language** CHRISTINA BAILLIE & MARTHA BAILLIE

Non-Fiction  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-897141984**  
Fall 2019 | trade paperback | \$22  
9 b&w illustration, 23 b&w photos

**Sister Language** is a collaboration composed mainly of letters and other writings between two sisters, one of whom, Christina, is schizophrenic and has an all-consuming relationship with language, an exploded English of her own. The book became a bridge: first between sisters, then between their collaborative text and other readers.

“A playful duet, a radiant howl.” —Kyo Maclear



## **Vanishing Acts** MOIRA MACDOUGALL

Poetry  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-897141946**  
Spring 2019 | trade paperback | \$20

There are times in one’s life when the pain will not stop, when it seems everyone you love is hurting, and some are dying. In **Vanishing Acts**, Moira MacDougall’s second collection of poetry, the poet questions the small chaos of our lives and the delicate ways we remain alive against a background of swirling eternity.

“Moira MacDougall makes a profound reckoning.” —Molly Peacock



## **The Lady from Kent** BARBARA NICHOL

Children’s Poetry  
**ISBN-13: 978-1-897141878**  
Fall 2018 | hardcover | \$23  
Ages 9+ | 28 colour illustrations

Barbara Nichol burned to tell the Lady From Kent’s story: to make people understand this intrepid, confident being who seemed a person who would not take on the conventions of the culture: what a person is allowed to do or not do.

“[R]ambunctious ... part Edward Lear, part Lewis Carroll.” —Jeffrey Canton