

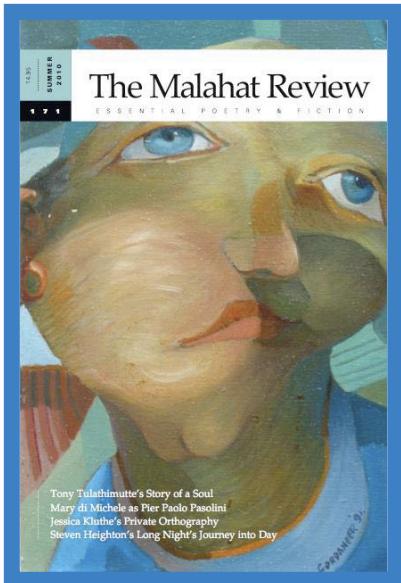
Malahat *lite*

Virtual Newsletter of *The Malahat Review*

Vol. 7, No. 2, Summer 2010

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1. Issue 171, Summer, 2010 In the mail and on newsstands August, 2010!

Whether you're a subscriber (and we hope you are) or you pick up *The Malahat* at your local newsstand or bookstore, our upcoming issue is going to knock your socks off—just in time for sandal season. Highlighting the issue is "Brains," the 2010 Novella Prize-winning story by **Tony Tulathimutte**. Read for yourself why judges **Bernice Friesen**, **Patricia Robertson**, and **Bill Stenson** selected his novella from 196 entries; it's a tale "where both structure and language [work] together to produce a rare page-turner."

Jessica Kluthe's "Always" is also featured in #171. It's a moving piece of non-fiction about a word-crazy child desperately trying to make sense of her troubled world. Creative and insightful, "Always" will steal your heart.

No *Malahat* is complete without a bounty of finely crafted poems and our summer issue is no exception. Plan to spend some quality time with our contributing poets: **Maleea Acker**, **Julie Bruck**, **Mary di Michele**, **Alyda Faber**, **Rebecca Fredrickson**, **Steven Heighton**, **Matthew Holmes**, **Aislinn Hunter**, **Evelyn Lau**, **Dave Margoshes**, **Shane Neilson**, **Anzhelina Polonskaya**, **Kyeren Regehr**, **Suzanne Robertson**, **Karen Schindler**, and **Faisal Siddiqui**.

Also, six recent Canadian books are examined by reviewers **Candace Fertile**, **Roger Knox**, **Sandra McIntyre**, **Garth Martens**, **Justin Pfefferle**, and **Joel Yanofsky**.

Look for the striking "Abstract Portrait" by Victoria-based artist **James Gordaneer** on our cover. It's a little bit "cheeky" but full of soul. Happy summertime reading!

2. Tony's Fictional Planet: An Interview with Tony Tulathimutte

Find out what this year's Novella Prize winner, Tony Tulathimutte thinks about present-day medicine in the United States, what it takes to be a doctor, what frailties, in his opinion, pose a challenge to the profession, and even about his relationship to the protagonist of his winning entry, "Brains":

"...with a few exceptions, there is usually a fat fictional buffer between my characters and me. Developing a character is a gene-splicing process, and my perfect chromosomal twins usually die hypoxic deaths in the thin atmosphere of my fictional planets."

Tony's full conversation with *Malahat* volunteer, Alicia Lawrence, can be found on our website: [http://www.malahatreview.ca/announcements/novella_2010_interview.html]

Alicia

Lawrence:

What is your relationship with the medical profession that inspired the subject of your story "Brains"?

Tony

Tulathimutte:

My father and sister are doctors, my mother was a nurse, and I used to volunteer in an ER, plus I'm grimly familiar with the inpatient end of treatment—rather than topple Canada's entire remaining forest wilderness for the paper it would take to list my complaints in print, I'll just say brain surgery is one of the few medical trips I *haven't* taken. So in a broad way, I've been observing doctors from the sidelines for a long time. But the novella was most directly conflagrated by an incident at my sister's wedding reception, where I chatted with a young neurosurgeon who spun a few anecdotes about dropping bits of skull on the floor during operations, dropping stuff inside of patients, blaring Metallica, etc.



Her winning comment, the one that launched the novella, was that given the length of brain operations (often 8-12 hrs.), surgeons begin to adjust. They normalize to the extent that they begin running the familiar gamut of emotions one encounters in ordinary life, and so in the presence of an exposed brain, you feel random lust, irritation, doldrums; you smell electro-cauterized tissue and think about lunch. It was that idea of working directly on the physical instantiation of someone's whole personality, while being off in your own head somewhere. Diana's outlines were drawn: intellectually alienated, a contemptuous streak, and a certain desperate self-reliance. It seems obvious now that neurosurgery related very literally to issues of dualism, solipsism, education, and intellectual contempt; but while I was writing, I was just proceeding from that original image.

Read the rest of the interview on our website!

[http://www.malahatreview.ca/announcements/novella_2010_interview.html]

3. Issue #170 (Spring 2010) Launch Party April 28, 2010

Thank you to the over one hundred *Malahat* fans who joined us in launching our Spring issue—Lorna Crozier, Patrick Lane, and Aesthetic Kinship—at Metro Studio in Victoria on April 28th.

The evening began with Patrick Lane sharing a couple of poems, and reading from his upcoming novel, *Between two Mountains*. Our two Open Season Award winners followed: Lorri Neilsen Glenn with her poetry (including contest winner “You think of Meister Eckhart”) and Tricia Dower with an excerpt from her winning piece of short fiction, “Halloween 1955.” Lorna Crozier finished by sharing her poetry with us, including a few pieces from the Spring issue: “Bach’s Suite for Solo Cello in D Minor,” “Bestiary for Fox and Owl,” and “Missing.”

Let’s not forget the cake, bearing our cover image, and saluting “Lorna Crozeir and Patric Lane.” ... Perhaps the bakers could’ve used some of our excellent proofreaders.

Finally, thank you to our volunteers for the evening: Melanie Siebert and Jessie Jones at the door, Garth Martens on coffee duty, Lynne van Luven for picking up the cake, Barbara Stewart for picking up the tea, and Eliza Robertson on set up, take down, and all ‘round helper duties.

4. Web Exclusive: Poem by Robyn Rowland

To mark the publication of *The Malahat Review*'s Spring 2010 issue (#170), celebrated Australian poet Robyn Rowland wrote “Affinities” in honour of Lorna Crozier.

Rowland's remarkable four-part poem explores the connections she feels between her own work and Crozier, one of Canada's best-known and most-loved writers. “Affinities” can be read for the first time on our website:

Out of the blue you appeared, seeming cool
as afternoon was melting down my back
in the steaming tents of Adelaide.
Flights of small birds, your words whirred up breezes,
sailing us beyond our skin, beyond bone to that
 harboured place
where everything can be stilled: home for the words of
 poets.
That was the first time, the second, the third;
as I trawled through readings, listening for connection.

You can read the complete poem on our website:
[<http://www.malahatreview.ca/issues/rowland.html>]
copy and paste the above link, or go to our website and click the link on the left side bar (Web Exclusive! Robyn Rowland's tribute to Lorna Crozier).



Robyn Rowland lives in Torquay in the Australian state of Victoria. Honorary Fellow at the School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne, she has published seven books of poetry. *Silence & its tongues* (2006) was runner-up for the 2007 ACT Minister's Judith Wright Poetry Prize; her latest is *Seasons of Doubt & Burning: New & Selected* (Five Islands Press, 2010).

5. ***Malahat* Authors' Award Wins and Nominations**

Ben Lof Wins Alberta Literary Award for *Malahat* Story

Congratulations to **Ben Lof** of Edmonton, who recently won the Howard O'Hagan Award for Short Story for "When in the Field with Her at His Back," published in *The Malahat Review*, issue #166, Spring 2009.

This \$700 prize was established in 1982 in honour of accomplished short story writer Howard O'Hagan (1902-1982). It recognizes an outstanding short story written by an Alberta author and published in the previous year. This year's award was sponsored by the late John Ballem.



Ben Lof has published his fiction in *The Malahat Review* and *Prairie Fire*. He was a finalist for the 2007 Bronwen Wallace Award. He holds an MA in English from the University of Alberta and lives in Edmonton where he is completing a short fiction manuscript.

***Malahat* National Magazine Award Nominations**

Three *Malahat* authors have garnered NMA nominations in the fiction and poetry categories this year.



Anna Smith was nominated in the short fiction category for her 2010 Jack Hodgins Founders' Award winning story "The Score Diary of Billy Bishop" (published in issue #169, Winter 2009).



In the poetry category, **P. K. Page** (1916-2010) was nominated for "Cullen in Old Age" (published in issue #167, Summer 2009) and **Marion Quednau** was nominated for her *Malahat* Long Poem Prize winning poem, "Paradise, Later Years" (also published in issue #167, Summer 2009).



Three *Malahat* authors nominated for 2010 Journey Prize!

We are delighted to announce that *Malahat* authors **Devon Code**, **Ben Lof** and **Eliza Robertson** have been nominated for the 2010 Journey Prize.

Devon Code was nominated for "**Uncle Oscar**," which appeared in issue #168, Fall, 2009.

Ben Lof was nominated for his Howard O'Hagan award-winning (see left hand column of this page) "**When in the Field with Her at His Back**," published in issue #166, Spring, 2009.

Eliza Robertson's nominated story, "**Ship's Log**," won the *Malahat* Far Horizons Award for Short Fiction in 2009, and was published in issue #168, Fall, 2009.

Good luck to all three!

6. Coming up in issue #172, Fall 2010

In November 2010, you can look forward to more great poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction in issue #172 of *The Malahat Review*. This issue will feature the **winner of our 2010 Far Horizons Award for Poetry**, which is being selected now out of 498 entries by this year's judge, **Daryl Hine**.

Here's a sneak peak at the issue so far:

Fiction by **Dede Crane**, "The Fall of Langue D'Occ":

Repetition makes her crazy. Words cease to convey meaning, their structural sounds derelict and hollow, an echo of themselves. It's irritating and disappointing and it was her mother, after all, who first inspired her love of language. Jill attributes this to the way she spoke: with a hushed deliberation, the kind of shy song that forced a child to quiet her thoughts in order to listen. That and the years of bedtime stories, the invented kind, no pictures except those Jill drew in her head. She and Kenneth, the story's brave heroes, would inevitably have to outsmart some wily animal or, when Kenneth was having trouble at school, a bully or two. The stories never ended with a physical resolution, no fist or sword fights and one side overpowering the other but with a soft spoken diplomacy, a mutual understanding.

Animal love poems by **Patricia Young**:

And so descend I from my branchy perch
to sniff my quill-pig champ. Erect
stands he in battered quill-suit armor
crowned and pummel-torn in victor's glory
but arch I will my spiky tail?

Without my say-so
gain he can unthorny entrance?

"Zvi Mendel" by **Orlando Ricardo Menes**:

It's 1952, & though he's lived thirty years
on Calle Monte, his dead wife a pale *goy*,
a convert, from a cow town in Cienfuegos,
one son who married the maid, a cute
& salty girl, but *oy vey* black as coal tar,
another who turned communist & calls
the synagogue a pen of goats, Old Zvi won't
go completely native, mangling Spanish,
singing Torah on the tram, wearing wool
instead of linen, assailing the neighbors
in Yiddish when they party to *guarachas*.

. . . and much more.

7. Friends of *The Malahat* Update

Hey Victoria-area residents:

Looking for a reciprocal relationship? Become friends with us! For **\$45**, we'll give you:

- a one-year subscription to *The Malahat Review*
- invitations to four issue launches per year
- free admission to all ticketed *Malahat* events
- *Malahat Lite* delivered quarterly to your inbox
- a 10% discount at Renaissance Books (14 Bastion Square)
- one free coffee, tea, or cookie at Overleaf Café's Saturday Salons (1105 Pandora at Cook)
- discounted rate at our biannual writing workshops
- discounted subscriptions to select literary magazines across the country (right now: *Arc*, *The Fiddlehead*, and *EVENT*)

Become a Friend of *The Malahat* now and help us to maintain a vibrant literary community in Victoria and accross the country. You can sign up on our website:

<http://www.malahatreview.ca/friends/friends.html>

or, print off and mail in the form below:

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8. Upcoming Malahat Contests

2010 Creative Non- Fiction Prize

Enter a personal essay, memoir, cultural criticism, nature writing, literary journalism, or something so cutting edge no one's thought of it.

Deadline: August 1, 2010

Enter a piece of creative non-fiction between 2000 and 3000 words in length. No restrictions as to subject matter or approach apply.

Entry fee: \$35 CAD for Canadian entries
\$40 USD for American entries
\$45 USD for entries from elsewhere
(entry fee includes one year subscription)

Prize: \$1000

More info: http://www.malahatreview.ca/creative_non-fiction_prize/info.html

2011 Open Season Awards

Enter your best poetry, fiction, or creative non-fiction for this contest: it's open season!

Deadline: November 1, 2010

Enter up to three poems (100 lines max. each); fiction or creative non-fiction (2500 words max.).

Entry fee: \$35 CAD for Canadian entries
\$40 USD for American entries
\$45 USD for entries from elsewhere

(entry fee includes a one year subscription)

Prize: \$1000 will be awarded in each category

More info: http://www.malahatreview.ca/open_season/info.html

2011 Long Poem Prize

Deadline: February 1, 2011

Enter a single long poem or cycle of poems between 10 – 20 published pages (up to 32 lines/page).

Entry fee: \$35 CAD for Canadian entries
\$40 USD for American entries
\$45 USD for entries from elsewhere

(entry fee includes a one year subscription)

Prize: two \$1000 prizes will be awarded

More info: http://www.malahatreview.ca/long_poem_prize/info.html