

ABOUT THE GUEST EDITORS...

Frances Beer, Professor Emerita, York University, has her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto Centre for Medieval Studies, and taught in York's Department of English from 1971-2010. Her areas of specialization are Medieval Women, Nineteenth-Century Women Writers, and Children's Literature. She has been a member of the Editorial Board of Canadian Woman Studies since 1984. Her books include *Women and Mystical Experience in the Middle Ages*, a translation of Julian of Norwich's *Revelations*, and a novel, *Pilgrims in Love*.

Brenda Cranney has a Ph.D. in Sociology from York University and has worked extensively on a variety of women's issues with numerous NGOs in Canada and India. A scholar, activist, and photographer, she continues to be active in a number of women's organization and has taught at York University, George Brown and Humber College. She is the author of *Local Environment and Lived Experience: The Mountain Women of Himachal Pradesh*.

Andrea Medovarski teaches in the Transition Year Programme at York University. She has written and published on a wide range of Canadian and diasporic women writers, including Dionne Brand, Andrea Levy, and Tessa McWatt. She is currently working on a book manuscript about the second-generation children of immigrants in black diasporic women's writing.

Front Cover Artwork

Cheryl Braganza, "Carte Blanche," 2012, acrylic, 16 x 20".

Back Cover Artwork

Cheryl Braganza, "Seeds," 2010, mixed medium, 16 x 20".

Artist statement: "*My wish is that my art engages people, challenges their assumptions about women, provokes critical thought with respect to diversity and stir their humanity—all with the eventual goal of promoting harmony and peace.*"

Cheryl Braganza, artist, writer, cancer-survivor, was born in India, studied in Italy and the United Kingdom, lived in Montreal since 1966 and has painted for the past 45 years. Chosen Montreal Woman of the Year in 2008 by the Montreal Council of Women, her acrylic paintings with vibrant colours and imagery echo peace, hope and infinite renewal. She collaborates closely with organizations that focus on human rights. Convenor for Culture and Heritage for the National Council of Women of Canada, she was recently appointed President of the Women's Art Society of Montreal. Visit her website at: <www.cherylbrazanza.com>. Email: <cheryl@cherylbrazanza.com>.

CHRISTINA FOISY

Mary-Violet Beaulieu

a New Brunswick crown of seaweed
dried in your chest: a memory
that forgot its weight in water

potatoes boil differently here—
they spit in the kitchen
gurgling and seasick—

gentlemen, as mermen, swim through
thoughts: treading oceans like dogs
towards rubber industries and work

you sit like driftwood—adrift
on catalogued furniture
purchased from The Bay

cracked knuckles, your bare hands are
lobster carcasses married to
day-old dishwater

and you've become the battle-axe
that chops broccoli heads
while watching children

who turn into seagulls—
gullets—wailing birds
that become babies

running in streets—their
feet smearing noodle
tentacles

you swear it is the sound
of them smacking
jellyfish against the rocks

Christina Foisys's previous work, both creative and academic, has appeared in POIESIS: A Journal of Art and Communication, The Journal of the Motherhood Initiative, and the WomanMade Gallery (in Chicago). She is currently a Ph.D. student at York University in Humanities, and student of the Toronto New School of Writing.