

# Una McDonnell

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## Artistic Development

### 2006 - 2012

- Masters of Fine Arts, Creative Writing, University of British Columbia, A+ average. Completed a book of short stories, "The Hard Problem of Consciousness," for thesis requirement. Worked under the tutelage of Gary Geddes (Poetry), Catherine Bush (Novel), and Zsuzsi Gartner (Short Fiction).

### 2005 and 2007

- Participated in the Burning Man Festival, Black Rock City.

### Fall 2003

- Attended Sage Hill Fall Poetry Colloquium with Fred Wah.

### 2002-2003

- Attended the Banff Centre for the Arts Wired Writing Studio, October-April, 2002-03, mentor Don Domanski.

## Publishing and Performance Credits (Dissemination of Works)

### Awards & Publishing

2017 Longlist for CBC Literary Award, Poetry for a poem entitled, "A Dialectical Discussion with Self Upon Meeting Her Husband's Mistress a Week After a Failed IVF Attempt."

Longlist for the Montreal Poetry Prize and the Prism International Pacific Spirit Award for poem entitled "Odile, The Black Swan." Published in the Montreal Poetry Prize anthology, Vehicule Press, Montreal.

Longlist for CBC Literary Award, Fiction for a story entitled "Bullet Proof."

### 2008

Shortlisted CBC Literary Award (Poetry), series entitled "Obsession: A Fairytale."

### 2006

"Desperate Swimmers", "Grieving Knife", "Villanelle: Birthmother", "Agape", "Sore Eros", "Packing", "Opening, Years Later", "The Importance of Placement", "The Heart's Dumb Memoir", "His Voice and the Dark Throat", "Looking Down Water" in *Decalogue: Ten Ottawa Poets*, Chaudiere Books.

"The Heart's Dumb Memoir" in *Rampike*, University of Windsor.

### 2004

- Finalist in the *Arc* Poem of the Year Contest, for a poem entitled, "The Importance of Placement, published as an Editor's Choice; also "Nightwatch" was shortlisted.
- Shortlisted in the *Arc* Diana Brebner Memorial Award for a poem called "Now I Live On The River's Edge."

### 2004

- "Agape," "Desperate Swimmers" and "Grieving Knife" in *Musings: An Anthology of Greek-Canadian Literature*, Vehicule Press, Tess Fragoulis, Steven Heighton and Helen Tsiriotakas, editors.

### 2003

- "Looking Down Water" in *Ottawa Poetry Now* issue of *Arc*, Winter.
- "Oranges" in *Prairie Fire*, Fall Issue.

### 2001

- Tribute essay, "An Intentional Life: Remembering Diana Brebner" in *The New Quarterly*, Volume XXI, No. 1, Spring/Summer Issue.

### 1998

- Performance piece, "Girls, Girls, Girls," in the anthology, *Written in the Skin*, Insomniac Press.

**Employment (Paid Performance) 1998**

- *Written In the Skin*, Ottawa Launch, National Library of Canada, Ottawa, ON.
- *Athena Reading Series*, Mother Tongue Books, Ottawa, ON.

**1997**

- *A Night Above Ground*, The Library Pub, Toronto, ON.
- *Sleepless Goat Reading Series*, The Sleepless Goat, Kingston.
- *Poetry 101*, Gallery 101, Ottawa, ON.
- *Dusty Owl Reading Series*, Café Wim, Ottawa, ON.
- *Fighting Words Reading Series*, Toronto, ON.
- *Ottawa Valley Book Festival Annual Reading*, Ottawa, ON.
- *Ottawa Fringe Festival*, cabaret entitled *Drag Queen Dreams*, written, directed, produced and performed by Una McDonnell and Sheila Daunt, at Arts Court, Ottawa, ON.
- *On the Verge*, National Arts Centre, Ottawa, ON.
- *Whiplash Poetry Festival*, the Upstairs Club, Ottawa, ON.
- *Basement Reading Series*, Tower Records, Toronto, ON.
- *Ottawa Jazz Festival*, performed with Chelsea Bridge, SAW Gallery, Ottawa, ON.
- *OXFAM Fundraiser*, Ottawa University, Ottawa, ON.
- *Tree Reading Series*, Irene's Pub, Ottawa, ON.