

POETS' PROSE

This Poets' Prose section is the first part of a *West Coast Line* feature on the prose writings of poets, and in particular, the poetics essay. Poets' Prose had a beginning with a panel I organized for ACCUTE (Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English) last May, 2001, titled "Unacknowledged Legislators: Poet-Scholars and the Poetics Essay." Since Frank Davey cites the original "Call for Submissions" in full at the beginning of his essay, and questions the terms of it closely, I will not repeat it here. Panel participants were Davey, Doug Barbour, Glen Lowry, and Anne Quéma, with Charles Altieri responding. The revised papers of Davey, Barbour, and Quéma appear in this section, along with work by contributors who answered an email circular of the call—Stephen Fredman, Karen Mac Cormack, and Peter Middleton. The pieces here treat the topic from a variety of perspectives: Davey and Quéma consider the poetics essay as a distinctive kind of discourse; Barbour and Fredman focus on the prose of particular poets, George Bowering and Lyn Hejinian respectively; Mac Cormack and Middleton take on the topic through performance rather than argument or explication.

Since the response to the Poets' Prose call has been greater than we can accommodate in a single issue, we are planning a second section in the fall of 2002. Poets' Prose 2 will lead off with Glen Lowry's essay on Roy Kiyooka's prose.

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