

# Editor's Note

I started writing this note during a week in late summer when 560 wildfires were burning in BC. During this week, for three days and nights, the air quality hit 10+—Very High Risk. The smoke made it difficult to write or think.

Before the air got so bad, Mary Chen and Afuwa Granger and I were in the office talking about what line we should choose as the epigraph for this issue. One of the lines we were thinking about was “are you worried about a future,” from Fred Wah and Rita Wong’s *beholden: a poem as long as the river*, in which lines of poetry track alongside a map of the Columbia River.

In the excerpt from *beholden* that appears in this issue, the word that follows this question-without-a-question-mark is “*Nowitka*”—the name of a steamboat that operated along the river in the second decade of the twentieth century, and also a Chinook Wawa word meaning “indeed,” or “verily.”

Indeed, verily, we are worried about a future.

As Afuwa pointed out, though, the lack of a question mark softens this question—*beholden* asks us about worry in a way that offers space for our minds and bodies to keep moving. This is distinct from the rhetoric of apocalypse, which lights panic of the kind we’re always told we can’t afford in an emergency.

In the spirit of this missing question mark, our fall issue worries, but it doesn’t armageddon. Many of the contributors to this issue address ongoing forms of violence, but they do so with care for those who will encounter their work, those who have to carry on with the work of living in this world.

This open issue offers new poetry by Paige Cardinal, David Dowker, Scott Jackshaw, and many others, as well as an excerpt from “Six Boxes,” Helen Guri’s essay on sexual violence in and outside of Canadian writing communities.

Our interview with Roberto Rodríguez (also known as Dr. Cintli) focuses on the maíz culture that has spanned this continent for thousands of years, linking Indigenous peoples and nourishing forms of resistance and creation.

This issue also offers two conversations hosted by Colin Browne—one with curator Pantea Haghghi, whose exhibit *Modernism in Iran: 1958–1978* appeared at Griffin Art Projects in North Vancouver earlier this year, and one with Esther Shalev-Gerz, whose installation *The Shadow* stretches across a plaza on the University of British Columbia's Vancouver campus.

Our full-colour art sections include images of Shalev-Gerz's installation, a selection of paintings and sculpture from *Modernism in Iran*, and new visual work from M. V. Williams.

In our review section, see-to-see, Billy-Ray Belcourt imagines Mercedes Eng brandishing her book *Prison Industrial Complex Explodes* against the settler-police, preliminary to the work of “eat[ing] [their] brain[s],” and Mackenzie Ground “await[s] the conversations that are taking their first breaths” in the pages of Gregory Younging’s *Elements of Indigenous Style*.

As I finish this note, it’s raining, and the air is clear. A local poet and *TCR* contributor (to this and other issues) was recently arrested while reading a poem for thirty minutes at a protest with Women Warriors against the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion. Since then, the Federal Court of Appeal has “quashed” approval for the expansion, citing a lack of consultation with Indigenous nations. A number of the protesters still face jail time.

By the time this issue is in print, it will be fall. With luck, it will keep raining, and the rain will give us time to work on a future—one we’ll move into with worry, but without panic.

—Fenn Stewart

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The purpose of the **Stop KM Legal Defence Fund** is to hold, collect, and distribute funds raised to support legal defence costs stemming from protest, civil disobedience, and direct action activities in opposition to the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline expansion and tanker project. These costs include legal fees for criminal and contempt of court charges, civil litigation, and related immigration or child custody/welfare issues as well as travel costs and other associated legal defence expenses.

