



Donal Power

# SHINE

## Poetry Goes Guerilla

*It's poignant, colourful, and may contain a poem by your neighbour. "Open Heart Forgery", a monthly home-made poetry journal, has earned its place on the literary countertops of HRM cafes and bookshops over the past year. Creator Donal Power opens up to Arts East.*

**AE:** *Where did the initial concept for "Open Heart Forgery" come from?*

**DP:** I've always been a fan of 'leafletting'... Trotsky was pretty good at it and I was a big fan of Trotsky. I always liked that idea of 'getting the word out', and even though presentation is good, I thought it was more important to get the word out in an easily reproducible form so that people could be heard and so that people who didn't read poetry could get exposed to it.

**AE:** *OHF claims to "energize Halifax writers from the grass roots up". How is the journal is accomplishing this?*

**DP:** I think it is starting to energize people and giving people a venue to be heard. It's discouraging to write and not have any place to get published and often people will be writing secretly, but suddenly when they're published they're 'outed' as a writer and it kind of makes them feel like they are legitimized and hopefully encouraged to keep going

**AE:** *The website describes OHF as a "guerilla poetry journal"; how would you describe its place within the Halifax arts scene?*

**DP:** I'm not sure, I think that part of the idea is that people should feel that they can publish themselves and use everyday office equipment for the purpose of propagating art: fax machines, photocopiers, they can all be used for good and not evil... and this is the greater good! And I guess I hope that people will copy the idea if they want to start up their own OHF, but the other goal is to encourage people to find their voices, to get their voice heard.

**AE:** *You have some new endeavors lined up—tell us about them?*

**DP:** There's a new South Shore OHF launching for people living in Queens and Lunenburg county. There's an anthology launching in March for the collective writers in 2010 and more OHF to come out every month. To stay current you can join the Facebook or Twitter groups for updates. And if you're interested in starting your own version anywhere in the world: contact us! Find a photocopier, a fax machine, anything!



For more information visit [www.ohforgery.com](http://www.ohforgery.com)

# On the Page

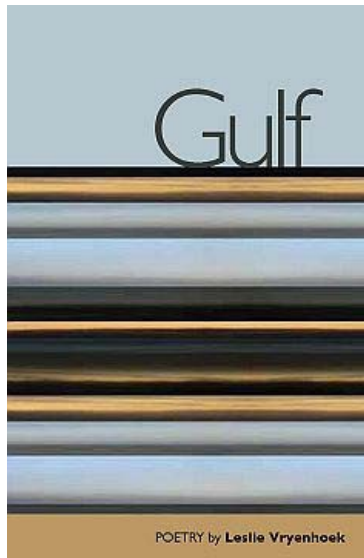


## Open Heart Forgery: Year One Anthology

**Edited by Donal Power**

Open Heart Forgery Publishing / 107 pp / \$10

A textual collage of established Halifax writers, newcomers, closet-poets, and everything in-between— Donal Power’s guerilla poetry journal *Open Heart Forgery* gets a face-lift as a professionally published anthology of contributions from 64 HRM poets from the journal’s first year. Power’s initial concept behind the monthly journal was to encourage new writers to the Halifax arts scene; he claims “...it’s discouraging to write and not have any place to get published and often people will be writing secretly, but suddenly when they’re published they’re ‘outed’ as a writer and it kind of makes them feel like they are legitimized and hopefully encouraged to keep going”. Now Power has not only ‘outed’ many talented poets but published them as well. An eclectic collection diverse in form and content, the anthology proves Power’s initiative successful in digging up some brave and tender new voices, and will surely encourage others to come out of the woodwork. – WM



## Gulf

**By Leslie Vryenhoek**

Ooolichan / 80 pages / \$17.95

A ‘gulf’ can be thought of as something that separates-- a division on either a geographical or even personal scale. A fitting title for her first poetry collection, Leslie Vryenhoek’s *Gulf* (Oolichan Books, 2011) explores the permanent state of transience and quest for sanctuary implicit in the life of anyone who has never safely used the word ‘home’. Focusing on the importance of minutiae as remnants of the past, the speaker asks, “What if home is just/the taste of dirt/in the woods behind the house/on Clairmont Drive?” In exploring numerous nostalgic artefacts such as this, Vryenhoek addresses the concept of belonging in myriad ways: from those exterior subtleties of citizenship provided by accents, arbitrary borders, and the metric system to the physicality of home as building with the clever assertion, “Home Depot is not your home”. The end result is a poignant navigation of identity through the recollection of details. With each poem functioning as an integral relic in the suitcase that is the collection, *Gulf* itself becomes a sanctuary for the uprooted. Entirely salient, Vryenhoek’s debut leaves an impression of permanence in a culture of temporality. – WM



## The Book Club

Atlantic Canada’s only all-literary radio program.

Tuesdays, 1:30pm-2:30pm

CKDU 88.1fm in Halifax, [ckdu.ca](http://ckdu.ca) around the world.