

The Gardener and the Garden *Phoebe Reeves*

You brought me a gift this afternoon a bumblebee not yet dead, twitching

her limbs and working her black bean abdomen up and down

unsteadily on the cool cement walk. I had just woken from a dream of a room

the color of twilight, that pure deep blue like the ringing of a large bell.

Why did you strike her down, there where any foot could have pressed her

to the ground? I watched her for a while, her antennae, the complicated

smoothness of her eyes, and then picked two plantain leaves, carefully

pushed her onto one with the other, flipped her over to her belly, and

carried her to the daylilies growing in the sunlight, where I thanked her

and left her trembling there.



Phoebe Reeves earned her MFA at Sarah Lawrence College, and now teaches English at the University of Cincinnati's Clermont College in rural southern Ohio, where she advises *East Fork: An Online Journal of the Arts*. Her chapbook *The Lobes and Petals of the Inanimate* was published by Pecan Grove Press in 2009. Her poems have recently appeared in *The Gettysburg Review, Hayden's Ferry Review, Dunken Boat, Phoebe,* and *Memorious*.



This poem is one of ten poems selected to appear in The Pollinator Poetry Post, a public art project of Border Free Bees. Over 130 original poems were submitted from contributors throughout Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. The Post will be installed in various locations in Kelowna and Richmond, British Columbia, Canada from 2016-2017. The poets whose work is published are as follows: Yvonne Blomer, Meri Culp, morgan downie, Tami Haaland, Lisa Huffaker, Guillaume Loslier-Pinard, Christine Lowther, Rhona McAdam, Wendy Morton, Phoebe Reeves.

Border Free Bees is a long-term public art initiative headed by Dr. Cameron Cartiere, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Culture + Community at Emily Carr University of Art + Design and Nancy Holmes, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies at The University of British Columbia, Okanagan, in collaboration with numerous strategic partners. The initiative's mission is to raise awareness of the plight of wild pollinators, empower communities to actively engage in solutions for habitat loss, and transform under-utilized urban sites into aesthetically pleasing and scientifically viable pollinator pastures. Border Free Bees is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Judges for the contest were poets Nancy Holmes and Fionncara MacEoin, pollinator scientist Dr. Elizabeth Elle, and public art theorist and artist Dr. Cameron Cartiere. Border Free Bees thanks Fionncara MacEoin, S. Megan Hunter and Kaila Burke for building the Poetry Post. The poetry pages were designed by Fionncara MacEoin with illustrations by Rhythm Hunter.

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