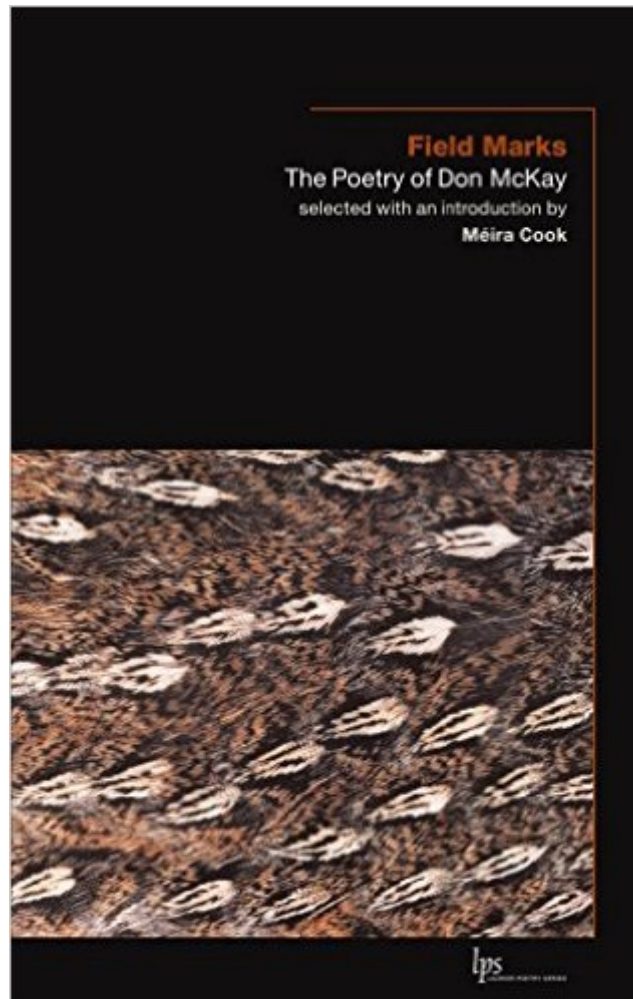


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# Field Marks: The Poetry Of Don McKay (Laurier Poetry)



## Synopsis

This volume features thirty-five of Don McKay's best poems, which are selected with a contextualizing introduction by Meira Cook that probes wilderness and representation in McKay, and the canny, quirky, thoughtful, and sometimes comic self-consciousness the poems adumbrate. Included is McKay's afterword written especially for this volume in which McKay reflects on his own writing process—its relationship to the earth and to metamorphosis. Don McKay has published eight books of poetry. He won the Governor General's Award in 1991 (for *Night Field*) and in 2000 (for *Another Gravity*), a National Magazine Award (1991), and the Canadian Authors Association Award for Poetry in 1984 (for *Birding, Or Desire*). Don McKay was shortlisted for the 2005 Griffin Poetry Prize for *Camber* and was the Canadian winner of the 2007 Griffin Poetry Prize for *Strike/Slip*. Born in Owen Sound, Ontario, McKay has been active as an editor, creative writing teacher, and university instructor, as well as a poet. He has taught at the University of Western Ontario, the University of New Brunswick, The Banff Centre, The Sage Hill Writing Experience, and the BC Festival of the Arts. He has served as editor and publisher of Brick Books since 1975 and from 1991 to 1996 as editor of *The Fiddlehead*. He resides in British Columbia.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Selected and compiled by Meira Cook (who also provides the reader with an extensive and informative introduction), "Field Marks" showcases some of the best verse drawn from the work of

prize-winning Canadian poet Don McKay. This slender compendium providing those new to his poetry with a representative sampling (he has eight published books of poetry to his credit), is enhanced with the inclusion of an essay by McKay, 'The Shell of the Tortoise', in which he presents his relationship to the earth, to metamorphosis, and to language. "Field Marks" is a superb introduction to an accomplished poet and will motivate the reader to search out his other published works. Alibi: Because the swallows had departed from the cliff,/over and over,/the soft knives of their wings tasting the river mist as they/went wherever it is/they went, because/with the air free of their chatter we could hear ourselves/think, because the notes/we left in their holes, full of love and envy/and lament, were never answered and because we need/an earth with ears to hear the long dread/carpentry of history, and then, and so, and so,/and then, each bone nailed, wired, welded,/riveted, because we knew/the gods we loved were charismatic fictions, and because/the swallows had departed.

Book in good quality; will be looking for more work from Don McKay - excellent poet. Pleased with the distributor's efficiency.

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