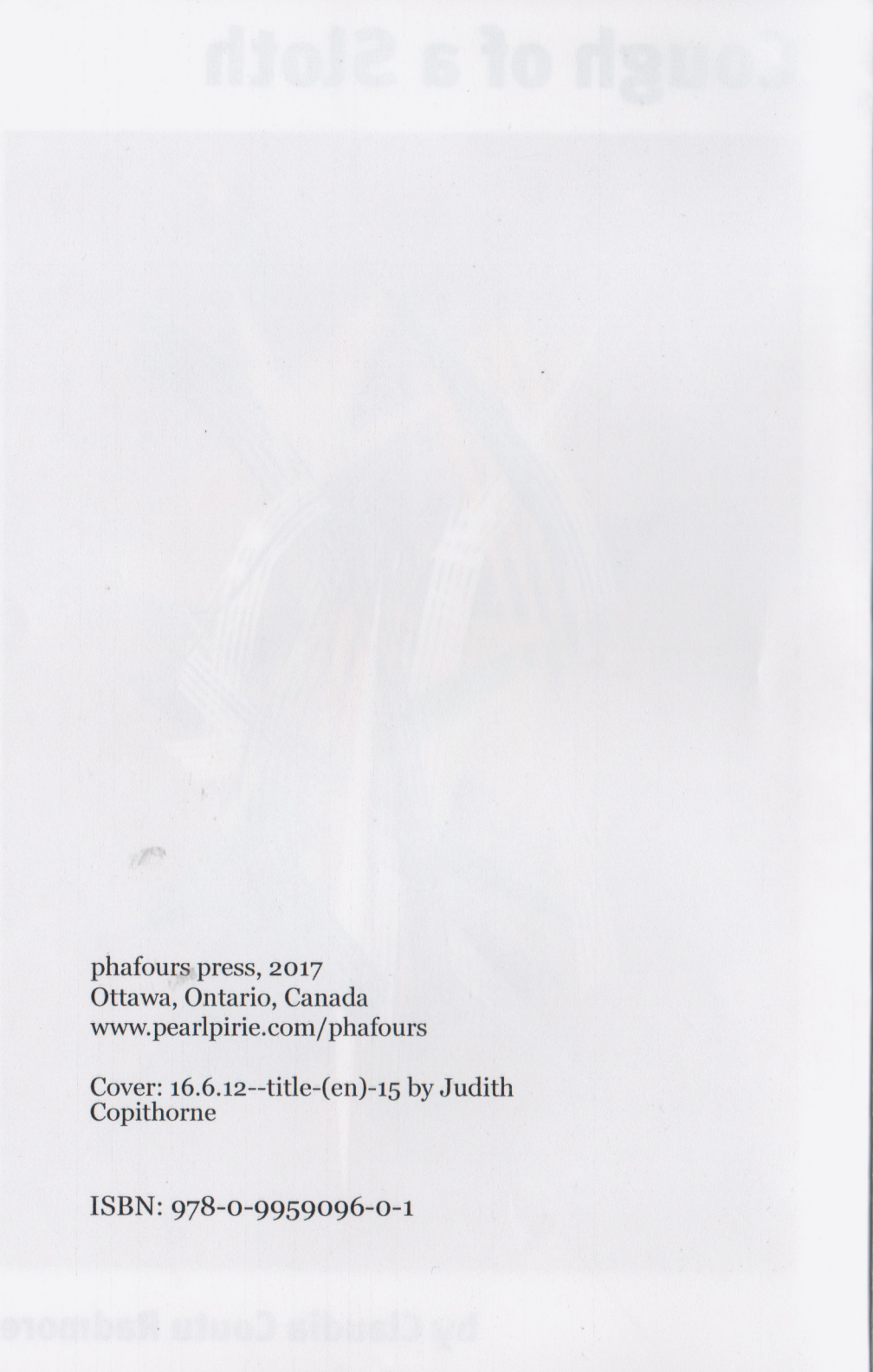


# Cough of a Sloth



**by Claudia Coutu Radmore**



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the relaxed cough of a sloth centers the vernacular

our sleeping words everything changes

a poem-shaped hole shudder of zero on the spine

sibilant stone stir; feathers on the tongue



oneirically definitive clouds eloquently knotted

scorn of syntax the silence filled with dark knives

laundry syrup new moon a fraction of itself

homilectic dactyls disturbingly empty

hemi-demi-semiquavers pillow conundrum

small theatre of a banana she absorbs herself

tears in the eyes of fishes cherry blossom rain

petals on air the emotion of perfume records as a sphere



body brain ectothermic toast

l'heure bleu entrée for the pink of underneath

the yellow words clinging together in the attic

eggplant froth fungible purple habits

spinning neurons impatient to discuss

undiscovered vocabularies zut wings in the forest



dear sweetie pie my friend feelings deep down i desire

overprotective sleeping words my neurons need to talk

beg innings of my self of no thing while o ranges

fungus forest king under twenty moonlets

sweet neon a sceptered and curious silhouette

quotient of oval pulsing vernacular je suis pirouette

ice circles slowly rotate a teacup shatters



a conch in its shell twice on a hill find the place

like grace new-hatched larva bit after bit of spit

polished nacre earth's silence in this hill

a comb in its shell twice on a hill and the place

attached to the surface of the rock

like Grace new-hatched larvae bit after bit of soil

coloured more earth's silence in the hill

coloured more earth's silence in the hill



In Japan, poems such as these are known as gendai, or 'modern haiku'. Some haiku poets feel that this form in English should not be called 'gendai', or, perhaps, even exist; therefore this set of disjunctive poems may equally not exist, which works for me.

Some of these poems previously appeared in the Spring 2017 issue of Matrix Magazine. Thanks to Matrix and with thanks to Susan Diridoni.

Claudia Coutu Radmore writes lyric and Japanese-form poetry. She also manages *catkin press*. <http://claudiaradmore.com>

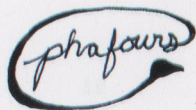
Other books and chapbooks to find more by Radmore:

- *Wordless*, co-editor with Marco Fraticelli (Ekstasis Editions, 2017)
- *The Touch of a Moth*, co-editor with Marco Fraticelli,  
(Haiku Canada, 2012)
- *Arctic Twilight: Leonard Budgell and the Changing North*  
(Blue Butterfly, 2009)
- *Accidentals* (Apt. 9 Press, 2011) [won the bpNichol  
Chapbook Award]
- *Rogue Stimulus: The Stephen Harper Holiday Anthology for  
a Prorogued Parliament* (Mansfield Press, 2010)
- *Pith & Wry: Canadian Poetry*, edited by Susan McMaster.  
(Scrivener Press, 2010)
- *Your Hands Discover Me/ Tes mains me découvrent*  
(Éditions du tanka francophone, 2010)
- *a minute or two/ without remembering* (Two Currents  
Press, 2010)





*The newest from the diverse mind  
of Claudia Coutu Radmore delights  
language itself as it tweaks your  
nose and piques your toes.*



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