



***The Tricontinental Lecture Series* presents Peter Bakowski**

**On Monday 26 September, room 107, 8-9:30am**, The Australian poet **Peter Bakowski** will read from his own work. His poems often use deceptively simple words and images, reminiscent at times of words in a child's picture book, but with some stylistic similarities to the work of writers such as Charles Simic or Vítězslav Nezval.

Peter was born in 1954 in Melbourne to Polish-German immigrants, who ran a delicatessen. After completing his secondary schooling he worked in a series of low-paying jobs before opening his own record shop in the early 1980s. Raised a Catholic, in 1994 he married Helen Bourke, an Irish-Australian seamstress. They live in Melbourne with their son Walter, who is now a photographer.

He commenced writing poetry while travelling through Texas in 1983. His early works, including his first book *Thunder Road, Thunder Heart* (1988), show the influence of American Beat writers such as Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg and Charles Bukowski. His poems have appeared in over one hundred literary magazines worldwide, predominantly in English but also in Arabic, Bahasa-Indonesian, Bengali, German, Japanese, Polish, Spanish, Mandarin and French. He has lived in Melbourne and London, and travelled widely throughout Australia, Europe, North America and Africa, occasionally as an artist-in-residence. In 2007 he became an artist in residence at the University of Macau. He has been writer-in-residence at the B.R. Whiting Library in Rome; the Cite Internationale des Arts in Paris; the University of Macau; Soochow University, Jiangsu Province, China; the Katherine Susannah Prichard Writers' Centre in Greenmount, Western

Australia; the Hobart Writer's Cottage in Battery Point, Tasmania; the Arthur Boyd Estate of "Bundanon" near Nowra, New South Wales; the Broken Hill Poetry Festival, New South Wales. His travels have provided a wide range of material for his work; his fifth collection *Days That We Couldn't Rehearse* contains poems set in Paris, Transylvania, the Upper Volga, Uzbekistan and Sarajevo.

His book *In The Human Night* won the 1996 Victorian Premier's Award, the C. J. Dennis Prize for Poetry. In 2010 he was shortlisted for the same award, for his book *Beneath Our Armour*. In 2015, a bilingual book (French and English) of selected poems was published in France.

### Bibliography

- *Thunder Road, Thunder Heart* (Nosukumo Press, 1988)
- *In The Human Night* (Hale & Iremonger, 1995) ISBN 0-86806-539-0
- *The Neon Hunger* (Oel Press, 1996)
- *The Heart At 3am* (Hale & Iremonger, 1997)
- *Days That We Couldn't Rehearse* (Hale & Iremonger, 2002)
- *Beneath Our Armour* (Hunter Publishers, 2009) ISBN 978-0-9805179-4-1
- *Personal Weather* (Hunter Publishers, 2014) ISBN 978-0-9875802-5-2
- *Le cœur à trois heures du matin* (Editions Bruno Doucey, 2015) ISBN 978-2-36229-079-4

### External links

- [Peter Bakowski official site](#)
- [2011 ABC Radio National, Bakowski reading from \*Beneath Our Armour\*](#)
- [Interview conducted by Ralph Wessman, 2004](#)
- [Interview and book review of \*Beneath Our Armour\*, conducted by George Anderson 2010](#)

(Adapted from Wikipedia, accessed 24 September 2016 at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Bakowski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Bakowski))

Session organised by the **Observatory: Australian Studies Centre**, University of Barcelona, at <http://www.ub.edu/dpfilsa/welcome.html>