

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Ekstasis Editions celebrates the release of
new poetry from Heather Susan Haley

Three Blocks West of Wonderland

Trailblazing poet, author, musician and media artist Heather Susan Haley's new book, *Three Blocks West of Wonderland*, has hit the streets just in time for the holidays.

Haley has been actively involved in her art for over a decade and has gained renown as an engaging performer and media artist; as well, Haley's poetry has been selected for inclusion in numerous prestigious journals and anthologies including last year's *Verse Map of Vancouver*, Anvil Press.

Haley has been an editor for *LA Weekly* and publisher of *Rattler* and the *Edgewise Café*, one of Canada's first electronic literary magazines. Founder of the Edgewise ElectroLit Centre and the Vancouver Videopoem Festival, her works have been official selections at dozens of international film festivals and she has shared her poetry and music with audiences around the world. Most recently she toured eastern Canada and the U.S. in support of her critically acclaimed AURAL Heather CD of spoken word songs, *Princess Nut*.

Much of *Three Blocks West of Wonderland* was written during her stint as artist in residence at the Banff Arts Centre and features place and travel poems alluding to post 9/11 angst and guilt here in our 'safe' zone.

Fierce, racy, full of stiletto irony, verve — yet rife with sensitivity. Three Blocks West of Wonderland is a highly fuelled poetic ride. Her LA, southern B.C. coast, energy-haunted world draws you electrically in and does not let you go. Like the subject of one of the elegies in this collection, Haley stirs, provokes the atmosphere.

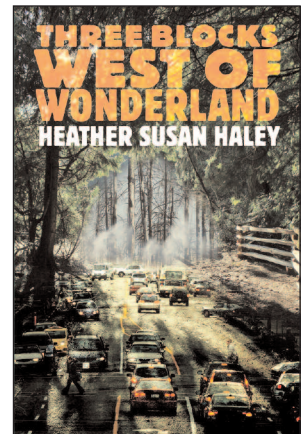
— Author Russell Thornton, *The Human Shore, House Built of Rain*,

If you are a Rambling girl who wants to shirk and shake her motherland, read this jitters and jive guide to the other side of Canada and the world. Fads and fears take Air Canada wing (or Westjet's). Sights seen turn into fables and metaphors, quirks of speech and character galore. As to the body of the language, the Canadian straightjacket lies like an old pair of stays on the stage in this diction stripper's act. But there is a serious restlessness to Heather Haley's serial observations — in the tradition of that great Canadian traveller in poetry, Ralph Gustafson's: adagio notations, like his, on everything she sees and feels and musically reveals.

— Vancouver Poet Laureate George McWhirter

Contact Ekstasis for details or to arrange appearances, events or media opportunities.

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