

3-8-2020

## Kootenay River & the Brilliant Dam

Renée Jackson-Harper



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#)

Follow this and additional works at / Suivez-nous ainsi que d'autres travaux et œuvres:

<https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose>

---

### Recommended Citation / Citation recommandée

Jackson-Harper, Renée. "Kootenay River & the Brilliant Dam." *The Goose*, vol. 18 , no. 1 , article 21, 2020, <https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/vol18/iss1/21>.

This article is brought to you for free and open access by Scholars Commons @ Laurier. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Goose by an authorized editor of Scholars Commons @ Laurier. For more information, please contact [scholarscommons@wlu.ca](mailto:scholarscommons@wlu.ca).

Cet article vous est accessible gratuitement et en libre accès grâce à Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Le texte a été approuvé pour faire partie intégrante de la revue The Goose par un rédacteur autorisé de Scholars Commons @ Laurier. Pour de plus amples informations, contactez [scholarscommons@wlu.ca](mailto:scholarscommons@wlu.ca).

## Kootenay River & the Brilliant Dam

This body instrumentalized  
turbulent through turbines  
howls electric under  
clear skies in early spring

As the flood  
unearths bones that  
swirl in eddies dislodged  
from the riverbanks

As sorrowful songs rise  
from its body its currents  
and gather in the pools  
where the water slows

And this body sings  
electric reluctant  
aqueous and acquiescing

As it runs through systems designed  
to store-manage-display-analyze  
all types of geographic and spatial data

that render this place  
these bones pliable  
a *matériel* for extraction

Still, as it ever was  
this body moves south  
its voice raw with the flood

its flow velocity  
pounding against barrages  
that will one day fail  
or be dismantled

And I am small  
by the side of the highway  
drowned by the steady roar  
of water through turbines.

## Note on the Text

\*matériel: "To make things into tools in the first place, we remove them from autonomous existence and conscript them as servants, determining their immediate futures" (McKay n.p.).

## Works Cited

McKay, Don. "Baler Twine: Thoughts on Ravens, Home, and Nature Poetry." *Studies in Canadian Literature / Études en littérature canadienne*, vol. 18, no. 1, 1993.

**RENÉE JACKSON-HARPER**, BA (University of Toronto), MA (York University), is a PhD candidate in Canadian literature at York University and a faculty member in the departments of English and Creative Writing at Selkirk College in Nelson, BC. She is a faculty adviser on the *Black Bear Review*, Selkirk College's literary and arts magazine, and serves on the board of the Kootenay

Literary Society. Her creative work has been published in numerous journals and was the recent recipient of *Contemporary Verse 2*'s Lina Chartrand Poetry Prize for emerging poets.