

# The Goose

---

Volume 18  
Number 2 *Miscellany (An Extra-Open Issue) /*  
*méli-mélo (numéro très ouvert)*

Article 28

---

10-15-2020

## Two Poems: Footprints and Word Chain

Anthony Purdy  
*The University of Western Ontario*



Part of the Poetry 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

Purdy, Anthony. "Two Poems: Footprints and Word Chain." *The Goose*, vol. 18 , no. 2 , article 28, 2020,  
<https://scholars.wlu.ca/thegoose/vol18/iss2/28>.

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).

## Footprints

There is a language in the Pacific Northwest  
in which the words for footprint and understanding  
are one and the same.

For some in the field of digital media,  
cinema is index, an attempt to make art  
out of a footprint.

Robinson Crusoe in his limbic solitude  
kept a calendar to tell him the footprint  
would be left by Friday.

Metonymy, the trope of presence in absence,  
is the footprint in the sand that mutely mouths:  
we are not alone.

The French for film is *pellicule*, a little skin that  
may be black and white or often pink on  
the soles of our feet.

Our pink feet have swollen beyond recognition,  
the prints they leave out of all proportion with our  
understanding.

## **Word Chain**

Magpie, heron, bramble,  
wren,  
otter, acorn, adder,  
kingfisher, conker, willow,  
fern,  
dandelion, bluebell, raven,  
heather, starling, weasel,  
newt,  
ivy,  
lark.

When you have read  
this list, swallow it.

Wait a day, then write down  
what you remember.

Send your list to a friend  
with the same instruction.

This is one way to make  
words disappear.

There are others.

**ANTHONY PURDY** lives and writes in rural Nova Scotia, where he is happily acquiring a new skill set as he repurposes himself as a writer of fiction and poetry. His first story, “The Map in My Head,” can be found in the Spring 2020 issue of *Queen’s Quarterly*; a second story, “HB,” appears in the Summer issue, and four poems will follow shortly in *Prairie Fire* and *Queen’s Quarterly*. Literary writing offers him new ways of exploring some of the concerns and questions that animated his research and teaching at universities in New Brunswick, Alberta and Ontario.