

The University of Auckland Department of English

Professor Emerita Rachel Blau DuPlessis
Temple University, Philadelphia

Reflections on the Long Poem: Autobiography of a Practice

A meditative and analytic lecture by Rachel Blau DuPlessis, one of the practitioners of the contemporary Anglophone long poem. She touches on the questions why someone might choose to write a long poem, what analogue poems and fellow practitioners bring to the understanding of the long poem project, and what are implications in poetics for subjectivity, gender, genre, closure, mastery and scale.

Rachel Blau DuPlessis is the author of the long poem *Drafts*, begun in 1986, and collected most recently in two books from Salt Publishing – *Pitch: Drafts 77-95* (2010), along with *The Collage Poems of Drafts* (2011). Other volumes include *Torques: Drafts 58-76* (Salt Publishing, 2007) as well as *Drafts 1-38, Toll* (Wesleyan U.P., 2001) and *Drafts 39-57, Pledge, with Draft unnumbered: Précis* (Salt Publishing, 2004). In 2012, *Purple Passages: Pound, Eliot, Zukofsky, Olson, Creeley and the Ends of Patriarchal Poetry* will appear from University of Iowa Press, completing a trilogy of works on gender and poetry that includes *Blue Studios: Poetry and Its Cultural Work* (2006), and the ground-breaking *The Pink Guitar: Writing as Feminist Practice* ([1990] 2006) both from University of Alabama Press. She has written several other critical books and co-edited three anthologies as well as doing an edition of *The Selected Letters of George Oppen* (1990).

Thursday 1 March, 6.30pm
Old Government House Lecture Theatre
The University of Auckland

*Professor Emerita Rachel Blau DuPlessis is a University of Auckland
Distinguished Visitor*