

## VC Distinguished Visitor

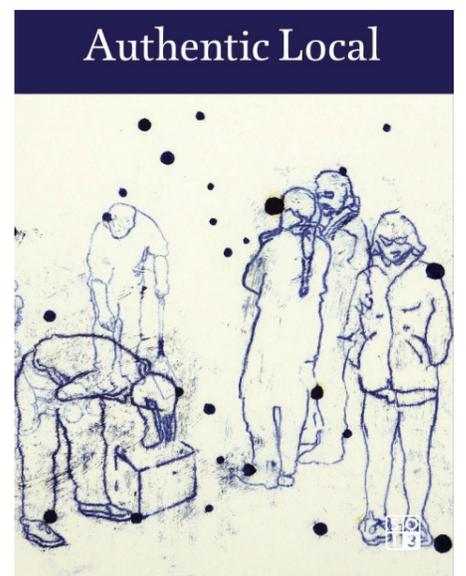
# Pam Brown

## Australian Poet

### Authentic Local: an illustrated autobiographical sample of an itinerant local's pursuits in poetry and art

A presentation of a chronological record of publication covering my life-in-poetry and art over the last four decades. Publication has occurred in spite of, or perhaps because of, moving around from place to place. I hope that this anecdotal slide show will produce some kind of synthesis that might be germane to poetry-writing and that perhaps some useful slant will manifest.

Susan Schultz recently called the odd feeling of visiting your past – ‘self-tourism’. So far, I’ve managed to avoid autobiography or memoir though this talk will bring me in touch with it. I’m actually suspicious of self-historicization. Charles Bernstein’s lines might apply – ‘Everyone is talking about memoir but I just want to forget. I want a poetry that helps me to forget what I never knew./Show me the baloney and I will immerse myself in last season’s mausoleums.’



Drawing by Jon Cattapan.

Australian poet Pam Brown was born in 1948 in Seymour, Victoria, and grew up on military bases in Toowoomba and Brisbane. She has earned a living variously as a librarian, nurse, publisher’s assistant, postal worker, artworker and a teacher of writing, multi-media studies and film-making. Since 1968 she has lived mostly in Sydney, and has travelled to Europe, Asia, Québec and the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions.

Pam has published 17 books of poetry and prose, 10 chapbooks and an e-book. Her most recent book, *Home by Dark*, was published in 2013 by Shearsman Books in the UK. From 1997 to 2002 she was the poetry editor for the progressive Australian literary journal, *Overland*. In 2004 she became associate editor of the international online magazine *Jacket* and is currently associated with *Jacket2* where she recently edited *Fifty-one contemporary poets from Australia*.

**Thursday 26 September, 6.30pm**  
**Old Government House Lecture Theatre**