

# Painted, spoken

*edited by Richard Price*

number 20

**Painted, spoken** is edited, typeset, and published by Richard Price. Please send an A5 stamped self-addressed envelope for a free copy (two first class stamps please).

**Painted, spoken**'s editorial policy is constituted in instalments by the contents of **Painted, spoken**

Earlier issues are available digitally at [www.poetrymagazines.org.uk](http://www.poetrymagazines.org.uk).

**Painted, spoken** appears occasionally, from 24 Sirdar Rd, Wood Green, London N22 6RG

Other related projects are outlined at [www.hydrohotel.net](http://www.hydrohotel.net)

# Painted, spoken

*edited by Richard Price*

***Painted, spoken*** number 20 2009

*Carrie Etter*

**Divining for Starters (53)**

the body's warmth more palpable for  
flavour of those grapes  
outside speech a quiet pub  
fingers on the well-worn grain soft as  
no general objection to metaphor  
and now under my breasts the slightest  
fingering my small store of words  
held on the tongue  
the skin of the flesh of it  
that low precipice

**Divining for Starters (56)**

on the fringe of a self  
flooded for the fourth time this  
albums, journals, diaries  
watermarks up and along  
and this motley library  
water is kinder than fire  
invented again in the morning

*Graham Fulton*

**Wheels on Fire**

A girl in a pink Stetson  
screams with laughter  
          squeaks with fear  
                  chooses to steer  
her wheelchair  
into the path  
of the no.9 bus  
to Drumchapel  
which has to brake hard  
                  to avoid  
          detaching her  
entirely from existence  
as her hen pals       silently  
wait for the green man  
          an unplugged strummer  
in a lifelong bunnet  
announces *Maybe*  
*you're gonna be*  
*the one that saves me*

## The Warrior Race on Bath Street

first a girl on  
    a boy's back  
        out  
            of their heads  
    laughing    glass  
smashing five or six  
piling in  
with fists boots charging  
up the hill not seeing  
    the shoppers  
        hiding  
against the walls of  
banks lawyers bistros  
the zenith  
of civilisation  
                    letting them  
            steam past    booting  
            roaring    throwing  
        each other to  
the road stamping  
one face  
as it melts in the centre  
            the vortex  
            people  
        silent    behind  
their two-way mirror watching  
a primal fury  
take shape letting  
them get on with it

*Eddie Gibbons*

**Wife of Pi**

3.141592

but you don't stop there do you?

caring

nothing for brain cells burning  
you greedy little sod (sorry for

swearing)

you've been to every decimal  
place on Earth

deterring

other roaming numerals from

daring

you've grown too big  
for your roots

inferring

someone ought to knock you  
down a peg or two

recurring

*Peter McCarey*  
**From The Syllabary**  
www.thesyllabary.com

21.8.20

Hale as the makar, Bill Dunbar, tip-  
Toe, boo-backety, slack and slee.

21.8.19

The hakeness of the hake  
Is in the gutting  
Excision  
Of subatomic self  
Its self propulsion  
Disquire on  
Its quid pro quo  
And pound per kilo  
Quiddity? The net  
Was etched in silver  
Scales all over it.  
Such stupid  
Extinguishing pursuit  
Of all haecity.  
Hic hoc.

21.7.19      **Heck as in Hecate**

“In '45, on the way back from Bombay  
To the transit camp  
We would walk past the Towers of Silence  
Which is where the Parsees  
Left their dead to the vultures.”

21.7.14

With a shiver of cold, not pleasure,  
You come to mind  
Like the moon in a hedge  
That gets thicker with every word.

21.5.14

Haud yir  
Horses!

Who'd you  
Think you

Are,  
Goin off on a

Haj wi the  
High heijins?

24.5.14

Better make mine a large one.

2.x.14

Give him a badge and he'll burgeon,  
Barging round bulging with  
Bludgeons and cheap Belgian bilge.  
Whoever won't budge,  
Be they bodger or Borgia,  
He'll brick up their pockets!  
They'll bungee like bankers off Blackfriars Bridge!

## *Antônio Moura*

from *A sombra da ausência* (*The shadow of absence*)

Translated by Stefan Tobler

### **Untitled**

The bird is silent.

What sings here is  
only its shadow.

Alone

the bird's shadow  
sings the sorrows of the bird,

silent – and alone – on the wall.

Translator's Note: *pena* in Portuguese can mean feather and suffering/sorrow. The line could also be 'sings the feathers of the bird'.

### **Signs**

Nature reigns in silence.

The rustle of wind in the leaves  
and the wave that smacks on the rock  
resonant in the shell of the ear,  
would have other sounds – wine, wave –  
if the senses' forms were other.

All the world's din is an inner rippling.

Outside, life moves in the deepest silence.

## **Song of Exile**

Living – leaving

to go once  
around the house and  
enter by the way out

A journey that only lasts a moment

Without us knowing if we are inside or out,  
having the sun and moon as neighbours

And how it – sometimes – seems to drag.

Living we feel a brief exile.

*Almada, winter 2004*

*Donny O'Rourke*  
**The life you give it**

As cocktail crooners do  
I worked a room or two  
No Jule Styne  
But doing fine  
Doing my best  
For the dollar in the glass  
I'd make a fairish pass  
At any reasonable request

A hard luck story  
About fading looks and glory  
he passion less the pity  
That's any songsmith's city  
A whole rainbow made of blues  
The bad times and the booze  
The providence you choose

You don't learn a song  
You earn  
A song  
By the life you give it

The one who plays it wrong  
Will phrase  
It wrong  
Lacking the guts to live it

## **Care for Another?**

A fool  
On a stool  
Will as a rule

Care for another

That kind of guy  
Believes he can buy  
A friend or a brother

Care for another?

Don't mind if I do  
Who's caring for you?

Care for another?

Buddy I swear  
You've got me there  
Do I really dare

Care for another?

When as you can see  
Having ordered three  
I don't care for me

Surely that's clear  
Like this martini here

Care for another?

For keeps  
For good  
She wishes I could

Care for another

Care for another?

*seekers of lice*

## **Lookering**

The drawer slit open glove hanging more news for dog bark  
story calls home. Candy sigh.

Haint sigh for the drip-tap clock tick drop kick the day,

To object white. Lating the looker. The salt box.

Plastic mechanical wrist wrench collapses the windfall.

Stone basket takes marble thoughts.

Well you can lever more under where rations please.

Cartoons marie-antoinette oranges. The radiator.

The hinge. Door. Mat.

Go to. A plate rack. Virus. Pan-handle. Show me where.

These are our. Ambergris comes from whales.

Sperm jewell grey substance. Anthracite blubber.

Slit open the drawer dog leather gloves, depend more news and  
appeal to home. Candy sigh.

The suspiration haints dropper for 24 hours a day and

press box drop kick

White object. Regulation attractive. Salt box.

Key plastics machinery wrist, an unexpected collapse.

The marble stone to the selection.

Thank you distribute now leverage to the bottom of the box.

MARIANTOWANETTOORENJI cartoons. Radiator.

The hinge. Door. Matt.

Visit. Dish-rack. Virus. Panhandle. The main show.

These us. Amber comes from whales.

Jewell sperm of gray matter. Blubber anthracite.

## Contributors

**Carrie Etter**'s first collection, *The Tethers* was published by Seren Books in 2009; her second, *Divining for Starters*, will be published by Shearsman in 2011. Her blog is at [carrieetter.blogspot.com](http://carrieetter.blogspot.com)

**Graham Fulton** has been writing and performing poetry since 1987 when he joined the Paisley Writers' Group run by Tom Leonard, and was a founder member of the Itinerant Poets performance and publishing group. More information at [www.grahamfulton-poetry.com](http://www.grahamfulton-poetry.com)

**Eddie Gibbons** is "a master of the subtle portrayal of emotion" (Les Murray). He is published by Argyll Publishing. His collections include *Stations of the Heart* and *The Republic of Ted*.

**Peter McCarey** is the author of *MacDiarmid and the Russians* and collections *Town Shanties*, *The Devil in the Driving Mirror* and *In the Metaforest*. He lives in Geneva.

**Antônio Moura's** *Rio Silêncio* is published by Lumme Editor. More information is given at [www.culturapara.com.br](http://www.culturapara.com.br)

**Donny O'Rourke's** lyrics are taken from the forthcoming *Blame Yesterday* (Bonny Day) a book of torch songs and Broadway ballads. The book is produced in collaboration with the artist Merlin James.

**seekers of lice** is an artist and writer who creates material interventions which find gaps and spaces in which to operate. Works range from interventions in public places, participation in curated projects and exhibitions in galleries, to book publishing and multiples. Recent books include *decimals of feelings* (2008), *quot* (2008) and *quandaries* (2009).

**Stefan Tobler** is a poet and translator. He is currently completing a PhD that involves the study and translation of poems by Antônio Moura and other contemporary Brazilian poets. More information at [www.stefantobler.net](http://www.stefantobler.net)

# Painted, spoken

Carrie Etter

Graham Fulton

Eddie Gibbons

Peter McCarey

Antônio Moura (trans. Stefan Tobler)

Donny O'Rourke

seekers of lice

**Almost Free** (just send an A5 stamped addressed envelope - two first class stamps will cover the postage)