**Webb, Phyllis (1927 --)**

Phyllis Webb, OC is a Canadian poet, teacher, and broadcaster. She was born in British Columbia and attended the University of British Columbia and McGill University. She is the author of numerous books of poetry, a selection of prose, and a collection of broadcast scripts, essays and reviews published as *Talking* (1982). Her first collection of poems was published alongside work by Eli Mandel and Gael Turnbull in *Trio* (1954). Webb’s first full-length collection, *Even Your Right Eye* (1956) was followed by *The Sea is Also a Garden* (1962). She began working at CBC Toronto in 1964 and acted as the producer of the program “Ideas” from 1967-1969. Her 1965 collection *Naked Poems* marked a point of departure with its compact forms and erotic evocation of lesbian desire. After returning to the West Coast, did not publish another full-length collection until *Wilson’s Bowl* (1980). She won the Governor General’s Award for *The Vision Tree* (1982). Webb’s interest in the Persian ghazal form inspired *Sunday Water: Thirteen Anti-Ghazals* (1982) and *Water and Light: Ghazals and Anti-Ghazals* (1984). Her consistent concern with form manifests itself in her formal experimentation and her meticulous crafting of poems. Webb’s work is also marked by an enduring interest in human relationships—with other individuals, with society, with art, and with the natural world.

**List of Works**

Poetry

* *Trio: First Poems by Gael Turnbull, Phyllis Webb, and Eli Mandel* (1954)
* *Even Your Right Eye* (1956)
* *In a Garden of the Pitti Palace; A Pang Cantata: 2 New Poems* (1961)
* *The Sea is Also a Garden: Poems* (1962)
* *Naked Poems* (1965)
* *For Fyodor* (1973)
* *Broadside Poems* (1979-1982)
* *Wilson’s Bowl* (1980)
* *The Bowl* (1981)
* *Selected Broadsides* (1981-1982)
* *Sunday Water: Thirteen Anti-Ghazals* (1982)
* *Prison Report* (1982)
* *Water and Light: Ghazals and Anti-Ghazals* (1984)
* *Eschatology of Spring* (1984)
* *Pepper Tree: For Breyten Breytenbach* (1986)
* *Nine Poets Printed = 9 Poets Printed* (1986-1988)
* *Hanging Fire* (1990)
* *Grape Vine* (1992)
* *Four Swans in Fulford* (1999)

Edited Collections

* *Selected Poems, 1954-1965,* ed. John Hulcoop (1971)
* *Selected Poems: the Vision Tree,* ed. Sharon Thesen (1982)
* *Seeing in the Dark: the Poetry of Phyllis Webb,* ed. Pauline Butling (1997)

Prose

* *Talking* (1982)
* *Nothing But Brushstrokes* (1995)

Sound and Video Recordings

* *Alex* (1966)
* *Canadian Poets I* (1966)
* *Phyllis Webb: The Question as an Instrument of Torture* (1971)
* *Phyllis Webb: Poetry and Psychobiography* (1993)
* *Fall Equinox Reading at the Literary Storefront. Tape #4, Mona Fertig, Phyllis Webb, David Frith, Robert Tyhurst & Lakshmi Gill* (1981)
* *Phyllis Webb* (1981)

**Paratextual Material**

Photo: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/027011/f1/nlc011045-v4.jpg> (held in the Webb fonds at Library and Archives Canada)