

Seattle City Council

Culture, Civil Rights, Health and Personnel Committee Meeting

2:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 25th, 2009

Words' Worth

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **Donna Miscolta**

Today's poet is **Rachel Dilworth**

Rachel Dilworth's first manuscript, *The Wild Rose Asylum: Poems of the Magdalen Laundries of Ireland*, was chosen by Rita Dove as the winner of the 2008 Akron Poetry Prize, and is forthcoming from the University of Akron Press in Fall 2009. Her poems have appeared in *AGNI Online*, *TriQuarterly*, *American Literary Review*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Perihelion*, *CutThroat*, and elsewhere, and are forthcoming in *Chautauqua Literary Journal*, *Bay Nature*, and *Southern Indiana Review*. She has received, among other awards, a Fulbright Fellowship to Ireland for creative writing, a 2009 Jack Straw Writers Program residency, Yale's Clapp Fellowship for poetry, commendation in the UK National Poetry Competition, a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize, and scholarship support from the Bread Loaf and Napa Valley Writers Conferences.

Body Sonnets I: Credibility

by Rachel Dilworth

So much yourself that even the river is you—
length fathomed as a curve that stirs the light,
muscles wing-swept and slow to be moved.
Your very name, *swan*, is absolute.
No part of you is mystery to itself,
not breast nor skin nor wind-delighting eye;
no impulse strange to you if seldom felt,
nor missed, nor lost with opportunity.
Time blooms in you. Whole evenings of milk-
weed and wet earth billow *new, new*
as your body makes its own white space, builds
a pure, relentless physical truth.
Credibility of light, you are the star-
clear argument that justifies the river.

-- end --

Note: This poem first appeared in *American Literary Review*.