

JANET ROGERS

Slow Burn

where family language
was spoken
often
listen as
ghost words surface
revealed along midnight's tide

Salish syllable sounds
decorate swelling clouds
here spirit knowledge is practiced
it strikes like
fires that cleanse
tears transformed to
precious land lessons
before territories
traded for fortunes
stolen

ornamental butterfly

slow burn

grand fur

chocolate lily

Indian celery

white head

iron wood

ocean spray

whale vertebrae

poisons

medicines

slow burn

trade relations
define cultural connections
descriptive liquid harvest
salivating nature
divided by stories
memories and manmade
histories

slow burn

white-capped answers
extended backwards
in time the cries
of hunger burns holes
through thick mist
kissing and caressing

water waking
skin relations
move in unison
flowing up
descending down
flowing up
descending down
flowing
up
up
up

oregon grape

arbutus root

Indigenous yellow dye

slow burn

pit cook

eel grass

digging black ash

reverse falls

here Xa:ls

casts food in directions

foreign

hidden middens

time travellers

vibrational energies collecting

moving through

bottle neck wreckage

it seems so long ago

it was just then

and now

and here

slow burn