Welcome to the Anthropocene

Alice Major
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Because the universe is big and all but incomprehensible, the average Jills and Joes don’t dare ask too many existential questions. It is left to poets to face the truth in those places the rest of us fear to tread. The author of eleven books of poetry and essays, Edmonton’s first poet laureate, and a woman comfortable in the realms of math, science, and cosmology, Alice Major is uniquely qualified to guide humanity through perilous ecological times. Thank you, Alice.

Annual grains

Agriculture’s pornographic fact: reproduction gets co-opted for consumption. See that cornfield, tossing blonde tassels and swelling into snug green corsets — it’s just the calculated wildness of market forces. No truly wild plant spends so much of its energy on sex, on putting out, on hanging on to seed heads that should shatter, scatter small grains into earth’s soft box.

And all this captive sexuality goes for what? Youth, on its shallow roots, is taken at the height of summer, loses all its profit to pimped manipulation.

MATT SUTHERLAND (January/February 2018)

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