

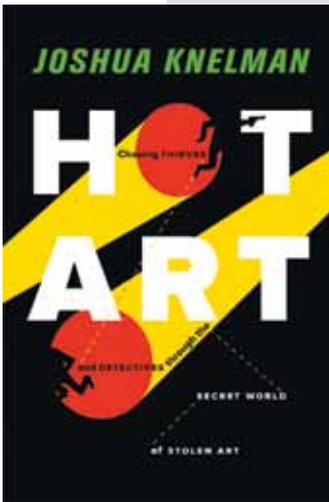
A Trick of the Light

By Louise Penny

Picture it: a crackling fire, the winter winds blowing, a favourite libation at your side, and you, curled up with Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec. In *A Trick of the Light* the Inspector investigates the murder of Lillian Dyson, an art critic, whose caustic reviews have ruined many promising careers. Gamache and his assistant Jean Guy Beauvoir sift through the secrets of the art community while facing their own personal demons. Louise Penny's strength is her ability to engage your senses: you can taste the food in the corner bistro and feel the warmth of the fire in the local inn. This is the seventh in the series, however it can be read as a stand-alone novel. Just make sure you read the whole series; it's goodness and evil that is visceral!

Minotaur Books, 2011, \$27.99

Reviewed by Nancy Frater
BookLore, Orangeville



Hot Art

by Joshua Knelman

Who knew that art theft is the fourth largest criminal activity in the world after drugs, weapons and money laundering? Joshua Knelman has written a fascinating work of investigative journalism into art theft around the world. This kind of theft comprises not only paintings but furniture, sculpture, antiquities, silver, china, chandeliers and other museum-quality pieces. Knelman travels to the U.S., Egypt, England, Montreal and Toronto to interview art dealers, museum curators, lawyers, detectives and of course, criminals.

There are few resources worldwide dedicated to art theft – Interpol, Scotland Yard, the FBI, detec-

tives in Los Angeles and Montreal and a few other individuals. Knelman connects the thieves to art dealers and auction houses where stolen pieces are “laundered” and might not reappear for generations. One of the most colourful characters is Paul, a criminal from England who is now “retired.” He says that art theft of famous paintings is “headache art,” not smart and not what the majority of art theft is about. Most art theft involves stolen items under \$10,000 that are easily passed into the market without being traced.

This is really an exciting, well written and informative read.

Douglas & McIntyre, 2011, \$29.95

Reviewed by Catherine Randall
Curiosity House Books & Gallery, Creemore



Saugeen

by Rob Rolfe

Rob Rolfe, who divides his time between Toronto and Wiarton, has published a third collection of poetry, fittingly entitled *Saugeen* as in it he pays tribute to the area.

The Saugeen Territory once comprised the traditional lands of the first nations Saugeen Ojibwa. These lands extended from the base of the Saugeen Peninsula to the area now known as the Bruce Peninsula. But from 1836, through government coercion and a series of bad-faith treaties, the Saugeen Ojibwa were confined to the present-day reserves of Cape Croker and Saugeen Chief's Point. The Saugeen people were also ceded the entirety of the Manitoulin Island “in perpetuity.”

Never shying away from dark moments, Rolfe's collection is a

haunting combination of beautiful prose-poems and short verse poems that are akin to extended haiku. The prose poems are often exquisite character sketches, bringing to mind Victorian miniature portraits. They tend to honour individuals who at first glance may not seem worthy of notice, yet whose essence is so

vividly evoked, both in youth and old age, in just a few words, that you may think of them for days. Look too for the beautiful pen and ink drawings by Patti Wakefield that stand as gateways to each section of the book.

Quattro Books, 2011, \$16.95

Reviewed by Hazel Lyder
The Downtown Bookstore, Owen Sound