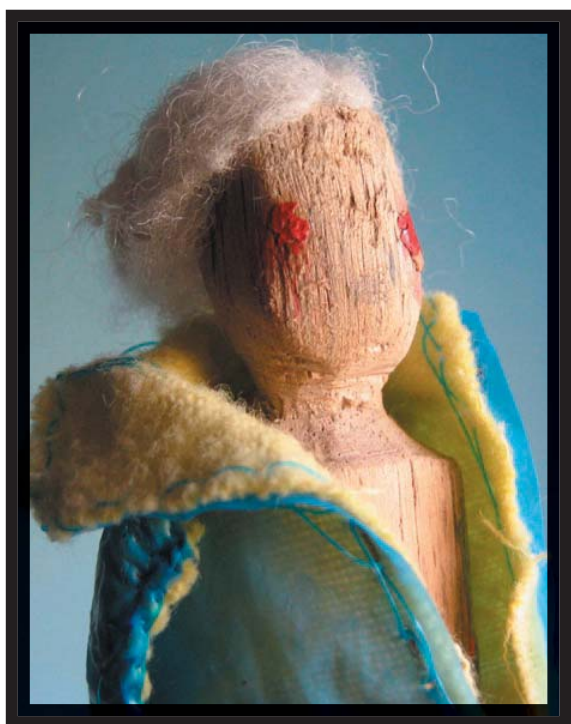


# Our Lady of Isbister



an exhibition by Jen Hadfield



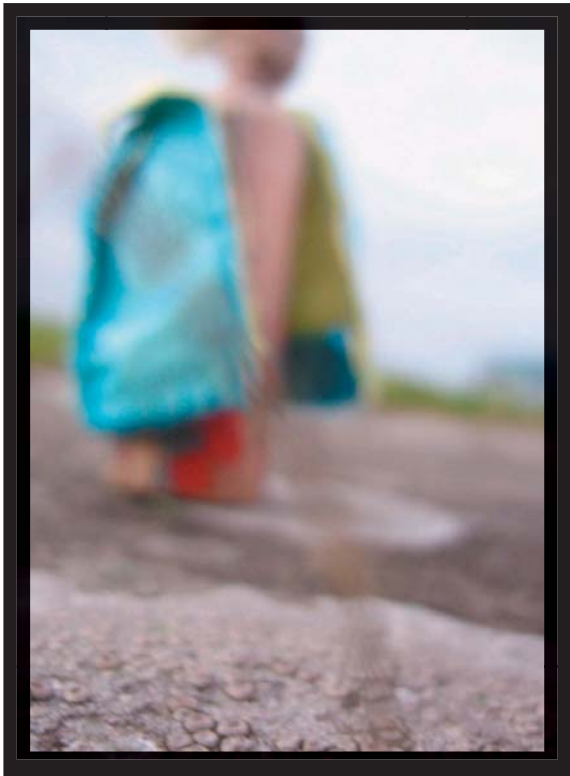
: the art gallery in a shoebox

Hosted by  
**Stromness Library, Orkney**

Friday 13th October to  
Friday 15th December 2006

# Our Lady of Isbister

by Jen Hadfield



## **Lucky-minney –**

one of the fairies, used to keep children quiet.

## **guidfick or guidficks –**

Fairies, who were capable of doing an injury when their wrath was incurred.

*A to P, An old record of FAIR ISLE words with Phonetics, Utra, Fair Isle, perhaps 1945, attr. Mr Jerome Stout (Utra Jarm)*

## **lucky minnie's oo (n) –**

bog cotton (*Eriophorum*)

*The Shetland Dictionary, John J. Graham, The Shetland Times Ltd, Lerwick, 1993*

## Our Lady of Isbister

O send me another life like this –  
I want the same lochans as I had before –

the wind driving spittle strings  
against skimpy shores of dark red stone;

same hot sweet slaw  
of muck and shit and trampled straw;

the chimney bubbling transparent heat;  
a whirlpool of Muscovy ducks;

paet-reek;  
a scrambling clutch of piglet-pups;

the wet socks  
slamdunked along the washing line;

the shucked wet shirts in gospel  
grey and sparkling sun;

wet white bell  
of an XXL teeshirt, swung

*Jen Hadfield*







## Jen's Biography

### 2006

McLennan Award for Poetry, 1st prize, September 2006  
The Printer's Devil & The Little Bear, Redlake Press and Rogue Seeds  
Writer in Residence, Shetland Arts Trust (Jan-Mar)

### 2004

Almanacs, Bloodaxe Books, ISBN 1852246871  
Eric Gregory Award, The Society of Authors

### 2002

Writer's Bursary, Scottish Arts Council

### 2001

MLitt Creative Writing (distinction), Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde

### 2000

Lewis Edwards Memorial Prize  
MA Joint Hons. English Language and Literature, University of Edinburgh

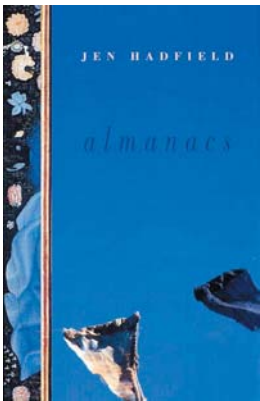




## Jen Hadfield

Jen Hadfield was born in 1978 in Cheshire and is half-Canadian. She lives in Shetland, where she is working on her second poetry collection, *Nigh-No-Place*. Her first collection, *Almanacs*, won an Eric Gregory Award in 2003. She has just won the McLennan Award for poetry with her poem *Towhee*. Jen works as a poet, photographer, artist, tutor, and has sold everything from cod to Cashel Blue. She also makes artist books from time to time. Her latest project, *The Printer's Devil & The Little Bear*, was in collaboration with fine printer Ursula Freeman at the Redlake Press.

Jen's website is at: [www.rogueseeds.co.uk](http://www.rogueseeds.co.uk)



## Almanacs

A mythic scrapbook, a one-man-band, a bag of cats...*Almanacs* is about lists, rules and archetypes and what they don't account for.

The central sequence, Lorelei's Lore, is a road movie in poems, set in the north of Scotland, an Ultima Thule hijacked by sirens and Harrier jets. Ghosty's driving: Ghosty who's given up on everything except Skerryman and The Road... Skerryman - patron saint of bad weather and Absence-Makes-The-Heart-Grow-Fonder.

*Almanacs* is available from Bloodaxe Books at:  
[www.bloodaxebooks.com](http://www.bloodaxebooks.com)



**the  
peedie gallery**

: the art gallery in a shoebox

For further information about the Peedie Gallery, or to view the current exhibition online, visit the gallery website: [www.peediegallery.co.uk](http://www.peediegallery.co.uk)

Exhibition supported by:



**59north**

+ digitalORKNEY

