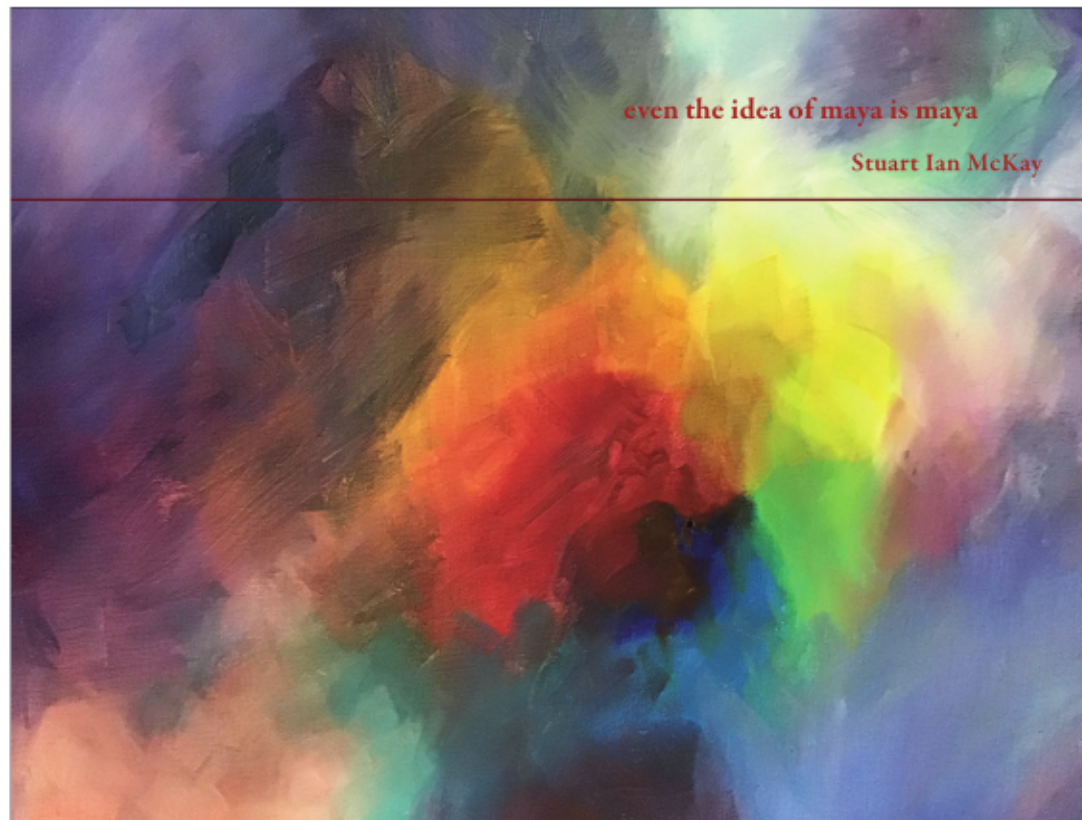


even the idea of maya is maya

by Stuart Ian McKay



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only the possible today.

no longer caught in binary,
this and this,

that and this. categories

beyond want persist like a non-event.

listen. an amorous aside to the familiar
cautions every vague intoxication until each is rectified.

here. even here. a black and white japanese
film about a man and a woman
trapped at the bottom of a pit
of sand.

endurance, detachment

become an identical gesture when he sweeps away
sand from the small of her back.

years before this

 a woman who resembled her

was burnt into an atomic shadow against the wall
of her nagasaki home.

 a cell

in her abdomen had hardened how an omen
does then split and split and split.

instructed of its redundancy, sunlight was deprived
of its practical value.

how horrible the half-life of words that day.

they had ash.

Stuart Ian McKay is a Calgary poet. His poetry and non-fiction have been published in numerous Canadian literary journals and anthologies. *a cognate of prayer*, Stuart's second book of poetry, was published in 2013 (Passwords Enterprises, Calgary). *a cognate of prayer* celebrates the lives of persons living with disabilities. He serves on the poetry editorial collective of *filling station*.

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