

**Perchance to Dream**  
**Stacey Kaser**  
**University of British Columbia**  
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# Perchance to Dream

by  
Stacey Kaser

Installation  
for CRCW 590 and SEEDS

University of British Columbia  
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## PERCHANCE TO DREAM

“Perchance to Dream” is a series of five hammocks that will be installed in June, 2015, on the Main Mall of the University of British Columbia campus.

Each hammock consists of a hanging seat supported by a single crossbar above it. The crossbar on each hammock will have one line of text engraved on it. The text on five hammocks comprise a poem titled “Facing North.” Users can read each line as they sit in the hammock. Because the hammocks will be visible to each other, users may eventually recognize that the text forms a poem.

My intention is to provide a place of rest and contemplation, to give staff, visitors, and students a chance to pause and appreciate the natural beauty around them. Hopefully that would create a space that encourages them to let their imaginations free, and dream of what might be possible.

This installation was inspired by raindrops sparkling on the strands of a spiderweb in Pacific Spirit Park. The strands of the spider web reminded me of weaving, and of hammocks – hence the concept. I struck by the strength and beauty in the delicate structure, and I was reminded of the power of nature to nurture and inspire our imagination.

Several locations were chosen based on appropriate trees, pedestrian flow, and visual beauty. Poems were written for each potential location. The text and location of these poems will be included for reference.<sup>1</sup>

The location on Main Mall was ultimately chosen because of the vista beyond Flagpole Square. “Facing North” was inspired by the view of the Straight of Georgia, facing looking north. The Sechelt First Nations people would approach the mainland through this channel. All the people who subsequently came to British Columbia endured perilous ocean journeys to discover a new land.

Everything around us on campus – the buildings, the knowledge base, was once merely an idea. The concrete rises from the intangible. This is why it is important for us to occasionally pause and let our imaginations run free. Daydreaming is important work!

I am deeply grateful to the University of British Columbia, The SEEDS program, and the Department of Creative Writing for allowing me to participate in this project.

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<sup>1</sup>*If existing hammocks needed to be replaced the alternate poems could be substituted, or if the hammocks prove popular the installation could be expanded to the other locations.*

## “Perchance to Dream”

### Facing North

Someone once dreamt of where you are now.

Ancient mariners, carried across vast seas by restless currents  
searching for a place they could only imagine.

Hands blistered, stung by salt, they cowered against immutable forces  
ecstatic when the vision of horizon broke through an endless haze.

## Alternate Locations/ Installations

### Gravity

You chose to be here, but entered this life squalling, and doubtful,  
until the wind blew soft breath in your lungs  
and your heart joined the rhythm of the incessant tide.

Now you are held in an cradle, knit by the wobbling planets,  
and warmed by a constant star.

How could you believe you are not loved?

*(Location: Trees in the square North of Student Union Building)*

### Day Dreams

Night dreams are shadows, withdrawing at dawn.

Day dreams are unstoppable, splitting darkness

or splintering into glittering fragments,

constellations by which we navigate – knowingly, or not –

glimpses of an expanding universe.

*(Location: South of Koerner Library on Main Mall)*

## Pause

Pause, here, let your mind rest

while your dreams slip through the knots of reason.

Silvery, nimble, they dart into the fathomless blue of imagination

arcing, pluming, flashing. They will rise again,

carrying gifts summoned from endless depth.

*(Location: Main Mall, Near Flagpole Square, Western Side)*

## Love

Love binds us, grasps our limbs and tugs, as we resist.

The thrum of life within insists on pulling us to light.

So our souls twine and evade.

Love is the dance created

like fluttering leaves on an intricate vine.

*(Location: Cherry Trees, West of Allard Hall)*