

# PROVOST'S LECTURE SERIES



## A Superposition of Brains

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 ★ 4:30 PM**

Humanities Building, Room 1006



### Alice Major

Alice Major is a distinguished poet of Western Canada who has published nine award-winning collections of poetry. She also has a lifelong interest in science, triggered when she was given a book on the theory of relativity at the impressionable age of 10. Her most recent book is a collection of essays, *Intersecting Sets: A Poet Looks at Science*, which received high praise in publications such as *American Scientist* and received several awards, including a National Magazine Award for one of its essays, "The Ultraviolet Catastrophe." Popular stereotypes assume that there are profound differences in the ways artists and scientists think, even though poets and math majors both use the same basic brain setup that has been evolving for billions of years, and share the same equipment for processing data from the world and creating meaning out of it. Human cognition can be thought of as a superposition of states in which "artistic" and "scientific" are hopelessly entangled. Can the differences be identified?

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
A RECEPTION FOLLOWS THE LECTURE.

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