

# auralgami

I won't tell anyone else, but I'll tell you  
how I love to fold my outer ear & stuff it  
into the inner canal. It doesn't all fit,  
of course, but I can push in the upper flap,  
or the lobe, & hear, as in a seashell,  
the pressure change & the real world  
fall away. I find pleasure in the strange  
silence, in manipulating soft parts  
of myself, so malleable to the touch.  
It is almost the ecstasy of  
language itself. Oh, I've said too much,  
I can tell by your face. But when no one's  
looking I know you'll  
try this yourself.



## richard beban



Richard Beban turned to poetry in 1993 after more than thirty years as a journalist, then a television and screen writer. He holds a BA in Liberal Studies, and an MFA in Creative Writing from Antioch University, Los Angeles. His poetry has appeared since 1994 in more than forty-five periodicals and literary Websites, and in twenty-five national anthologies, and he has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. With his wife, the writer Kaaren Kitchell, and three other poets, he helped organize and run one of Los Angeles' most successful weekly reading series at Venice's Rose Cafe. He and Kitchell also produced the 2003 Freshwater Marsh Ecopoetry Celebration at Playa Vista, California, a five-hour celebration of the new freshwater marsh constructed to help restore Ballona Wetlands. He has been a featured reader at more than eighty-five venues, from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, to Berkeley's Cody's Books, to Shakespeare & Company, Paris. He and Kitchell, who co-authored a non-fiction manuscript on mythology, run a monthly poetry and fiction workshop series in their living room in Playa del Rey, California.