BEAT A PATH – ALL THE TREES

PHOTO BY NIGEL LAING

#6402
Tulip Tree
Liriodendron tulipifera
At the intersection near the bridge
49 16′ 12″ N, -123 11′ 38″ W

AN ARTIST PROJECT BY HOLLY SCHMIDT | BEATAPATH.CA/ALL-THE-TREES

EMAIL TO TREE #6402

Dear Tulip tree,

I feel like I resonate with you because you are deceptive in the most beautiful way possible.

You are called the tulip tree but you belong to then magnolia family.

You are a beautiful, full tree but you can also be poisonous.

You give us oxygen, you keep us alive.

You give us shade when the sun is so bright and shelter when it starts to rain.

You are mysterious, beautiful, selfless, innocent and deceptive all at one time.

Such a lovely paradox.

Thank you for everything you do, by just being you.

— ANONYMOUS

RESPONSE FROM TREE #6402

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

Ghalib says: "Only a few —
disguised as tulips, as roses —
return from ashes".

He writes his anguish
for the ones he loved,
for their buried faces —

"not all, only a few —"
as he looks
at those radiant blooms.

Could Ghalib have walked
among us — our graceful,
sociable cluster

like you, he would have seen
our petal-shaped leaves
with an eye not only admiring

of branches in flower,
beauty doubled amid the living —
but gleaning time's harder-won gifts

stretching through and past
the high yellow canopy
of a more than human span
of Octobers.

I, *Liriodendron tulipifera*,
holding out the subtle hope
of an earthier immortality. . .

Rahat Kurd for *Liriodendron tulipifera*,
October 31, 2018

PART OF THE ARTIST IN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM WITH THE VANCOUVER PARK BOARD, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH WEST POINT GREY COMMUNITY CENTRE AND THE JERICHO STEWARDSHIP GROUP. THE LEGACY POSTER PROJECT AND EXHIBITION ARE SUPPORTED BY THE ROUNDHOUSE COMMUNITY ARTS & RECREATION CENTRE.