This is the published version:

Pont, Antonia 2012, How to wear a poem, Axon : Creative Explorations, Canberra, ACT.

Available from Deakin Research Online:

http://hdl.handle.net/10536/DRO/DU:30059930

Reproduced with the kind permission of the copyright owner.

Copyright : 2012, Axon : Creative Explorations
HOW TO WEAR A POEM

Antonia Pont

Preferably do not overdress it
(check the tone of your destination).
If it is a long-stanza’d number
let the fabric move with your body as you move.
If it is more a kind of undergarment—
intimated meanings layered with litotes or allusion—
then couple it perhaps with something almost staid
or at least reserved. If it is flamboyant
then splash the colour about, indulge your sense of fantasy,
make it spin and flash
like the costume jewellery it is brave enough
to declare itself to be. And if it is a talisman—
discrete, lived and reflecting the unsaid when held to the light—
then wear it quietly like a precious thing that although small
holds worlds and steeps its wearer in solace,
pulling the unseen veil of weight
that was holding the form in a slight distortion,
aside and away. Wearing just such a charm,
no other adornments are necessary.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Antonia Pont is a Melbourne-based poet and theorist. She lectures in Creative Writing and Literary Studies at Deakin University. She has tried wearing many things in her time but has settled lately on German modernist fiction, some social theory and the odd cookbook. Now that winter is coming, she will need to clear out the wardrobe and retire certain combinations.