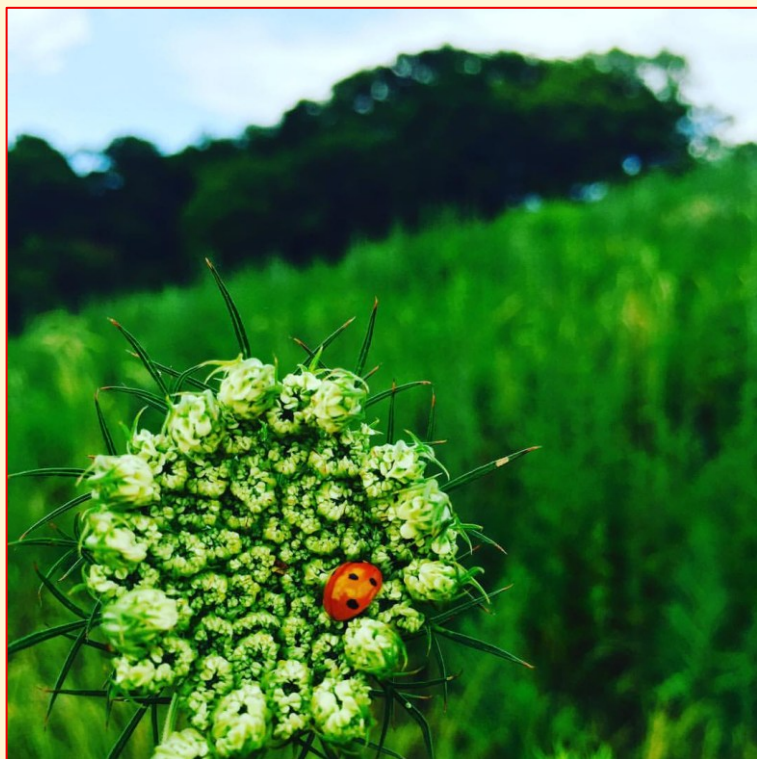


# *Molecule*

*— a tiny lit mag —*



Issue 15

# *Molecule*

Fall 2026

Issue 15

**MiCrO-Founders & Editors**  
KEVIN CAREY & M.P. CARVER

**No Job Too Small Editor**  
DAN BARLEKAMP

**Fine-Tooth Comb Editor**  
BROOKE DELP

**Cover Art**  
“QUEEN ANNE’S LACE LADYBUG SUMMER”  
BY KELLY DUMAR

*In this issue:*

**Art & Visual Poetry**

---

**LUCKY CHIAMPA**

MOUSE 1 ❀ 7

**KEITH A. DODSON**

BOOTLACE ❀ 12

RAIN DROPS ON LEAF ❀ 18

**KELLY DUMAR**

QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

LADYBUG SUMMER ❀ 25

**ELMEDIN KADRIC**

U AND I ❀ 29

**KRISTIN J. KELLEY**

CHARMS ❀ 35

**LEENA KURISHINGAL**

STAYCATION ❀ 40

**TAMARA LINDE**

A HEAVY GRIP ON SOMETHING  
LIGHT ❀ 45

**JIM MURDOCH**

[LOVE TRIANGLES] ❀ 50

**MICHAEL C. ROBERTS**

NATURAL CREATION II ❀ 55

NATURAL CREATION V ❀ 61

**MOLLY K. SACCARDO**

THE SIX ❀ 66

**JOAN SOSIN**

CRACKER HILL ❀ 71

**VANTAGE**

[UNTITLED] ❀ 76

**Fiction**

---

**JANE ABBOTT**

LAKE MANAPHE ❀ 8

**GORDON BROWN**

DANTE UNDONE ❀ 9

**CHAITANYA CHEKE**

SKY ❀ 10

**ROSEMARIE**

**DOMBROWSKI**

EDDY B. ❀ 11

**NIARA HARGRAVE**

CHILD OF DIVORCE ❀ 13

**ZEBULON HUSET**

JOB INTERVIEW ❀ 14

**DOUG JACQUIER**

DETOURMENTIA ❀ 15

**TIFFANY JOE**

ROOM 7 ❀ 16

**SUSHANTH**

**SHYAMSUNDAR**

CLAIM TAG ❀ 17

## Special Section: DISQUIET INTERNATIONAL

---

**BRIDGETTEO**

DANCING ❀ 20

**EDWARD DASCHLE**

WANTING EYES ❀ 21

**CRISTOFER GONÇALO  
DUARTE**

COMMUNION WINE ❀ 22

**ERICA HOM**

DIVINE FEMININE ❀ 23

**NICK SPITZMAN**

BURSTING SUNS ❀ 24

---

### Review

**L. LOIS**

BOOK REVIEW:

*REINCARNATION* / MATT

CILDERMAN ❀ 26

---

### Drama

**ROBERT CSOMA**

THE BUS TO BEFORE ❀ 28

---

### Poetry

**LAVANYA ARORA**

I'M TIRED OF EMBROIDERING  
LONG, COMPLICATED POEMS  
ON MY SKIN ❀ 30

**NOAH BERLATSKY**

THE R MUCH TAKEN ❀ 31

**DARREN BLACK**

NOSTALGIA 1991 ❀ 32

**EM BLACKWELDER**

SPRING RELIEF ❀ 33

**STACEY BOLTER**

PIGEONS KISSING IN THE  
WINDOW OF A CASTLE  
RUIN ❀ 34

**MICHAEL BUCKIUS**

PARENTHOOD ❀ 36

**BLAKE CAMPBELL**

THE BALONEY ❀ 37

**BARRIE COLE**

PLANS ❀ 38

## Poetry (cont'd)

### **POLLY CONWAY**

I'M READY, I'M READY ❀ 39

### **KEITH A. DODSON**

MAKING LITTLE

SKINKS ❀ 41

### **DREMA DRUDGE**

BONNIE AND CLYDE

WITHOUT GUNS ❀ 42

### **R.G. EVANS**

THIS IS JUST TO SAY

AGAIN ❀ 43

### **DONNA FAULKNER**

END OF THE ROAD ❀ 44

### **MELISSA FREDERICK**

*FROM* ONCE MORE, THE

MOON ❀ 46

### **EREN HARRIS**

DEHUMANIZING ❀ 47

### **ANGELA HEISER**

RUG PIZZA ❀ 48

### **TOBY HOFACRE**

IF THE GERMAN REFEREE

WHO WAS BIT IN THE

TESTICLE HAD

AMERICAN HEALTHCARE

“BENEFITS” ❀ 49

### **BRUCE ICKES**

69 ❀ 51

### **ABDULKAREEM**

### **JUABEH**

EVENT HORIZON ❀ 52

### **K. HYERI KO**

1080 DAYS ❀ 53

### **KATIE LOWE**

THINGS THAT KEEP ME UP AT

NIGHT ❀ 54

### **JOHN MENAGHAN**

SPOILAGE ❀ 56

### **RONALD V. MICCI**

ZE FRUITS OF LOVE ❀ 57

### **DENA MOLEN**

HEAT WAVE ❀ 58

### **GEORGE MORRIS**

INCELCAMINO BUMPER

SITCKER ❀ 59

### **KATHARINE NIELSEN**

LAST NIGHT, YOU WERE A

METEOR ❀ 60

### **ELLIE O'LEARY**

TO-DO ❀ 62

### **CAROLYN OLIVER**

WINDOW DREAM ❀ 63

### **CELESTE OSTER**

BIRD BALM ❀ 64

### **ALEXIS PACHECO**

INTERMISSION ❀ 65

## Poetry (cont'd)

---

### **CHAD PARENTEAU**

MY FINAL RESUMÉ

OBJECTIVE ❀ 67

### **DREW PISARRA**

THIS LITTLE LIGHT ❀ 68

### **ANDREA POTOS**

ON NOT FINDING A POEM

TODAY ❀ 69

### **TRACY ROYCE**

ALONE AGAIN ❀ 70

### **EDWARD SAGE**

STAGE HOGS ❀ 72

### **ZACH SPRUCE**

MY MIND IS A NEBULOUS

CLOUD OF CUM ❀ 73

### **LIANE ST LAURENT**

SCATTERED ❀ 74

### **JACK STALLINS**

GULF ❀ 75



**CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES ❀ 77**

# LUCKY CHIAMPA

---

## Mouse 1

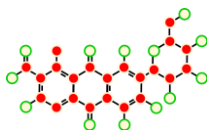


JANE ABBOTT

---

## Lake Manaphe

They say Lake Manaphe is magic. On moonlit nights, the water reveals devils in human skin. I pushed my stepdaughter in, that little monster, and waited for her to resurface. It's been a long while now. As I wait, all I can do is stare at my reflection.



## GORDON BROWN

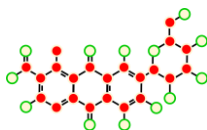
---

### Dante Undone

Poets and prophets lie.

There is no fire in hell. No icy steppes. No bottomless pits.

In the darkness only the waiting horns of every white rhino and the beaks of passenger pigeons.



## CHAITANYA CHEKE

---

### Sky

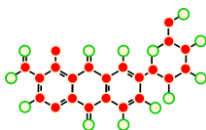
The lawnmower died, smelling of burnt hair.

“Larry?” Linda called from the porch. “The collection agency called about the sky.”

“Don’t worry. We’ll pay,” Larry said, kicking a plastic flamingo. “Somehow.”

“They’re taking the blue first,” she whispered.

Above them, a vast, gray rectangle began to swallow the afternoon.

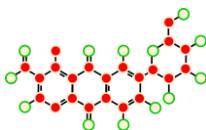


## ROSEMARIE DOMBROWSKI

---

### Eddy B.

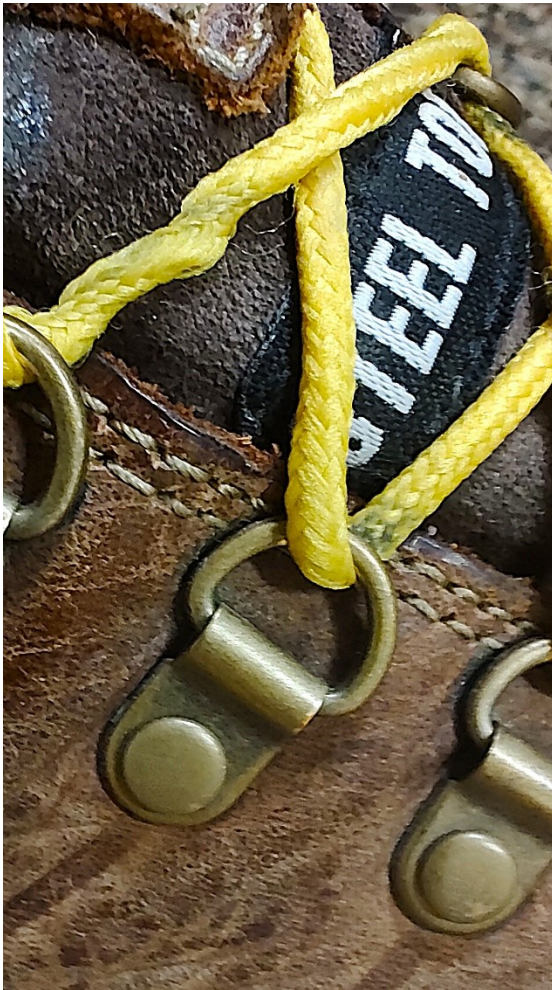
He married the president of the John Lennon society after college. He got divorced. We went to a wedding but left before it began. A bad omen. As I dragged my son through gravel, I kept screaming *all you need is love*, but none of us believed it.



KEITH A. DODSON

---

**Bootlace**

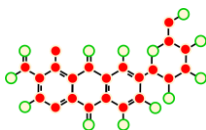


# NIARA HARGRAVE

---

## Child of Divorce

When you misbehave, there are consequences. So I spent my walk to school stomping on every line and crack I passed. I didn't want my parents dead. Just hospitalized. If they couldn't play nice, then they wouldn't play at all.

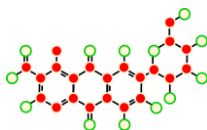


# ZEBULON HUSET

---

## Job Interview

“Which of these shirts doesn’t say *drug addict*?” he asks the always-condescending mirror.

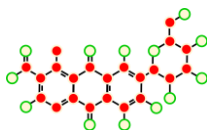


## DOUG JACQUIER

---

### Detourmentia

It began with calling everybody ‘darling’ because she couldn’t remember their names. Only when she bought a white sports convertible did her daughters put her in a nursing home. In her garage they found her collection: No Stopping. No U-turn. One Way. Steep Descent. All the signs were there

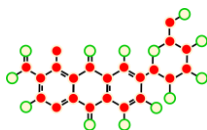


## TIFFANY JOE

---

### Room 7

Six seizures in the night and I wake with a \$2500 ER deductible. My grandparents visit, on the precipice of their own decline. She barely remembers my name, her cheeks hollow and hair perfectly permed. Meanwhile, he's more worried about the damn dogs at home.



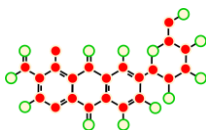
### Claim Tag

The airline lost my suitcase.

At baggage services, the clerk handed me a child's backpack.

“This is what arrived under your name.”

Inside were my passport, my socks, and a crayon drawing of my head on fire in the hotel's best restaurant.



KEITH A. DODSON

---

**Rain Drops on Leaf**



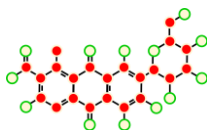
# *Special Section*

## DISQUIET

---

The annual **DISQUIET International Literary Program** brings writers from around the world together with Portuguese writers in the heart of Lisbon for intensive workshops in the art and craft of writing.

Writers who participated in DISQUIET 2026 were invited to submit. These five pieces were selected by our editors.

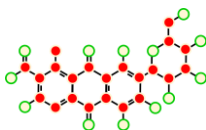


## BRIDGETTEO

---

### Dancing

I'll be dancing between my bedsheets,  
thinking about you with your stellar  
gloryhallastoopid wings that watch  
over me. In this jive-ass turkey world.  
If by chance you come looking for me,  
I'm on the pier where a laughing gull  
and a pelican are in the midst  
of an entanglement.

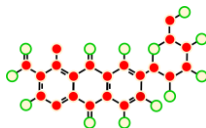


## EDWARD DASCHLE

---

### Wanting Eyes

I was waiting for you to break up with me while I walked your dog through the misted evening. The golden light caught in your dog's wanting eyes when he looked back to check I was still there with him, though really he was looking for you.



**Communion Wine**

Your name  
was Domingos.

Sunday.

Holiness

followed you

further

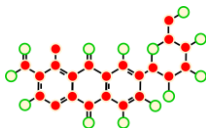
than sobriety  
ever could.

They made you  
my guardian angel.

No one mentioned

the wings

smelled  
like wine.

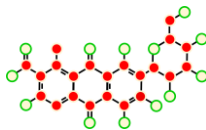


ERICA HOM

---

### Divine Feminine

I've never seen a woman have a virgin birth.  
I've only seen her cross the ocean on a plane  
to clean mansions for the rich  
and send every sacred penny,  
every grain of rice, back home.



## NICK SPITZMAN

---

### Bursting Suns

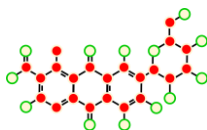
Fifty yards away, then twenty, artillery shells exploded like...

“Like bursting suns,” he jotted.

A blast slammed him sideways against the trench.

“Drop the fucking notebook!” the sergeant shouted.  
“Do you want to die?”

“No, sir!” he shouted back. “Not before I get the words right.”



KELLY DUMAR

---

**Queen Anne's Lace Ladybug Summer**



L. LOIS

---

**Book Review: *Reincarnation* / Matt Cilderman /  
Bottlecap Press / \$10 / 12 pgs.**

[REDACTED]

Cilderman's chapbook *Reincarnation* opens

[REDACTED] unabashed name-dropping

[REDACTED] sparing [REDACTED] doesn't  
waste

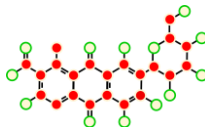
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

"[REDACTED] *focus* [REDACTED] *halfway* [REDACTED] *art already.*" (3)



knife so small  
“ Warhol Reincarnated Hoarding Issues”

Ideas , wiser.

Bottlecap Press gems

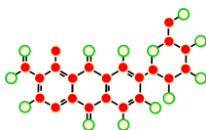
folks fly among us

chapbook candy, bottle of spirits

Banksy’s smiling  
Warhol’s proud — Yo Yo’s fingers flying.

*“Screw the discomfort” (6)*

(3)

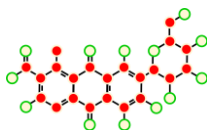


## ROBERT CSOMA

---

### The Bus to Before

At a bus stop where rain rises, ME waits for the bus that returns him to before waiting. A STRANGER questions reality; RAIN cites budget cuts. A wheel-less bus labeled “LATER” arrives and departs without moving. Nobody boards. The rain keeps falling upward.



ELMEDIN KADRIC

---

**U and I**

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{U} \\ + \text{I} \\ \hline \text{Y} \end{array}$$

## LAVANYA ARORA

---

**I'm tired of embroidering long, complicated poems  
on my skin**

Thimbles

dented beyond recognition. My fingertips

rich with sugarthick blood.

Come, lick them.

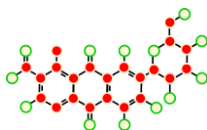
Cream them.

Submerge them in liquid nitrogen.

I'm exhausted.

Bring a scalpel.

I'll hand them over to you.

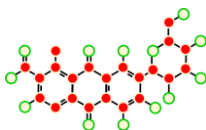


## NOAH BERLATSKY

---

### The R Much Taken

Frost and Lowell and Burns and Pinsky  
Herrick and Hass and Haydn and Creeley—  
they bob and they sob in the selfsame shame;  
all the vocabulary, just one name.



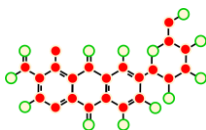
## DARREN BLACK

---

### Nostalgia 1991

The imperfections of hand-thrown mugs,  
thrifting pencil skirts on  
dollar-a-pound days,  
pea-coat leafleting,  
wheat pasting,  
polyamory,  
guitar jam alchemy,  
arguments for and against gods.

So many vows  
scribbled on napkin scraps,  
over utility bill windows,  
when joy was a blue-tipped match.

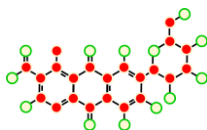


## EM BLACKWELDER

---

### Spring Relief

it's good to be in company  
with the tree behind my window  
& her scraggly yellow hair.  
I traipse through the cordgrass  
behind the train tracks,  
the marsh is getting brighter & maybe  
I shouldn't be back here but i am  
still young & it is just land



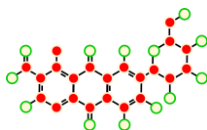
## STACEY BOLTER

---

### Pigeons kissing in the window of a castle ruin

Two little lovers,  
On a window ledge,  
Take no notice of others,  
Two little lovers.

After having their druthers,  
They huddle on the edge,  
Two little lovers,  
On a window ledge.



KRISTIN J. KELLEY

---

## Charms

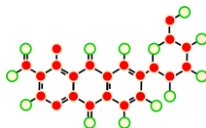


## MICHAEL BUCKIUS

---

### Parenthood

Sometimes you're just like  
*Wow, I can't afford to fix this child*  
So you let it run feral  
chain link fences and  
underinflated basketballs, etc.  
Until one hot summer day  
you see a stranger  
eating yogurt  
at the bus stop



## BLAKE CAMPBELL

---

### The Baloney

When belief  
is chief

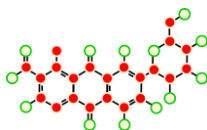
and fact  
tact-

ile, plastic,  
sometimes drastic

measures must  
be taken to sever

blossoms flecked with rust  
and dusty blue,

roots that outgrew  
their first endeavor.

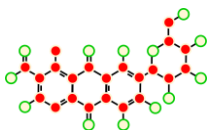


## BARRIE COLE

---

### Plans

I am a roll of toilet paper.  
I'm unrolling the scroll of myself  
over the ledge of a balcony.  
After I'm fully unwound  
I'll light a match to my cardboard tube.  
I'll make enough fire to roast a single  
marshmallow. Then, I'll serve it to  
anything with a mouth.

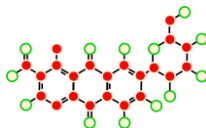


## POLLY CONWAY

---

### I'm Ready, I'm Ready

Call me a California beach flea,  
ilyanassa obsoleta. A real detritus feeder.  
On land, I'm jumpy AF. A scrubby beach suncup.  
Call me sea roach, ligia accidentalis,  
feed me diatoms and diamonds, and  
bless me, a beggar for tranquility.



LEENA KURISHINGAL

---

## Staycation

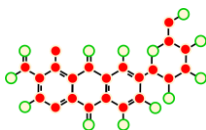


## KEITH A. DODSON

---

### Making Little Skinks

The Blue-tailed Skink  
stops his race along  
fence rail track.  
His face radiates red.  
We don't know  
where he has been,  
but we do know  
what he's  
been doing.

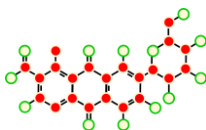


## DREMA DRUDGE

---

### Bonnie and Clyde Without Guns

They'd have to be brave holding  
baseball bats,  
like the rest of us,  
creeping to bolt the door  
when they hear a noise at night.  
They'd go to the grocery and come out  
with exactly what their nickels would pay for.  
No more. No less.

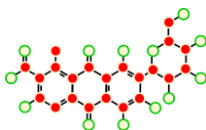


**This Is Just to Say Again**

I couldn't find plums  
so I have eaten  
the bananas  
that were on the counter

which I know  
you were saving  
to make breakfast  
for the week

I doubt you'll forgive me  
I did it on purpose  
they tasted of spite  
and petty carbohydrates



## DONNA FAULKNER

---

### End of the Road

Noon is on the highway  
melting chocolate

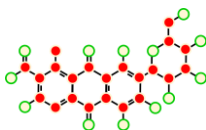
while tumbleweeds  
toy with cactus.

Vultures watch  
waiting, wide-eyed.

Nothing  
could quench our desert throats.

In the shade of the last Store  
for a hundred miles,

the old dog dozes  
ears part pricked.



TAMARA LINDE

---

**a heavy grip on something light**



## MELISSA FREDERICK

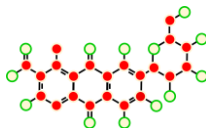
---

### *from Once More, the Moon*

of this and these—

fishnets: distant islands: young green herbs: an  
exile's farewell: pebble beach :suspended moon  
:sea foam :river bubbles: magpies: cloudy  
thoroughfares: love's intention and depth

—no one shall dream

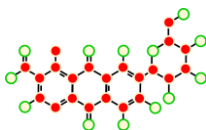


EREN HARRIS

---

**Dehumanizing**

I dreamed I hacked into  
    *The New York Times*  
    and replaced every instance  
    of “Palestinian”  
    with “Labradoodle”  
    just to witness  
        white women everywhere  
        waking up in tears.

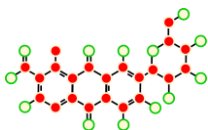


## ANGELA HEISER

---

### Rug Pizza

cleaning pizza off the rug  
is a very small price to pay  
for getting to hear Joy Harjo read  
while a babysitter hangs with my kids



## TOBY HOFACRE

---

### **If the German Referee who was bit in the testicle had American healthcare “benefits”**

No benefits included

No money back guarantee

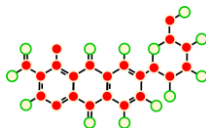
No lawyer

No prosecution

No judge

No justice done

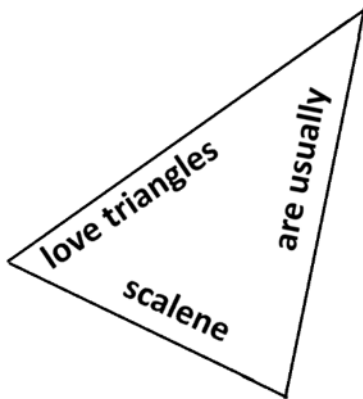
Coverage denied



JIM MURDOCH

---

[love triangles]



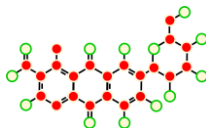
## BRUCE ICKES

---

69

The Golden Rule in practice.

POETRY



51

## ABDULKAREEM JUABEH

---

### Event Horizon

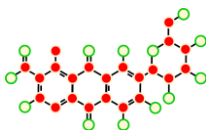
Suddenly it feels  
the things separating you from me  
are uncountable:

footsteps, debris.

A soldier marches on, taking his leave;  
a comet streaks farther than conceived.

Time waits, then dilates—

has it been days or years?

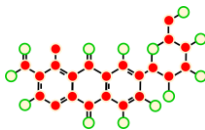


K. HYERIKO

---

**1080 days**

my rattling heart / your words here / lost in translation  
/ morse cold blips / transmission loose / faulty wiring /  
connected by a tin can telephone string / i'm asking  
very nicely / will you please sweep the glass off the  
kitchen floor?

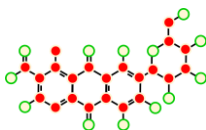


## KATIE LOWE

---

### Things that keep me up at night

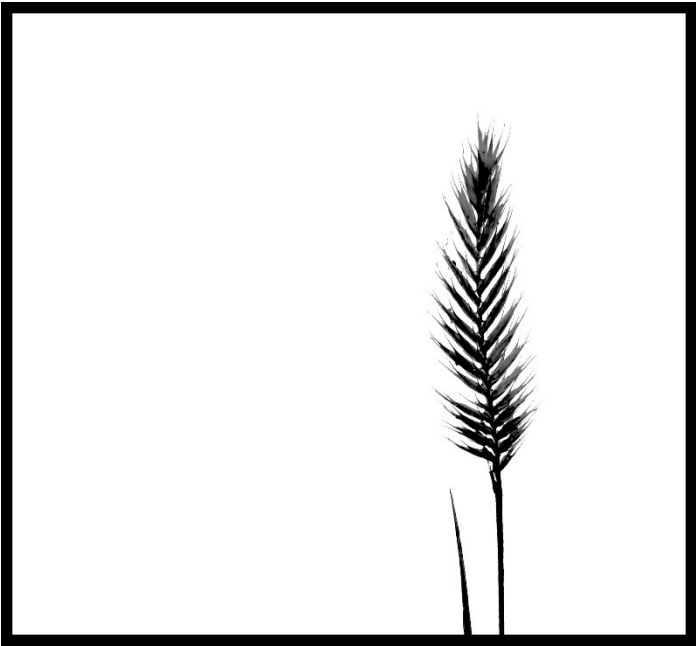
I need to book that appointment/ renew  
that medication/ chase up that therapy/  
fill in that form. Will he ever speak/ walk/  
go to the shops on his own?/ What if  
he dies before us?/ What if  
we die before him?



MICHAEL C. ROBERTS

---

**Natural Creation II**

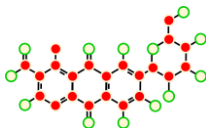


## JOHN MENAGHAN

---

### Spoilage

Someday you will expire,  
before your driver's  
license or your passport  
or the milk in the fridge.  
The license will still  
be good for awhile,  
the passport too,  
though not to you.  
But the milk will be bad  
before you know it  
if only because  
you never will.



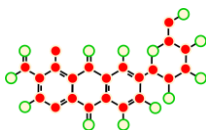
## RONALD V. MICCI

---

### Ze Fruits of Love

Ze fruits of love  
Sweet fragrance of the evening bows  
Anyhows  
Kisses delisses  
And sumpin' more  
J'love, j'sweet, j'adore

Ze fruits of luv  
On cut glass servers  
Temptations to nibble or touch  
And such  
J'care, j'seek, j'crave  
A blush, a smile, a wave  
Oh hell, a misbehave



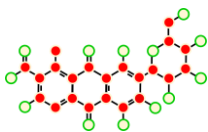
## DENA MOLEN

---

### Heat Wave

So hot—  
chopping garlic  
in the nude.

Chopping garlic  
in the nude—  
So hot.

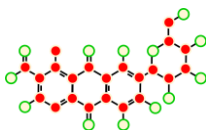


## GEORGE MORRIS

---

### Incelcamino Bumper Sitcker

Sad decal  
Deplocean wreck:  
“Mars or Bust!”



## KATHARINE NIELSEN

---

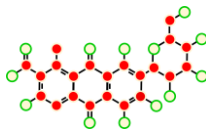
### **last night, you were a meteor**

destructive in your demeanor  
morphing into aircraft wings

demolishing everything i pride myself in  
except yourself

do you care what you've caused?  
heartburn. acid reflux.

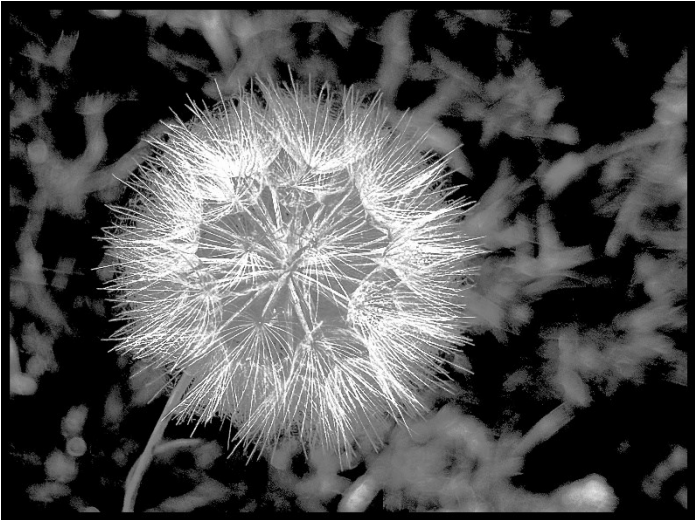
do you miss what you've ruined?



MICHAEL C. ROBERTS

---

**Natural Creation V**

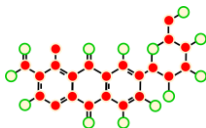


## ELLIE O'LEARY

---

### To-Do

Yesterday's to-do list was so awesome  
I saved some for today  
rather than letting it go  
too soon or at least  
that's what I tell myself  
as I cross off a few things  
including Tuesday at the top,  
replacing it with Wednesday.

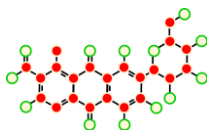


## CAROLYN OLIVER

---

### Window Dream

In ferocious wind,  
soft clicks: milkweed beetles land,  
worn out. I graze one,  
glass-smooth, and touch your hand, friend,  
setting down your pen at home.

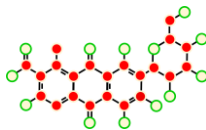


## CELESTE OSTER

---

### Bird Balm

There's a spell  
that can turn the dead  
into herons. I sang  
it from the bridge  
and watched  
my brother fly.

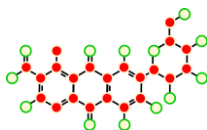


## ALEXIS PACHECO

---

### INTERMISSION

the ballerina in a music box  
performs for the gaze  
that gives no thought  
to the crushing weight  
of the darkness  
when she is  
closed.



MOLLY K. SACCARDO

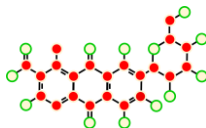
---

**The Six**



**My Final Résumé Objective**

To sit  
for rest  
of days  
and wait  
for shoes  
to drop  
from a  
hundred  
octopuses  
who don't  
know how  
to tie  
laces.

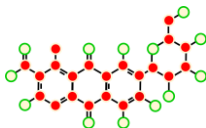


## DREW PISARRA

---

### **This Little Light**

To build a bonfire in Johnson, Vermont,  
you need to get sign-off from  
your sponsoring institution,  
the sheriff, and the fire marshal.  
Only then can you put three logs  
in a pit and shiver under the stars  
while the smoke gets in your eyes.

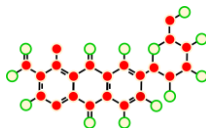


## ANDREA POTOS

---

### On Not Finding a Poem Today

Poetry must have broken  
in the night, scattered everywhere  
like mercury from the thermometers  
of my childhood—  
    tiny balls of gleaming danger  
rolling everywhere I couldn't collect.

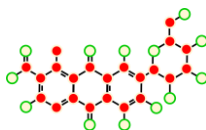


TRACY ROYCE

---

**Alone Again**

Onederful.



JOAN SOSIN

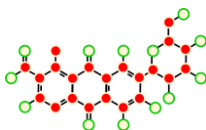
---

## Cracker Hill



**Stage hogs**

Like oocytes and original sin,  
the demons were there  
from the start, swimming  
in the muck of us, pollywogs  
ready to trade tails for legs and lungs,  
to blossom into rogues of great agency.

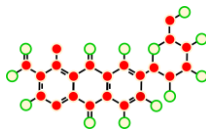


## ZACH SPRUCE

---

### **my mind is a nebulous cloud of cum**

unemployment pervades pewter day where  
i find myself once again gazing at grimed  
windowpanes dazzled by autumn leaves  
or white-streaked blue comforter rumpled  
on the floor. i drag my English degree down  
to the cellar, cast it in a furnace. refund, please?



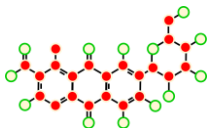
## LIANE ST LAURENT

---

### scattered

since she is cremated.  
since her burned self settles gently over the land.  
since she is spread thin, like a leaf.  
since she is dead, my mother holds court.

once, she held a horn worm to an open flame.  
since she is fire, she dances with its ghost-moth.

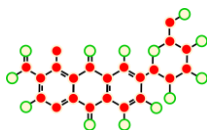


## JACK STALLINS

---

### **gulf**

in the sea swollen night  
those oil rigs blink  
as the dozen eyes  
of a tiring god  
swallowed in those clouds  
looming a thousand miles  
out or ten  
who could tell  
tucked fist first into the horizon  
and raining out there  
is a bad rain  
that quenches no thirsts



# VANTAGE

---

[untitled]



## CONTRIBUTOR BIOGRAPHIES

---

**Jane Abbott** is a lover of writing, horror, and cats. Fueled by Taco Bell, she hopes to one day publish a children's fantasy series.

**Lavanya Arora** (they/he) loves stories in all shapes and forms. They can be found turning into a tree on Instagram @lavaurora.

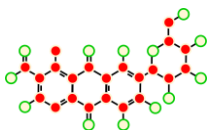
**Noah Berlatsky** (he/him) is a freelance writer in Chicago. His newsletter is [everythingishorrible.net](http://everythingishorrible.net).

**Darren Black**, he/him, lives and writes on the North Shore. His current favorite word is dodecahedron.

24-year-old poet, **Em Blackwelder**, attended Salem State, received the Claire Keyes Undergraduate Poetry Award, then took hiatus to teach children about bugs.

**Stacey Bolter** is a poet from south Wales. Inspired by nature and the bodily experience, she has been published in *The Tonic Review*.

**Bridgetteo** hails from planet Funkentelechy. She is pursuing her MFA at San Diego State University. She dreams then she writes.



**Gordon Brown** grew up in the deserts of Syria and now lives in the deserts of Nevada. He spends his time writing feverishly.

**Michael Buckius** is a writer, filmmaker, photographer, zinemaker, and educator from Lancaster, PA. He's been in some stuff. He lives in Phoenix, AZ. Ouch!

**Blake Campbell** is a queer poet and editor from rural Pennsylvania. His chapbook *Across the Creek* is available from Pen and Anvil Press.

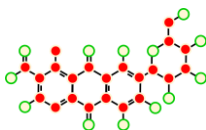
**Chaitanya Cheke** is a writer and teacher from India. His fiction explores memory, home, and relationships. A cinephile, he's watched more films than read books.

**Lucky Chiampa** lives in Massachusetts. Lucky is working on their first book of poetry and is trying to get out of this alive.

**Barrie Cole** is a poet and playwright. Her book, *Lacquer is a Thrilling Word*, was released earlier this year with Finishing Line Press.

**Polly Conway's** poems have appeared in/are forthcoming in *One Art*, *Wildscape*, *MEMEZINE*, *Pictura*, and *Catamaran*. Her MFA is from California College of the Arts.

**Robert Csoma** won first prize twice in an American theater's monthly playwriting competition. Four of his plays were produced in UK, and the USA.



**Edward Daschle** (he/him) is a queer writer lost in the clouds. His stories appear in *Robotic Ambitions* and *After Dinner Conversation* among other venues.

**Keith A. Dodson** pounds a keyboard, contemplates retirement, and fondly remembers when typewriters ruled the world.

**Rosemarie Dombrowski** is inaugural poet laureate of Phoenix, AZ and a professor at ASU. She's obsessed with Emily Dickinson and her three cats, PB&J.

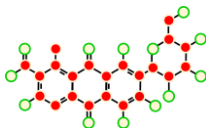
**Drema Drudge's** poetry appears in several journals. Her work earned a Pushcart Prize nomination and recognition from the Idaho Prize and Nine Syllables Press.

**Cristofer Gonalo Duarte** writes in English, thinks in Portuguese, and inherits more stories than he knows what to do with.

Wetlands are **Kelly DuMar's** happy place.

**R.G. Evans** would like to thank the Academy. Any academy. He's not picky.

**Donna Faulkner** is a Sagittarius, she collects scars for her stories and is widely published. She lives in New Zealand with her black Labrador.



**Melissa Frederick** has been a college instructor, freelance editor, and medical writer. Now she spends most of her time trying to stay healthy.

**Niara Hargrave** is an NYC-based author. She spends her free time reading horror books, writing poems, and obsessively crafting.

**Eren Harris** (they/them) is a native Angeleno whose poetry has appeared in numerous publications. Their chapbook *THANATOMY* is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press.

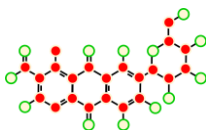
**Angela Heiser** lives near Raleigh and spends her days herding children and dreaming of her next trip, whether to the beach or Scotland.

**Toby Hofacre**, 16 years old, is a poet and student, from Massachusetts. He loves poetry, NASCAR, and the weather.

**Erica Hom** is a Filipina-diaspora writer living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

**Zebulon Huset** is a teacher and photographer. His writing's appeared in *Best New Poets*, *Meridian*, *Fence*, *The Southern Review* and others.

**Bruce Ickes** is a recovering public high school English teacher.



**Doug Jacquier** has been published in Australia, the US, the UK, Canada, New Zealand and India. He blogs at [Six Crooked Highways](#).

**Tiffany Joe** enjoys curating playlists for every book she reads while she drinks honey tea. Her work has appeared in *The Raven Review*.

**Abdulkareem Juabeh** is a 23-year-old Palestinian writer from Jerusalem studying English Literature at Birzeit University.

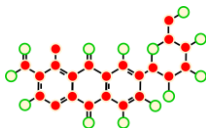
**Elmedin Kadric** is a poet writing out of Helsingborg, Sweden.

**Kristin J. Kelley** is a Boston-based poet. She hosts a reading series and lives near the Arnold Arboretum, where she walks every day.

**k. hyeri ko** (she/they) is a queer poet and multidisciplinary artist based in Baltimore and born in Seoul.

**Leena Kurishingal** has professionally performed, written, filmed, and now pictured. She hopes to add ‘arted’ in the coming decades. Sometimes, she is funny. [vimeo.com/lkurishingal](https://vimeo.com/lkurishingal).

**Tamara Linde** is a student somewhere in North Florida. She is drawn to intimacy, (sometimes) writing it or (somewhat) capturing it through a lens.



**L. Lois** lives in [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] *Hanging Loose Magazine, Chiron Review, Poetry Breakfast*  
[REDACTED] Associate Member [REDACTED]  
League of Canadian Poets, [REDACTED]  
and [REDACTED] work [REDACTED] linked [REDACTED]  
<https://poeting.my.canva.site>.

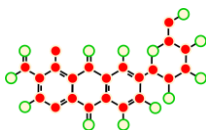
**Katie Lowe** lives with her family in Hampshire, England and writes poetry at the kitchen table. Her poems can be found [@katielowewords](#) on Instagram.

**John Menaghan** has four books with Salmon Poetry, six Pushcart Prize nominations, and has published in Irish, British, Indian, Maltese, and American journals.

**Ronald V. Micci** is a prolific author of plays, stories, television and feature scripts, from the comedic to the serious, as well as poems.

**Dena Molen** is a Midwestern poet who likes the blues and writes because “Words dart through air like flies I grope to smash.”

**George Morris** has a BS in Advertising from UT Austin and lives in Dallas, Texas. He writes plays, poems, short stories, and non-fiction.  
[ProstStageProduction.com](http://ProstStageProduction.com).



**Jim Murdoch:** Scot, gatophile, classical music aficionado, novelist, chocaholic, apatheist, Whovian and producer of shortish poems of variable quality for over half a century.

**Katharine Nielsen** is a poet and musician from Raleigh, NC. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Media Writing from Meredith College.

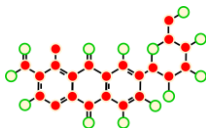
**Ellie O’Leary**, Poet Laureate Emerita for Amesbury Massachusetts, has published *Breathe Here* (poetry, 2020) and *Up Home Again* (memoir, 2023) with North Country Press.

**Carolyn Oliver** is the author of three poetry collections and three chapbooks. She lives in Massachusetts.

**Celeste Oster’s** poems have appeared in *Another Chicago Magazine*, *Thorny Locust*, *Tiny Fights*, *Phil Lit* and various other publications. She lives in Kansas.

**Alexis Pacheco** works as a College & Career Coach by day, and by night, she is a small-town writer from rural Arkansas.

**Chad Parenteau** publishes poetry, hosts the Stone Soup Poetry series and recently started co-organizing the annual Boston Poetry Marathon.



**Drew Pissarra** is the author of *Diabolically Good: The Movie Career and Afterlife of Horror Icon Vincent Price* (2026) published by Anxiety Press.

**Andrea Potos** is the author of several poetry books, most recently *The Presence of One Word* (Fernwood Press).

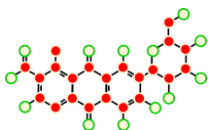
**Michael C. Roberts** is a pediatric psychologist trying to fulfill a creative itch by publishing photography and writing with few pretensions as an artist.

**Tracy Royce's** work appears in *Best Microfiction* 2026. She hikes by day and watches film noir by night. Find her on Bluesky.

**Molly K. Saccardo** hosts the Third Thursday Poetry reading series at Ten Trees Books, Natick, MA. She enjoys mixing up genres, salads, and martinis.

**Edward Sage** (he/him) is from Portland, Oregon. His work is most recently published in *BULL Lit*, *Passionfruit Review*, *Hare's Paw*, and *Argyle Literary Magazine*.

**Sushanth Shyamsundar** is an Indian writer from Chennai whose work enjoys horror, humor, tenderness, and small everyday objects behaving suspiciously.



**Nick Spitzman** is a writer and recovering tech executive based in Austin. His work has appeared in *One Story* and *Expat Press*. Website: [nickspitzman.com](http://nickspitzman.com).

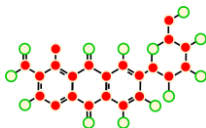
**Joan Sosin** lives, learns, and writes in Florida. Her recent micro appears in *Five Minutes*, with pieces forthcoming in *The Sun* and *Bending Genres*.

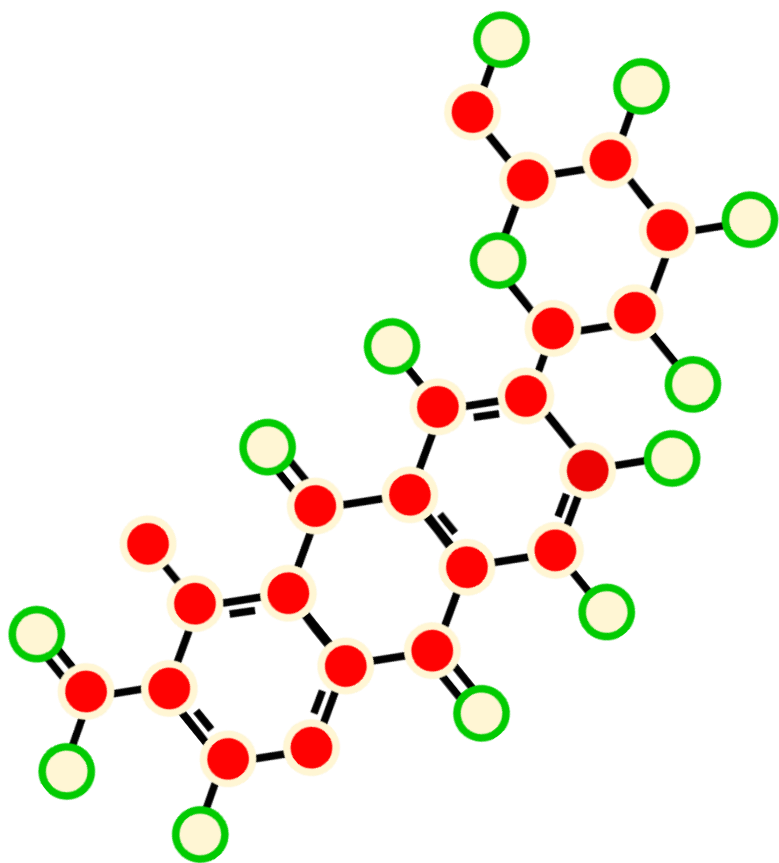
**Zach Spruce** is the author of the chapbook *Vanishing Sun* from Bottlecap Press. He has other things published, too. He really digs A24 films.

**Liane St Laurent** is an old dog learning new tricks. She lives in NH with her husband, two dogs, and an array of woodland creatures.

**Jack Stallins** is a poet from Rome, Georgia, living in Kentucky. His work has appeared in *Kentucky Monthly Magazine* and the *Connecticut River Review*.

**Vantage** is an explorer, photographer, artist and writer.





# ***Molecule***

**Thanks for reading!**

**Our reading periods are changing. Our next open reading period will be January 1-February 15. Stay tuned for more news about future issues!**

**[moleculeritmag.art.blog](http://moleculeritmag.art.blog)**