

FOUR AND TWENTY



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GUTTED

You're left wordless
before the effect

of that sliver of a moon slicing open
the blue underbelly of the sky.

PAMELA S. MOSHER

LIGHT SPEED

If all else is fair
And white errata is gone from blue,
Then it is the Sun who loves.

RICHARD HARGIS

GREEN LINING

Long grass extending
from crumbled cracks in the wall,
this strange octopus.
I lift my head to gaze at it.

CONSTANCE CHAN

THE TORTURER'S APPRENTICE

I was nine that summer
and frequently bored,

and it was easy to hurt things
with my Cub Scout knife.

HOWIE GOOD



After the rainstorm,
nasturtium leaf sways, cups one
silver drop, rolling.

CHRIS O'CARROLL

MY FIRST DRAFT

rough hewn
like turquoise
before impurities
are separated

NEAL WHITMAN

HIDE AND SEEK

Apple blossom —
next door's cat
camouflaged
from the birds.

TRACY DAVIDSON

SOUNDLESS HURT

To pronounce like secrets do
Let burning books ask how he was skinned.
Built only of glass, minutes within.

JENNY STEELMAN

SIDEWALK HALLELUJAH

Tree root pushes
from concrete tomb;
oaken Lazarus woken
from unbroken slumber.

SAMUEL T. FRANKLIN



Rain after heat
Writing after silence.

JUDITH STEELE

ELIZABETHAN

You were old
When the tongue was young,
Struck into folio
A life of its own.

RICHARD HARGIS

AFTER THE SERVICE

After the service:

*Wheelchair ramp up on its side,
No longer needed.*

ROBERT DEMAREE

A TOAST

To you, the Poet.

Here's to your incisive mind.

Its probe unveils an aim,

A path for us the blind.

HAL O'LEARY

CONFESSIONS OF FIRST IMPRESSIONS

You flung a dagger through
the air, intended just to
puncture me. I pretended
like it grazed my ear.

TYLER JOHN

GARY O

He encompassed a wide circle
Blessed and cherished
All those who came within his
Circumference

JOAN GRAVES

CLAW FOOT

The furniture of our relationship
Is against the chair rail.

Our time is a rabbit
Dancing on the spit.

EZEKIEL BLACK

CAMPUS SCULPTURE

Carillon bells chime—
students happily trapped inside
polished basalt rock.

DAVID DENNY

IN SOLITUDE

the wind's hem unravels
in milkweed down

standing yet in my mouth
the true little fire of her name

JAMES OWENS



stuffed hare's
sad eyes
why then this smile on my face?

A. MOLOTKOV

STORMY MONDAY

I make a cup of my heart
to contain the rain,

the cloud shapes like accusations
increasingly hard to dispute.

HOWIE GOOD



i could sleep,
but i would rather dream
in the tangible and controlled,
in the you, at my fingertips.

VIVIAN HUA

SELF-IMPROVEMENT AGENDA

I aim to act a little bit
Less foolish every day,
Or foolish in a little bit
More interesting way.

CHRIS O'CARROLL

WHERE WE END UP

over the parking lot intercom
my credit card
has been declined—
running on fumes

LUCAS STENSLAND

WE DREAM

the end of things
constant held the changing
plan. The kingdom sand imagined,
for now.

MICHAEL HARRELL

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BIOS

This month's cover art is by **Kirsten Cliff**. Kirsten's creative time has recently been concentrated on a collection of haiga (haiku with images) titled *Patient Property*. Her photography has been featured on the cover of *Four and Twenty*, *Valley Micropress*, and *Kokako* (forthcoming).

Kirsten's website: kirstencliff.110mb.com

Ezekiel Black holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a lecturer of English at Gainesville State College, and edits the audio poetry journal *Pismire* (www.pismirepoetry.org).

Constance Chan is a homeschooled student in the tenth grade. She has been published in *With Painted Words* and has won awards from Scholastic, HSLDA, and a local city competition.

Tracy Davidson from Warwickshire, England, has had poetry published in various anthologies and publications including *Three Line Poetry*, *Lyrical Passion*, *Moonbathing*, *Ribbons*, and *Modern Haiku*.

Robert Demaree is the author of four collections of poems, including *Fathers and Teachers* (2007) and *Mileposts* (2009), published by Beech River Books. A retired school administrator, he has had over five hundred poems published by one hundred periodicals.

David Denny's poems have recently appeared in *Clare*, *New Plains Review*, and *California Quarterly*, among others. His chapbook, *Plebeian on the Front Porch*, is forthcoming from Finishing Line Press.

Samuel T. Franklin has previously been published in *High Coup Journal* and *The Scarlet Sound*. He is the editor of *The Ides of March* (theidesofmarchjournal.blogspot.com), specializing in historical poetry.

Howie Good's latest chapbook is *Threatening Weather* from Whale Sounds, available as a free download at wschap5.wordpress.com.

Joan Graves lives in Hillsboro, Oregon. She is grateful for Walter's Cultural Art Center, Writers in the Grove, and Last Monday Poetry at the Influence Gallery. She can be reached at foracanthus@gmail.com.

Richard Hargis ventured into eastern poetry with his *Sidhe*, a "haiku-in-sequence" in San Diego State's *Phoenix*. A second novel, *The Red Nightingale*, is now in print.

Michael Harrell has just recently moved to Portland, Oregon, to study, write, make music and live. His poetry has appeared in publications such as *Din Magazine*, *BlazeVox*, *The OK Review*, and *Las Cruces Poets & Writers Magazine*.

Vivian Hua is the Editor-in-Chief of a music and art publication called *REDEFINE* (www.redefinemag.com). She loves to bridge schools of thought and regularly documents her adventures in travel, human observation, and social experimentation.

Vivian's website: hellomynameisvee.wordpress.com

Tyler John is a poet and photographer from California. His works have been featured in a number of media ranging from books to websites. Tyler's poems offer a unique perspective on everyday occurrences.

Tyler's website: tylerjohnphotos.com

A. Molotkov is a writer, composer, filmmaker and visual artist, and co-founder of Inflectionism.com. He is the winner of the 2010 New Millennium Writings and the 2008 Koepfel Awards for fiction.

A. Molotkov's website: www.AMolotkov.com

Pamela S. Mosher hails from and resides in Nova Scotia, Canada. Her writing has been published by *Blue Skies Poetry*, *Open Heart Forgery*, and *Ditch*.

Chris O'Carroll is a writer and an actor. His poems have appeared in *Bumbershoot*, *The Chimaera*, *Folly*, *14 by 14*, *Lighten Up Online*, *Literary Review*, *Measure*, *The Oldie*, *The Spectator*, and *Tilt-a-Whirl*, among other journals.

Hal O'Leary's work includes more than forty pieces published in more than thirty publications in seven different countries. Hal is the recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from West Liberty University.

James Owens lives in New Carlisle, Indiana. Two books of his poems have been published: *An Hour is the Doorway* (Black Lawrence Press) and *Frost Lights a Thin Flame* (Mayapple Press).

James's website: circumstanceandmagic.blogspot.com

Judith Steele of South Australia is co-author of poetry in *Fighting Monsters*, twice winner of the Northern Territory's Red Earth Poetry Prize, has been published in *Gobshite Quarterly USA* and in Australian journals and websites.

Jenny Steelman of St. Louis, Missouri, has been writing since 1996 and is a member of the St. Louis Writers Guild and St. Louis Poetry Center. She holds degrees in linguistics and education and is a Reading teacher.

Lucas Stensland co-authored *my favorite thing* (bottle rockets press, www.bottlerocketspress.com/booksbroadides/myfavoritething.html). His poems have appeared in a variety of journals, including *Frogpond*, *Mayfly*, and *Modern Haiku*. He lives in Minneapolis with his cat, Townes Van Zandt.

Neal Whitman has published over three hundred Western form poems and haiku over the past five years. He has won the James McIntyre Poetry Contest and third prize in the *Common Ground Review* contest