

FOUR AND TWENTY



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CONTENTS

AUTHOR BIOS FOLLOW AFTER POEM [24](#).

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. *
Paul Orris | 9. Bubbles Become Hexagons
B.T. Joy | 17. Early Onset
Kip Knott |
| 2. Twins
Sally Mercer | 10. Build It and They Will Come
Andy Durrenberger | 18. Apogee
Garrin Riggin |
| 3. Sonoran Silence
Mark Lee Webb | 11. Witch
Judith Steele | 19. The Modern Reader
Ivo Drury |
| 4. *
J. Spinazzola | 12. *
Laura Dennis | 20. *
William Scott Galasso |
| 5. Fall Whispers
Judy Davies | 13. Austere
Amy Young | 21. Crop Duster
Richard Hargis |
| 6. Falling Branch
Tyler Gabrysh | 14. Florentine View
Nancy Scott | 22. Stations
Ricky Campbell |
| 7. Road Runes
Ivo Drury | 15. From "Anxious Songs"
Bryan Narendorf | 23. Autumn Gusts
Susan Field |
| 8. Flight of the Fairy Princess
Sally D. Simpson | 16. *
Margaret Gish Miller | 24. After The Shift
B.T. Joy |

ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.



Green tomatoes in warm October sun
Some with a bright red future

PAUL ORRIS

TWINS

Inevitably those in opposition
simply stand
toe to toe in the circle:
that's us — the same point on the compass.

SALLY MERCER

SONORAN SILENCE

The rustle of a wren
in sage brush—
sonorous thunderclap.

MARK LEE WEBB



gapstow bridge
reflection:
a pair, swans

J. SPINAZZOLA

FALL WHISPERS

Heaps of dead, brown leaves
whisper on winds of death drums,
fall's moccasin path.

JUDY DAVIES

FALLING BRANCH

Gargoyle, chipped and teal,
chuckles at the crashing
into my windshield.

TYLER GABRYSH

ROAD RUNES

Tar-stained rune writers
seal asphalt crevices
with rills of molten rubber

Ivo DRURY

FLIGHT OF THE FAIRY PRINCESS

Her fairy wings flutter and
fight the breeze as she
runs to trick...or treat.
I anticipate her liftoff.

SALLY D. SIMPSON

BUBBLES BECOME HEXAGONS

to maintain cell integrity, I'm told,
what chance do human beings have
when something so soft
must sharpen to survive?

B.T. Joy

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

How do we set the map?
Include names for borders,
without someone hearing
through the lines.

ANDY DURRENBERGER

WITCH

Want to be invisible?
When there's small talk
tell the truth.

JUDITH STEELE



blue delphiniums
along a wooden fence
touch the sky

LAURA DENNIS

AUSTERE

Stern and cold
marked by gravity
rigidly self-disciplined

in appearance
and seriousness
and morally strict.

AMY YOUNG

FLORENTINE VIEW

Il Duomo nests
in low morning mist;
orange-tiled roofs, cypress
and fir angle down hillsides.

NANCY SCOTT

FROM "ANXIOUS SONGS"

My back is a wrung beam-
stub ready to pop its rivets
buckle and take
the whole span with it.

BRYAN NARENDORF



White lotus bowl.
Vanilla candle burning.
Sister without sister.

MARGARET GISH MILLER

EARLY ONSET

You, my mind, have been
deemed an endangered species,
a transparent cave fish swimming
blindly in labyrinths of synapses.

KIP KNOTT

APOGEE

It is not love, but the
kettle drum, which
stands in for the
enormity of everything.

GARRIN RIGGIN

THE MODERN READER

A spineless type
his text a cipher to the world
within a device

Ivo DRURY



whack of a hammer
the town becoming
a ghost of itself

WILLIAM SCOTT GALASSO

CROP DUSTER

Swoop down, spindly arms
Stretch out, prying fingers caress
Cotton leaves and tomato pickers,
Fill my nose with powdery loam.

RICHARD HARGIS

STATIONS

Watching others
Delay their lives
And I waste: waiting on
Platforms.

RICHY CAMPBELL

AUTUMN GUSTS

Ginkgo leaves rain overnight, blanketing earth.
Distant winds beckon;
In a flurry, they're gone.
“Where are you now, golden fans?”

SUSAN FIELD

AFTER THE SHIFT

roving winds, still shucking corn,
while beneath domed skies
harvesters hem the wood-stove
resting their muscles, and voices

B.T. Joy

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This month's cover image is "Red Corn," by **Petr Kratochvil**.

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William Scott Galasso, widely published in Europe, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the United States, is the author of twelve books of poetry; his next, *Collage (New and Selected Poems)*, is due out in December.

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.

B.T. Joy is a Glaswegian poet and a haibun and haiga artist who received his Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing and Film Studies in 2009. His poems, haiku, and haiga have appeared in journals worldwide.

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Sally D. Simpson's poetry lends psychic weight to the seemingly mundane, channeling humour and delight through the nib of her pen on to the page. Her work is published in anthologies, newsletters, and online journals.

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