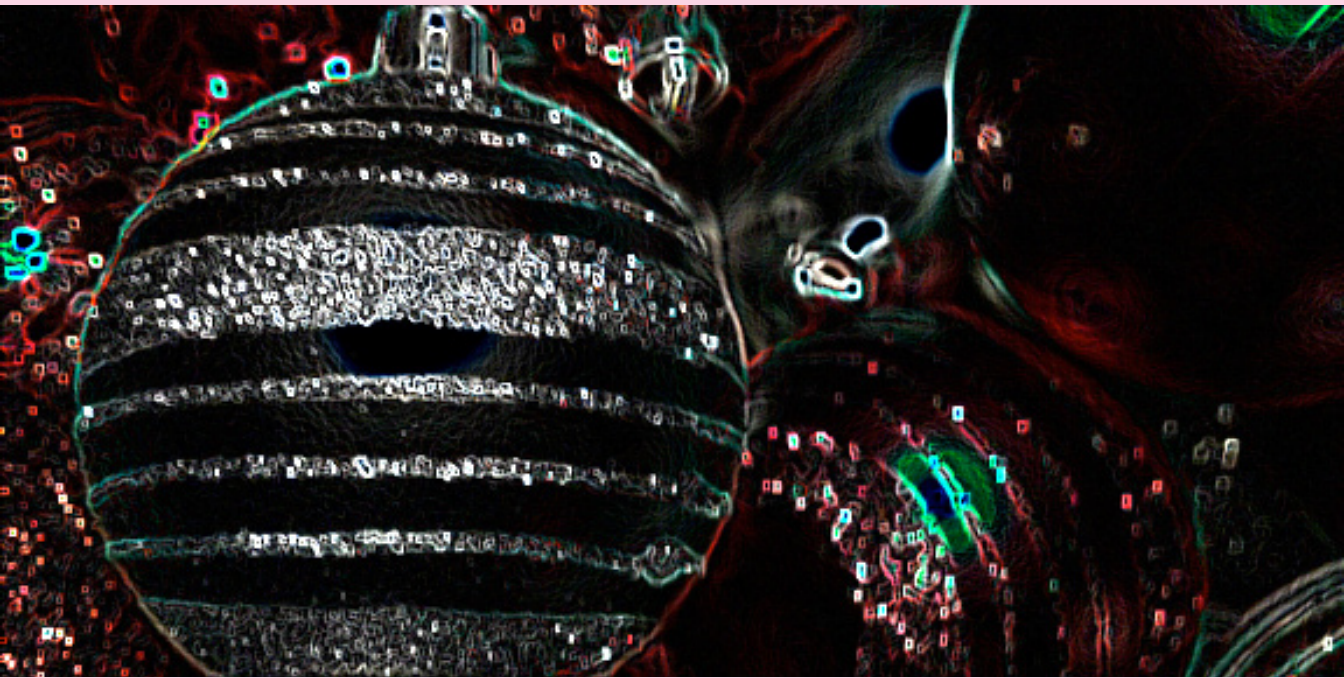


FOUR AND TWENTY



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The trees whisper my name
Through the hushed night's forest
I look through the darkness
To find you standing there

SHELDON HILTON

INK

The white chalks off
a bird on the branch,
an ink stain.

KUSHAL PODDAR

A BROKEN THOUGHT

a strand of hair brushed carelessly aside
glows in the dusty autumn sun
interrupting her gaze

MIKE ESPIG

SIGNS OF WOLVES

The marks of young gods
break the snow in the yard—
consciousness holds completely still.

DAVID TOMALOFF

WINTER SUNRISE

the fire already lit,
your letter full of lies
cackling in the flames

TRACY DAVIDSON

BEFORE BREAKFAST

I drove above clouds
Fog flowed like a river there
Egg yolk sun eastward

EMILY INWOOD



Clocks go clippity clop
As I horse around doing nothing
With time running from me

ANTHONY WARD

SEEING A WOODY ALLEN MOVIE AT NOON

Women wearing broaches are endearing,
old men who slap their
knees are best. I fear
being the oldest generation.

ALICIA BANASZEWSKI

COCONUT

The battle of the toughest: A hard, soft, yet fluid being.

JULIENNE PETRINA CHEOK

NIGHT CHILLS

the shuffle of slippers
across ice-cracked pavements
he's forgotten
where he lives again

TRACY DAVIDSON

SUPERSTITION

Always
the other side
of the coin, threatening

JEN COLEMAN

GEORGIA 1998

'Twas a night of rage.
Weathered storm and father, both
fueled by fire-water.

ELIOT D. KUREMAN

THINKING OF WALT WHITMAN

Starshine-dappled night,
singing voices down the river.
A barge glides by, torch-lit.

JANE RØKEN

COVER-UP

Self-evident truths
feel so utterly naked
they beg to be mystified

DAVID ALPAUGH

DOUGH

there is always food
when the telephone rings
my hands knuckle-deep
a voice flat and distant

ANGIE WERREN

COUNTERPOINT

Cold fish

Awkward around the table

Downpour from words

A clean break

VANIA STEFANOVA

PORTRAIT OF A WOMAN

talking herself to death,
hindered by her own inadequacies
in the speaking of
the Mother tongue.

TERRI WATROUS BERRY

THE SADDEST STORY EVER TOLD

I bought a green pea coat
for ten dollars, the gold

button fell off in a
public restroom.

ALICIA BANASZEWSKI

RUBBER BOOT KOAN

One pair with a small but critical leak.

One pair pull my socks down.

Which discomfort pleases me most today?

S. C. MORGAN

ENTERING

Desiring to fly, settling to jump
We can't get off the ground
I found
A torn veil to slip through

JANET LYN



LEGOLAND
the autistic boy waves
his red brick

JOHN McMANUS

SATURDAY

wandering around the house
trying to remember
which room, what reason
words written in the air

ANGIE WERREN

GOODNIGHT

Earth turns over in its sleep.
Deep sky inhales stars,
exhales dreams.

JANE RØKEN

DO YOU BELIEVE?

Do you believe in Christmas —
the holly red and ivy green,
antiphonal strains of church choirs,
the peaceful manger scene?

JUDY DAVIES

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