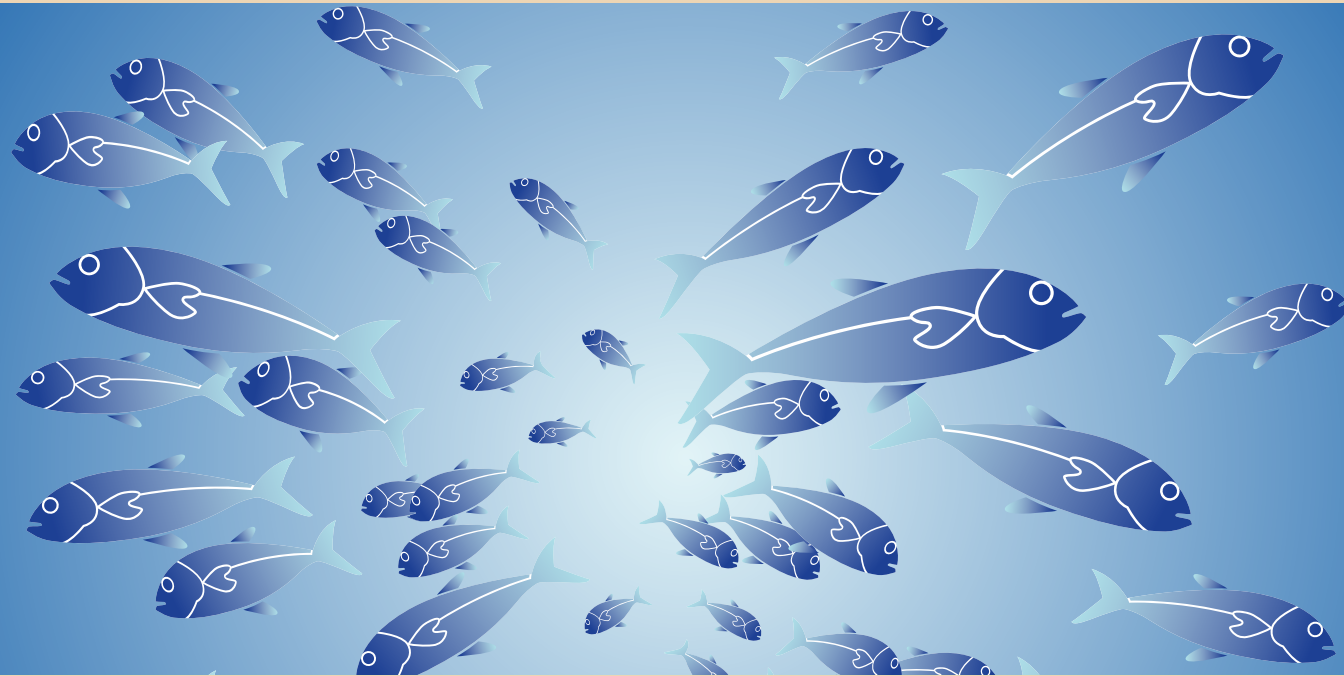


FOUR AND TWENTY



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Kushal Poddar

We sit in the middle of small elephants
drinking tea, reading the newspaper.
The secret, I know that they know.

MATHEMATICALLY FROM SEATTLE TO HOUSTON

Riverbeds spread
like Mandelbrot sets,
inscribing Texas-ironed suede
with vast math of waters past.

CHRISTIE ISLER



I found your scent in my fabrics,
Then stitched them together
And became among the things
Tangled in the loom.

DALLAS JONES

SILVERFISHES

Silverfishes wiggle over the range,
kitchen counter;
one dropped from the kitchen light
onto my arm, as I sliced bread.

BONNIE QUAN SYMONS



hold still, dragonfly—
I promise not to zoom in
much closer than this

DAVID ROSENTHAL

EDUCATIONAL GAPS

She knows all about Plath,
Tolstoy and the Fall of Rome.
She's never tasted an artichoke.

NANCY SCOTT

I'M AN ALL-STAR

So much depends upon
a pair of shoes
patched and re-patched
sagging by the door.

SHARAYAH HOOPER

intersecting stubborn life and loss
of tidal flux
jutting into infinity
'tween furrowed earth and fluid perpetuity

MARY JANE NORDGREN

STARGAZING IN THE COUNTRY

The path through the woods
in this blackness is conjecture
but the stars have established
their certainty.

HERB SHALLCROSS

EXTRACTION: MOGADISHU

*After the Black Hawk falls out of the sky,
Little Bird swoops down to pluck up
the hawk's spilled chicks.*

GABRIEL GADELY

DROUGHT DAYS

she scans the sky
one wisp of cloud
like a postcard
from some wetter place



His hands hold onto
imaginary boxes —
shelving memories

CARRIE VESTAL GILMAN



This empty sheet of paper
With my longing for death
Was once a cotton seed
Bearing the sun's handwriting

JOHN MCKERNAN

THE COLOR BLUE

Robin's eggs clutched in her nest
Unbroken in rubble of the tornado
Robin is broken
Red breast is silent. Blue.

LAKE BOGGAN

BACKPACK'S FRONT POCKET

Favourite penny

Cornered by zippers in aged

Old bag next to crumbs

JAIME LEE KIRTZ

RAINMAKER

He runs. Makes no distance, but
accumulated meetings, messages, mail melt
in sloppy drops to water the infinite belt.

CHRISTIE ISLER



blueeyed mfa
sing us your blonde song of woe
in uncolored texts

JUSTIN ANTONIO MARTINEZ

THE STAGE

Every actor desires the role of Jesus;
if it's taken, they will set their sights on the role of Judas.

DAMIAN BALASSONE

CLOSURE IS A NEOLOGISM

Sometimes —
I'll find a strand of long black hair
Even though it's been
Two years.

DARREN CRAWFORD

ARABICA COFFEE SPILL

Soil piled in a corner:
an avant-garde art piece
into which visitors
are invited to place their hands.

RACHEL ADAMS



When just three I created
An image of God using
A bird nest which burned
When touched with a match

JOHN MCKERNAN

A NEW JEDI'S QUOTE

*A new life exits space.
An old one enters life.
Wars among stars are forged.
An eerie wind shakes bones.*

HENRY ARROYO

TORN GRIN

torn at the knee, jeans
frayed, skin peeks out at the bend,
the exposed joint grins.

JANLORI GOLDMAN

ROOFS

between two edges
for eleven minutes

then moon walks away

KUSHAL PODDAR

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