

FOUR AND TWENTY

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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. [U](#)NDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

BEFORE LEAF BLOWERS

My father raked leaves
to the curb, lit them,
then stood in the drifting smoke
inhaling an Old Gold.

MARTHA CHRISTINA

JOHN DILLINGER

Eyes run red
from a dress, a match, a bullet.
Sink black.
Insides flood the street.

MATTHEW PORUBSKY

ROADSIDE

Pockets of milkweed,
emptied;
all the bright goldenrod,
spent.

MARTHA CHRISTINA



Hushed and holy
beauty comes in on white feet
and the smell of hyacinth.

KRISTIN ROEDEL

RETORT

a woman's silhouette
full moon howls back

JESSICA KLIMESH



festooned on fig trees
gibbon limbs
right down
to their waists

MAX MERCKENSCHLAGER

NAME

upon hearing my name, I turn
and see you speaking

to someone else

JESSICA KLIMESH



silent smoke signals
interrupted gatherings
now it's mobile phones

MAX MERCKENSCHLAGER

DO FISH DREAM

Mayflies float above unblinking eyes

Peeled for tender morsels.

A flick of the tail, an open mouth
food for thought.

GAIL HERSEY

DRY THROAT

no rain for six weeks
rain barrel empty
well running dry
we drink wine

JOANNA M. WESTON

OPPORTUNITY

but what if this city
sips her, savours her
then spits her out
amongst a thousand faces going nowhere?

JACQUELINE MERCKENSCHLAGER

JOY

floating like a fluted melody
on a whimsical wind
the play of light
over a wildflower field

JACQUELINE MERCKENSCHLAGER

OCTOBER DREAMS

Gentle, brittle blowing air
Leaves floating in pumpkin ale
Ear pressing against her breast
Muffled, softly thumping heart

C. W. MIMMS

FOREST POOL

its clear clear water almost black
an effect of its utter stillness
and the shadows
 falling into its depth

SIMON HANSON

TINY MUMMIES

Rain falls
like the dead

crawling
from their tombs

HOWIE GOOD



dead tree trunk
hosts autumnal blaze
of killing vine

Ivo DRURY

A GHOST'S HAUNTING GOES WRONG

Lazing in the sun
his blackened back crumbled—
piece by piece he flew on the breeze.

TESS JOYCE

EUCHARIST

hollow prayers
of atheist driver
gauge on empty

MAX MERCKENSCHLAGER

BOULDER

I saw black sun rising out of earth to eat the last golden rays of day.

JEREMIAH BURROW

CRYPISIS

Light as light,
A feather falls in darkness.
Night has risen,
And with it the owl.

SETH BRAVER

THE PROOF

The proof of God's existence is not science, but conscience,
the difference being con.

DAMIAN BALASSONE

LINGER

Mountain
cloud hung with rain
in no hurry to fall

JEREMIAH BURROW

OUT OF THE BLUE

scaled in silver
scattering in flashes
gone ~ in glints and glimmers
back into deeper water

SIMON HANSON

DARWIN

Sea before gills or gulls,
air before lungs. Sight, he
said, is something light does.

DIANA MANISTER

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Damian Balassone's poetry has appeared in a variety of Australian and international publications, including *Overland*, *Arena Magazine*, *Eureka Street*, *Australian Rationalist*, *New Formalist*, *Lucid Rhythms*, *Time of Singing*, *Tongues of the Ocean*, and *Green Left Weekly*.

Seth Braver is old, old as the hills. And tired. He lives in Olympia, Washington.

Jeremiah Burrow lives and writes in Vermont. His work has appeared in print in *The Aureorean* and online at *The Wilderness Interface Zone*. Jeremiah is also heading up Stone Cairn Press, which you can learn more about at www.stonecairnpress.com.

Martha Christina's short poems appear regularly in *Brevities*, and they have also appeared in past issues of *Four and Twenty*. Longer work has recently been published in *The Orange Room Review* and *The Apple Valley Review*.

Ivo Drury workshops words in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Howie Good, a journalism professor at SUNY New Paltz, is the author of four poetry collections, most recently *Dreaming in Red* from Right Hand Pointing and *Cryptic Endearments* from Knives Forks & Spoons Press.

Simon Hanson lives in rural South Australia. He deeply admires imagistic poetry and haiku; is published in *A Hundred Gourds*, *Heron's Nest*, *Presence*, and *Windfall* and has a collection entitled *Glowing in the Dark*.

Gail Hersey is a printmaker and poet living in New England. She loves words as much as she loves the ink under her fingernails. | ghersey.wordpress.com

Tess Joyce's poems were recently published in the following poetry magazines: *The Journal*, *BlazeVOX*, *Ditch*, *Anatomy and Etymology*, and *Phantom Kangaroo*. She is a British writer but currently lives on an island in Papua, Indonesia.

Jessica Klimesh is a poet, freelance writer, and bookstore manager, as well as a student earning her M.A. in English. In spare moments, she pursues myriad hobbies, including blogging at inciting-thinking.blogspot.com.

Diana Manister is an associate editor of *Big City Lit*, an online journal. Her poems have been published in *Main-tenant*, *A Dada Journal*, *The Ozone Park Journal*, *Waterworks*, *Big Bridge*, *PoetryRevolt*, and other literary publications.

Jacqueline Merckenschlager likes writing about life issues and the environment. She has won several awards and has been published in three Friendly Street Poets, two Melbourne Books, and two Ginninderra Press anthologies.

Max Merckenschlager is triple national Written Bush Poetry champion. He co-authored *Captured Moments* with his wife, Jacqueline. Max's poems appear in three Melbourne Books Anthologies entitled *Award Winning Australian Writing* and two Ginninderra Press poetry anthologies.

C.W. Mimms is a medium-sized human. He writes short stories, comics, and essays. Prior to moving to Oregon, he spent five years working and traveling through Japan, Korea, and Thailand.

Matthew Porubsky is the author of two collections of poetry: *voyeur poems* and *Fire Mobile (the pregnancy sonnets)*, and is a freight conductor for Union Pacific Railroad. Check mppoetry.com for info on books, films, and more.

Kristin Roedell is the author of *Seeing in the Dark* (Tomato Can Press) and *Girls with Gardenias* (Flutter Press). She has been nominated for Best of the Web and the Pushcart Prize.

Joanna M. Weston has had poetry, reviews, and short stories published in anthologies and journals for twenty-five years. Her book of poems, *A Summer Father*, was published by Frontenac House of Calgary. | www.1960willowtree.wordpress.com

Veronica Zabczynski is a student living in Philadelphia. Her work has recently been published in *Underground Pool*.

Four and Twenty is an online poetry journal focused on short form poetry. We specifically seek out fresh and emerging voices to include in the journal. Our guidelines are simple. All poems must be four lines or fewer in length and contain no more than twenty words (hence, Four and Twenty). A new issue of the journal is released the third Tuesday of each month.

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