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ASTERISKS INDICATE UNTITLED POEMS. UNDERLINED TEXT INDICATES A HYPERLINK.

STILLBORN DREAM

The waters of frustration burst
drained and empty
I gave birth
to a stillborn dream.

MADHUMITA GHOSH

MID-MARCH

The string quartet plays
Adagio for Strings
in the minor key my heart
is strung and tuned to.

MARTHA CHRISTINA

BARE ESSENTIALS

I'm embarrassed
bearing my teeth in total nudity
trying to bareback the weight of the world
insufficiently on my shoulders.

JULIA OXENREIDER

MIRROR MIRROR

on the walls, in front and behind
parallel dimensions, infinite regression
an endless stream of ever darkening
shades of green

SIMON HANSON



Haiku ambition's
paradoxicality:
whose least work is best?

ROBERT WEST

AT THE INN AT SPANISH HEAD

swirling gray, white throbbing
against grained shore
he's gone now into time
i sit, observing eternity

MARYJANE NORDGREN

*

Years in someone else's land
leaves me oblivious
of my coordinates.

CHRISTIE SUYANTO

AUBADE

To wake at all seems
a miracle of mercy,
but to wake to you ...

ROBERT WEST

DEGREES OF INGRATITUDE

These neighborhood crows know
something they're not telling us.
And they refuse to shut up about it.

BRIAN BEATTY

*

evening moon —
I prefer to walk with my
shadow behind

PRAVAT KUMAR PADHY

UNSETTLING

High in nature's park,
the narrow walking bridge
shudders into earthquake's plank.

TYLER GABRYSH

UNINTENTIONAL BLACKFACE

Racist epithets beget racial epigraphs,
Rachel said, “Except not loud enough for black people to hear”
into my ear

TED HASH-BERRYMAN

CLEAR LAKE

I went into the woods
to find you and found air
so still neither leaf
nor limb stirred.

BRIAN BEATTY

ABOVE THE HARDWARE STORE

The kitchen smelled of cabbage
and unopened windows.

Two great-grandmothers, dressed
in black, hugged me in Yiddish.

NANCY SCOTT

AS YOU TIP THE COFFEE POT

light slops over
the lip of Kibling Hill—spills
into the valley.

COREY COOK

*

c h

p o c k e t

l i

e n

MICHAEL DYLAN WELCH

*

seaweed fronds curve to the waves
anfractuious coastal road
long blonde hair streaming

IE MCGAVOCK

FREE SWIM

Children wheel unicycles in flashes of turquoise.
God stands on the drain, clucking his tongue
to hold his breath longer.

DALE PATTERSON

MASKS ARE REVELATIONS

the water forms circles in the water
awareness makes a whirlpool in the end
revelations are masks

WILLIAM MERRICLE

MINIATURE PLANET

The people are tiny,
but they don't know it,
since everything else
is just as small.

DENNIS CASWELL

FIRST

remember afterward
how the moon stared back:
an eclipse
of two innocents

JESSICA KLIMESH

DUSK

splash of cloud
flicker of bat
an early star
the winds of night

ROHINI GUPTA

AWAITING SPRING

Seedlings growing
on a south-facing sill,
stare in disbelief at
fresh spring snow.

*

She's his Oxford Comma;
he doesn't know
where to place her or when.

CHRISTIE SUYANTO

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BRIAN BEATTY'S jokes, poems, and stories have appeared in numerous print and online publications. His humor collection *DUCK!* was published in 2009. Ravenna Press is publishing his poetry chapbook *Earliest Bird Calls* this year. | www.brianbeattympls.com

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IE MCGAVOCK hails from Ireland and salutes the Pacific.

WILLIAM MERRIGLE'S latest chapbooks are *Heimlich The Donut* (Pudding House Publications) and *Grace, You Let The Screen Door Slam* (Crisis Chronicles Press). He lives in Lima, Ohio.

MARYJANE NORDGREN Like the nearly rhythmic waves, grief buffets the survivor. But family, friends, and laughter balance the joy of life a bit more day by day.

JULIA HELENE OXENREIDER'S name translates into youthful, changing, soft-haired sunlight riding an ox. She won a poetry slam in Bemidji, MN. You can find her poems on KBXE radio's *The Beat* and at www.sloesole.wordpress.com.

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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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