

The Journal of Poetry & Poetics

Volume 8, 2020
Issue 5

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Department of English, Chapman University
One University Drive, Orange, California 92866
www.chapman.edu/poetry

ISSN: 2169-3013

 www.facebook.com/groups/TabulaPoetica

THE CENTER FOR POETRY AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY



**Wilkinson College of
Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences**
Department of English

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Design Statement

The print issues of *Tab: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics* are special editions, each published at the beginning of the calendar year. These issues reflect the mission of Tabula Poetica: The Center for Poetry at Chapman University to create an environment that celebrates poetry in various forms and venues. The annual print issue engages the reader with poetry as a material object and asks that the reader negotiate between image and text. The design of the print issues does not assume a traditional role of quietly framing content; instead, design actively shapes the reading experience. The special print editions of *Tab Journal* continue to experiment and explore the intersections between form and content, object and space, and reader and reading.

This year's print issue is driven by inclusive design and low-vision principles. We aim to produce an equitable and engaging experience with diverse sight abilities. In 1840, William Moon developed an embossed reading system for the blind that was less complex than learning Braille. It was centered in Britain and later shared by missionaries in India, China, Egypt, Australia, and West Africa. The Moon system was particularly useful for people who had lost their sight later in life because the Roman alphabet had already been deeply rooted in their cognitive recognition and recall and, therefore, proved easier to learn than the abstract system of Braille. Moon's system could be taught and learned in only a few days. It now appears in *Tab Journal's* 2020 print issue.

Both the color blocking of the print issue and of the the title pages of the online issues echo the approach that Oliver Byrne applied to *The Elements of Euclid* in

1847. Byrne translated all seven books of the *Elements* into a visually dominating presentation of diagrams and color to help categorize and highlight information. Byrne published mathematical and engineering works in the more text-based tradition, but with *The Elements of Euclid*, he made it clear by his subtitle, "...in which coloured diagrams and symbols are used instead of letters for the greater ease of learners," that he intended the publication to be more accessible.

Electronic issues are published on www.tabjournal.org and follow the theme of the annual print issue. Using these differing formats—print and online—allows experimentation with design and materiality in a time when print and electronic dissemination coexist. *Tab Journal* does not force either format to adapt to the other. The reading experience in virtual spaces is different than that of a printed journal. While the electronic files can be printed, electronic issues are formatted for reading on the screen and for assistive technology. Decisions about page size, typography, and composition are driven by the online reading experience, accessibility, and low-vision standards. *Tab Journal* also makes use of the audio possibilities of digital distribution.

To order copies of the current or previous print issues, please send a check for \$10 made out to Chapman University to *Tab: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics*, Department of English, Chapman University, One University Drive, Orange, California 92866. *Tab Journal* is available at the AWP Conference and Bookfair each year.

Special Issue: Book-Spine Poems for Pandemic Times

In 2013, New York-based artist Nina Kathchadourian published a collection of photographs of book spines called *Sorted Books*. In the book's introduction, Brian Dillon writes, "it is as though the books have convened of their own accord like plants or insects—following secret or, in the case of more explicitly comic or narrative groupings, not-so-secret attractions." That project rested on the idea, in Dillon's words, "that books are objects designed to be handled."

We've been thinking about this project for a long time and wondering how *Tab Journal* might encourage this sort of found-and-constructed literary and visual art. From its inception, our literary journal has set out to explore relationships between print and digital forms, between text and image, between writer and reader. In book-spine poems, the reader of books becomes the writer of the poem. The lines are the books' titles, so is the poem written or curated? Does the poem say as much, or perhaps more, about the writer-curator's reading habits as it does about the subject of the poem that's been constructed?

After the pandemic changed the ways we access libraries and physical bookstores, *Tab Journal* sought out poems composed and formed by stacking physical books as objects designed to be handled. This issue of Book-Spine Poems for Pandemic Times is a selection of both individuals' bookshelves and what's on people's minds during this historical moment of the Covid-19 pandemic. It's also a collection of remarkable, intriguing poems using shared constraints.

In reading this issue, it's important also to consider who has a bookshelf at home

and what that means. One recent global study indicated that kids who grow up with books in the home tend to perform better academically. A home library is likely a side effect of the sort of wealth and education that open doors as much as it is part of a learning environment that builds skills and empathy that foster achievement. When *Tab Journal* posted an open call for book-spine poems, we were aware that submissions would likely suggest how class, gender, race and ethnicity, disability, and education correlate with book buying and with having space to keep physical books. The many photos of stacks of books we received might also suggest what kinds authors and stories are published and promoted—and who's missing.

Having physical books is such a charged topic that when Marie Kondo suggested purging one's shelves, the backlash was swift. She then clarified, "So it's not so much what I personally think about books. The question you should be asking is what do you think about books." While we hope that this issue of Book-Spine Poems for Pandemic Times challenges you to think about what a poem is and means, we also hope you will ask yourself what you think about books—the books in this issue, your own books, the library, bookshops, and book publishers?

Lisa Alvarez

Lisa Alvarez's poetry has appeared in *Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review*, *Huizache*, and *Zócalo Public Square* and is forthcoming in *So It Goes*, the literary journal of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library. She grew up in and around Los Angeles but has spent the last 30 years in Orange County,

where she earned an MFA in fiction from UC Irvine, became a professor at the local community college, and co-edited *Orange County: A Literary Field Guide*. During the summers, she co-directs the Writers Workshops at the Community of Writers in the California's Sierra Nevada.

PATRICK LEIGH FERMOR
A TIME OF GIFTS
nyrb

YOUNG
FIRST COURSE IN TURBULENCE
PITTSBURGH

STEPHEN CRANE
STORIES
AN EXPERIMENT IN MISERY
HARPER PERENNIAL CLASSIC STORIES

VINTAGE
BREATH, EYES, MEMORY
DANTICAT

MURRAY
THE WORLD DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY,
BUT IT COULD
AUGUST 11, 2020
NEVADA

BEYOND YOUR DOORSTEP
HAL BORLAND
BORZOI BOOKS
ALFRED A. KNOPE

Silverstein
Where the Sidewalk Ends
Harper & Row

  FIC 4.95 U.S. 5.95 Can.
The Secret Garden Burnett
0-440-47709-3

THE LAST FLOWER  James Thurber
HARPERS
PABLO NERUDA
World's End
COPPER CANYON PRESS

It Could: One End

a time of gifts
first course in turbulence
an experiment in misery

breath, eyes, memory
the world doesn't work that way
but it could

beyond your doors
where the sidewalk ends
the secret garden
the last flower
world's end

Mary Camarillo

Mary Camarillo lives in Huntington Beach, California. She is working on a novel and a collection of linked stories. Her short fiction and poems have

appeared in journals such as *Sonora Review*, *The Bookends Review*, *Lunch Ticket*, and *The Ear*.

ALEXANDER CHEE * HOW TO WRITE
AN AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOVEL



FIRST, CATCH THOM EAGLE



HILARY MANTEL



THE MIRROR
& THE LIGHT



NIGHT-BLOOMING JASMIN(N)E

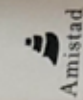
JASMINNE MÉNDEZ



EDWARD P. JONES



LOST IN THE CITY



the NICKEL BOYS COLSON WHITEHEAD



CHILDREN OF THE LAND
MARCELO HERNÁNDEZ CASTILLO



Gone So Long

Andre Dubus III



NORTON
FEATURING A
READING
GROUP
GUIDE

LIDIA YUKNAVITCH

VERGE



RIVERHEAD
BOOKS

RODRIGUEZ from our land to our land



Bedside Book Spines in the time of COVID19

How to write an autobiographical novel:

First, catch

the mirror and the light,

night blooming jasmin(n)e,

lost in the city.

The nickel boys—

children of the land—

gone so long.

Verge

from our land to our land.

Emily Capers

Emily Capers lives in Chicago where she recently earned in her MFA in Fiction. In her writing, she likes to explore identity

while experimenting with form. Her work has appeared in *Allegory Ridge*, *High Shelf Press*, and *The Mill*.

BELOVED Toni Morrison

VINTAGE

CLAUDIA RANKINE

CITIZEN



Graywolf Press

The Power of Our Words

2ND EDITION

Paula Denton, EdD

CRS

ANNE CARSON • SHORT TALKS

BRICK BOOKS

WILD BEAUTY • NTOZAKE SHANGE



37INK
ATRIA

Khoury-Ghata/Hacker HERE THERE WAS ONCE A COUNTRY

Oberlin College Press

Beloved

Beloved
citizen,
the power of our words
short talks
wild beauty,
here there was once a country.

Jim Garber

Jim Garber was runner-up in the 2017 Elizabeth R. Curry Poetry Contest. Two of his poems are included in *Visions: An Anthology of Ekphrastic Poetry*. He is co-president of the Katonah Poetry

Series and serves on the organizing committee for Poets Corner at Tompkins Corner Cultural Center. He reads regularly at poetry events in and around the greater New York City area.



MAKING YOUR OWN DAYS KENNETH KOCH

You've Just Been Told ELIZABETH MACKLIN

SIMIC THE WORLD DOESN'T END Harcourt Brace & Company

JULIAN BARNES NOTHING TO BE FRIGHTENED OF

LET THE GREAT WORLD SPIN COLIN MCCABE

Nathaniel Philbrick In the Heart of the Sea

ANNE SEXTON TO BEDLAM AND PART WAY BACK H.M. Co.

Forché THE COUNTRY BETWEEN US HARPER COLOPHON BOOKS/CN 926

PETER DAVISON PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP POEMS ATHENEUM

RICH DIVING INTO THE WRECK NORTON

THE SENSE OF AN ENDING JULIAN BARNES

VINTAGE DUBUS DANCING AFTER HOURS

EXTREMELY LOUD & INCREDIBLY CLOSE JONATHAN SAFRAN FOER

julie chibbaro INTO THE DANGEROUS WORLD JM SUPERVILLE SOVAK

MYRA SHAPIRO 12 FLOORS ABOVE THE EARTH ANTRIM HOUSE

SEEING THINGS SEAMUS HEANEY

DAVID BAKER NEVER-ENDING BIRDS NORTON

THE EVOLUTION OF USEFUL THINGS HENRY PETROSKI VINTAGE

ANDREI VOZNESENSKY AN ARROW IN THE WALL

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED O'BRIEN

The Winged Energy of Delight Selected Translations ROBERT BLY

MCGRATH The Movie at the End of the World SWALLOW

HALLIDAY KEEP THIS FOREVER TURELO PRESS

Jon McGregor This isn't the sort of thing that happens to someone like you BLACKBERRY

No one belongs here more than you. Stories by Miranda July Scribner

i am no one you know STORIES joyce carol oates

AS I LAY DYING FAULKNER

Julia Alvarez In the Time of the Butterflies

READS FORTY-THREE OF THE WORLD'S BEST POEMS BREAK, BLOW, BURN

MAKING YOUR OWN DAYS

You've just been told
the world doesn't end—
nothing to be frightened of.

Let the great world spin
in the heart of the sea
to bedlam and part way back.

The country between us
pretending to be asleep,
diving into the wreck.

The sense of an ending:
dancing after hours,
extremely loud and incredibly close,
into the dangerous world
12 floors above the Earth.

Seeing things:
never-ending birds,
the evolution of useful things,

an arrow in the wall,
the things we carried,
the winged energy of delight,
the movie at the end of the world.

Keep this forever.
This isn't the sort of thing that
happens to someone like you.
No one belongs here more than you.

I am no one you know
as I lay dying
in the time of butterflies—
break, blow, burn.

Jodi Hottel

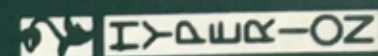
Jodi Hottel's most recent chapbook is *Out of the Ashes* from Pandemonium Press. Her previous chapbooks are *Voyeur* from WordTech Press and *Heart Mountain*, winner of the 2012 Blue Light Press Poetry Prize. Hottel's work has

been published in *Nimrod International*, *Spillway*, *Ekphrasis*, and anthologies from the University of Iowa Press, Tebot Bach, and the Marin Poetry Center. She is currently sheltering in place in Sonoma County, CA.

GUIDEBOOK TO RELATIVE STRANGERS CAMILLE T. DUNGY
journeys into race, motherhood, and history



WHEREVER YOU GO, THERE YOU ARE



JON KABAT-ZINN

LAURA
VANDERKAM

OFF THE CLOCK



HONORÉ



IN PRAISE OF
SLOWNESS



THE SHELTER of EACH OTHER

MARY PIPHER, Ph.D.

GROSSET/
PUTNAM

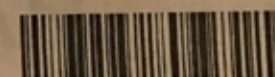


CONTACT

CARL SACA

THRIFTBOOKS

041



05 09886 041

Can.

TERRIBLE BLOOMS MELISSA STEIN

COPPER CANYON PRESS



FRANCESCA BELL

BRIGHT STAIN

Red Hen Press



IN THE BODY OF OUR LIVES

JEANNE WAGNER

Sixteen Rivers Press

CHÖDRÖN

COMFORTABLE WITH UNCERTAINTY



SHAMBHALA

Guidebook to Relative Strangers

Wherever you go, there you are—
 Off the clock
 In praise of slowness.

The shelter of each other.

Contact

 [Terrible blooms]
 [Bright stains]

In the body of our lives—
 Comfortable with uncertainty.

Saira Khan

Saira Khan lives and writes in the suburbs of Seattle and can be followed @sairakhans.

TEFFI SUBTLY WORDED

BP

INITIATION



ELISABETH
HAICH



AURORA

HERE IS WHERE WE MEET

a fiction

JOHN BERGER

VINTAGE

THE WAY OF IGNORANCE

*and other
essays by*

WENDELL BERRY

COUNTERPOINT

300 ARGUMENTS

SARAH MANGUSO

GRAYWOLF PRESS



Namaste
Publishing

Eckhart Tolle ~

THE POWER OF NOW



HOWL

Allen Ginsberg

How Should a Person Be?

SHEILA HETI



HENRY
HOLT

MACHADO

IN THE DREAM HOUSE



GRAYWOLF
PRESS

[Untitled]

Subtly Worded

Initiation

Here Is Where We Meet

The Way of Ignorance

300 Arguments

The Power of Now

Howl

How Should a Person Be?

In the Dream House

Jenna Le

Jenna Le is the author of *Six Rivers* from NYQ Books and *A History of Cetacean American Diaspora* from Indolent Books, an Elgin Awards Second Place winner. Her poetry appears in *Verse*

Daily, AGNI, Denver Quarterly, Los Angeles Review, Massachusetts Review, Michigan Quarterly Review, Pleiades, Poet Lore, and West Branch. See more at jennalewriting.com.

ANH VU BUCHANAN

THE DISORDERED

SUNNY OUTSIDE

Janet Frame

faces in the water

BRAZILLER

PRAISE | ROBERT HASS

ecco

BUI

THE BEST WE COULD DO

ABRAMS
COMICS

Springing

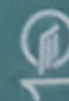
Marie Perle



KNOPF

OSEID

WHALES



FOUR WAY BOOKS

GREGORY PARDLO

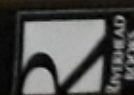


DIGEST

"A TRIUMPH"
—The New Yorker

BAO NINH

THE SORROW OF WAR



The Disordered Faces in the Water Praise The Best We Could Do

The disordered
faces in the water
Praise
The best we could do;

Springing
Whales

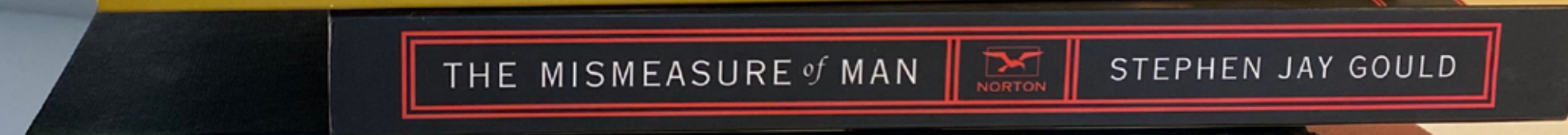
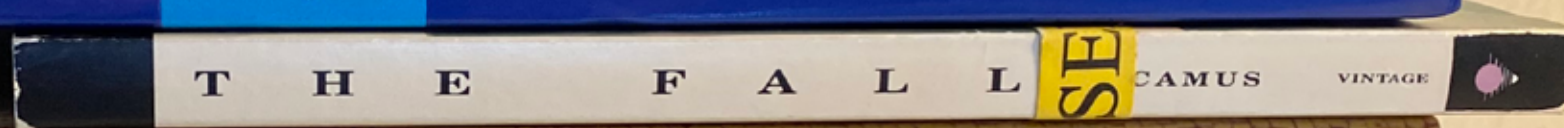
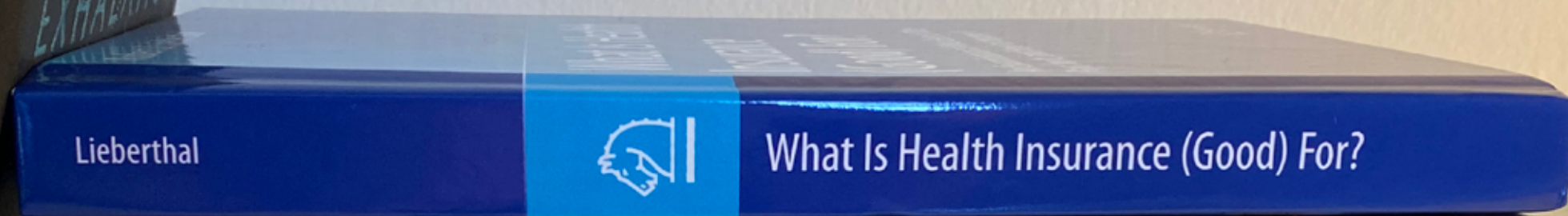
Digest
The sorrow of war

Victoria Livingstone

Victoria Livingstone's poetry, translations (from Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese), academic essays, and journalistic pieces have appeared in *The Café Review*, *Metamorphoses*, *Hispanófila*, *Truthdig*, and elsewhere. She teaches at New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Bryan Betancur

Bryan Betancur is an assistant professor of Spanish at Bronx Community College. His academic and journalistic essays have appeared in *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, *Inside Higher Ed*, and other publications. He is working on a book of short stories.



Exhalation

What is health insurance (good) for?

The fall

of no country I know,

the mismeasure of man.

Searching for recognition

near to the wild heart,

the things we cannot say:

meditations.

Leslie Pietrzyk

Leslie Pietrzyk is the author of three novels, including *Silver Girl*. Her collection of short fiction, *This Angel On My Chest*, won the Drue Heinz Literature Prize and was published by University of Pittsburgh Press. Her work was awarded a Pushcart Prize in 2020.

who do you think you are? ALYSE MYERS

REALS

ROBERT SULLIVAN



PARTISANS



DAVID LASKIN

LOW
LIFE

LUC
SANTÉ

VINTAGE

GRACE PALEY JUST AS I THOUGHT

FSG

DARE ME MEGAN ABBOTT



REAGAN
ARTHUR

BACK BAY
BOOKS

Josip Novakovich

SHOPPING FOR A BETTER COUNTRY



Who do you think you are?

Rats!

Partisans!

Lowlife!

Just as I thought...

Dare Me

Shopping for a better country.

Molly Bess Rector

Molly Bess Rector earned an MFA in poetry at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where she directs the Open Mouth Reading Series. She is the recipient of residencies and fellowships from the Edward F. Albee Foundation, the Vermont Studio Center, the New York State Summer Writers Institute,

and the Artists 360 program in Northwest Arkansas. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Ninth Letter*, *The Orison Anthology*, *Best New Poets 2019*, and others. Her work can be found online at www.mollybessrector.com.

ARDA COLLINS

IT IS DAYLIGHT

BOISSEAU

TREMBLING AIR

ARK

From the Inside Quietly

ELOISA AMEZCUA

AMY WRIGHT

EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE

E. ETHELBERT MILLER

Whispers Secrets & Promises

Sarah Gorham



The Cure

MARY OLIVER

Long Life

ALL *its* CHARMS

KEETJE KUIPERS

The Cure

It is Daylight
Trembling Air

From the Inside Quietly
Everything in the Universe

Whispers Secrets & Promises
The Cure

Long Life
All Its Charms

Laura Stanfill

Laura Stanfill is the neurodivergent publisher of Forest Avenue Press. She wishes on indie bookstores like stars.

There There  Tommy Orange  VINTAGE

BRIGHT DUANWAD PIMWANA 

ODD GIRL OUT LAURA JAMES  SEAL

look me in the eye
my life with asperger's John Elder Robison





THREE
RIVERS
PRESS

PEOPLE LIKE YOU

MARGARET MALONE 

CARRY THE SKY KATE GRAY  FOREST
AVENUE
PRESS

KELLY

The Land of Forgotten Girls  

Newly updated
and revised



INVISIBLE GIRLS

Speaking the
Truth about
Sexual Abuse

DR. PATTI
FEUEREISEN  SEAL

THIS IS *the* STORY OF


You


KEPHART  

ON SALE
JAN
2020

JENNIFER
LONGO 

What I Carry  RANDOM
HOUSE

EOWYN
IVEY 

TO THE
BRIGHT EDGE
OF THE WORLD  L B
LITTLE,
BROWN

I AM, I AM, I AM Maggie O'Farrell  VINTAGE

SAYING YOUR NAME THREE TIMES UNDERWATER

SAM ROXAS-CHUA 姚

J-H-C

There there

There there
Bright
Odd girl out.
Look me in the eye.
People like you
Carry the sky.
The land of forgotten girls,
Invisible girls:
This is the story of you,
What I carry
To the bright edge of the world.
I am, I am, I am
Saying your name three times underwater.

Claire Yspol

Claire Yspol is a Dutch artist based in Dundee, UK. She works across writing, moving image, artist publishing and more, to playfully interrogate the complexities of living amongst objects

and other systems. Her works pay homage to the everyday, but also to art itself; the experience of which is a specific way of being-here.

Joe Dunthorne O Positive



john armstrong conditions of love



PENGUIN

ALBERT CAMUS



CREATE DANGEROUSLY

MODERN

ALL POSSIBLE FUTURES



Futures

O positive
conditions of love
create dangerously
all possible futures.