

Winter 2012-2013



"I had as lief

bear so

much lead."

 Said by a servant in Merry Wives of Windsor, carrying a chest with Sir. John Falstaff hiding inside Welcome to LIEF 2. It was never certain Klecko and I would do a second issue, but we had such a good time we decided to do it again.

If you missed it, LIEF 1 can be viewed here. The idea was to create a zero-cost outlet for old and new friends, with the tendency toward ADDH.

The word lief comes from the Shakespearean, meaning "a preference for" or "being amenable to." We like it because it is a little like life, and a little like leaf. Our own preferences suggests we are amenable to work with senses wide open – eyes, ears, uncommon sense, a sense of humor, and a sense of the child within.

We have submission guidelines if you are interested. But we ask that you hold off till, oh, April 1 – our feast day.

This issue we decided to do away with two mainstays of "literary" magazines. We have skipped both index and contributor's notes. We want people to read or at the minimum flip through the entire issue, not just go to their page and ignore the rest.

This issue we are doing something else subversive – adding pages of canonical works in among new work. So you can see work by James Wright, Mei-Yao Ch'en, and even a word puzzle made of the language in John Keats' sonnet "When I Have Fears That I Shall Cease to Be." We do this for two reasons: to imply a dialogue of thought and values between these great works and our own efforts, but also to increase the number of search engine hits.

Last issue we included photos as well as a couple of sentences about each contributor. The pictures were additional proof to everyone's suspicions that artists are beautiful people. But it seemed like a big bother so we stopped.

We didn't even want to add page numbers, but they're very easy, so ...

LIEF Magazine

Issue 2

Editors:

Mike Finley

Danny Klecko

Dara Syrkin, quality assurance director

Submissions

LIEF has hidden pages. When you see one like this, <u>click on it</u> and see what happens.

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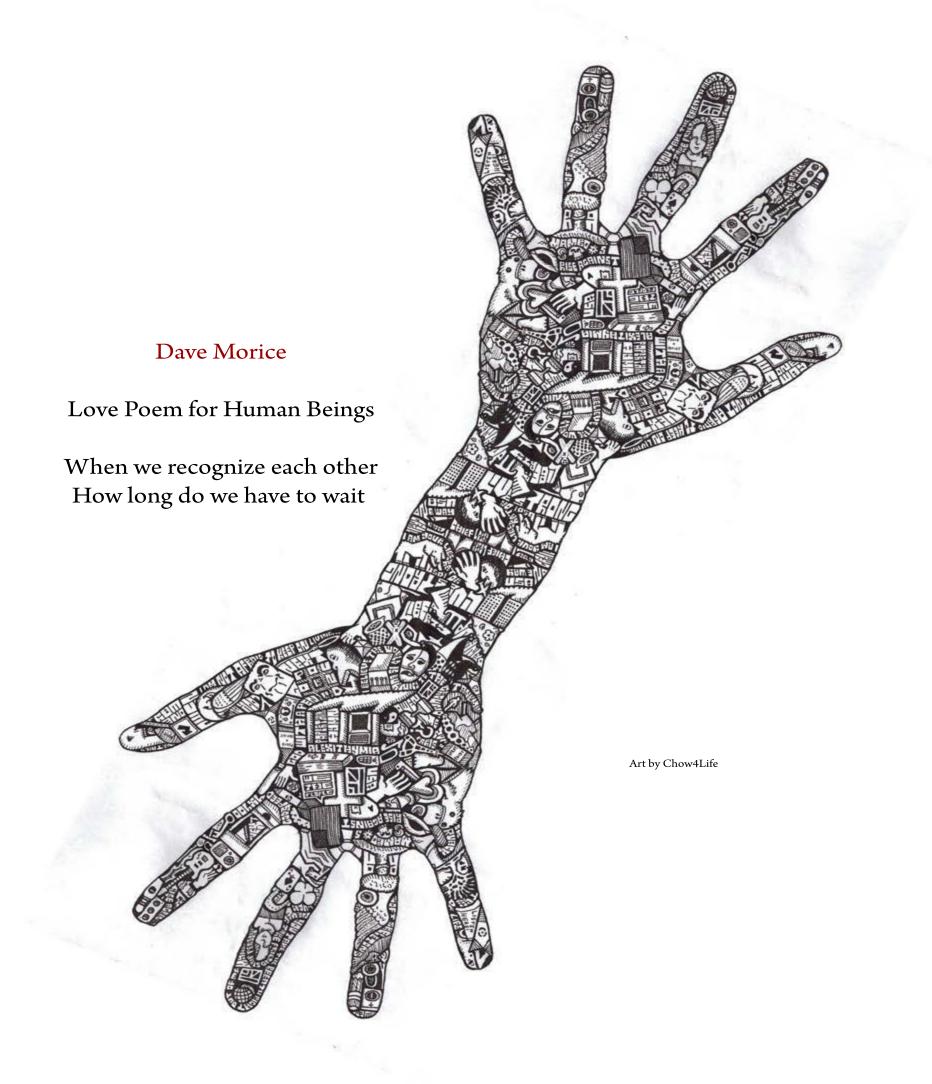


Robot Poem

I want bolts I want nuts I want life

Dave Morice

Tattoo of Robot and Pirate by Chelsea Louviere





8 Minutes With Nick Clifford

by Danny Klecko

There I stood, my lens pointed at the face of George Washington, and the red light began to blink.

My cameras battery was dead.

At the foot of Mount Rushmore rests a small cluster of buildings. It's made up of restaurants, an ice cream stand and a souvenir store.

In the store I was immediately overwhelmed by trinkets and souvenirs. There were velvet pillows, key chains, snow globes and shot glasses. It was simultaneoulsy tacky and strangely impressive. I walked through every aisle like I was circling a drain, but when I arrived at the center everything changed.

Resting against a fold-out table sat Don "Nick" Clifford, and placed in front of him was a pile of his recent book about working on the Mount Rushmore monument between 1938 and 1940.

To his left stood his wife, waving people over much like a carnival barker.

"Come on over everybody and

meet the last living sculptor that carved the face of Abraham Lincoln."

A small group of young boys approached.

As the wife continued giving a step-by-step account of her husband's legen, Nick seemed showed the kid with a Baltimore Orioles T-shirt how to grip the laces when throwing a curve ball.

As the child attempted to mimic this, Nick reminisced out loud... "The reason I even got the job was because Mr. Borglum, he was the gentleman that started this project, he was a big fan of baseball. He saw me pitching when my squad made it to the state finals, and when he learned I lived in Keystone, he was kind enough to offer me a job. What most people don't know is our Rushmore workers had their own baseball team and I became their pitcher."

Shoving the kids aside, I addressed the man.

"C'mon Nick, you're telling me you slipped into a harness and hung off the side of a mountain just so you could play ball?"

The old man smiled at my ignorance.

"There was nothing more dangerous about this job than most. Prior to that I was working in the mines. Those mines are far worse than the mountain, and back then a guy felt fortunate to have any job."

When the kid in the Orioles shirt finally got the proper grip on the baseball, he released it and asked:

"How old are you, Nick?"

"I'm 91 years old, son."

For a split second, I noticed how the old man and the boy looked at each other, as if wishing they could change places.

A woman with white sunglasses interrupted.

"Nick, did you and the other workers feel like you were creating a piece of art?"

"No Mam, none of us did. This was just considered a job, but then years back, back when the monument celebrated its 50th anniversary, President Bush came out here to give a presentation. This was a big deal and many of the workers flew from all parts of the country to reunite for this moment.

All of us just stood there hunched amidst all these patriotic gewgaws, savoring being in the presence of the last living person who took part in forming this powerful symbol of what we are all about.

"I think maybe it was then we all understood the magnitude or the importance of what Mr. Borglum accomplished, and pretty much every Fourth of July after that we held a reunion.

"Everyone felt very fortunate to be able to take part in something people care about the whole world over.

"It really amazes me how

everyday if you come here, you have the opportunity to meet some of the nicest people from all across the planet."

All of us just stood there hunched amidst all these patriotic gewgaws, savoring being in the presence of the last living person who took part in forming this powerful symbol of what we are all about.

Finally the woman in the white sunglasses asked Nick's wife if Nick felt an extra responsibility to be present since he was the only person left that could give a firsthand account of how Mount Rushmore came to be.

Nick's wife nodded slowly, sharing that he plans to stay on the mountain for the remainder of his life so he can share the experiences and stories of the many colleagues he worked with.

But just as she was saying this, I saw another small boy approach the table to learn how to grip the curve ball, and that's when it occurred to me that maybe my country's most amazing surviving mountain carver just liked chatting up baseball.

&



What does this necklace of white pearls and yellow citrine beads mean? Are you sorry for leaving for hours and days at a time? Gone to get something forgettable at the corner grocery where they never have what we are hungry for. You want fish, salmon or walleye, and I want fruit, ripe pears and peaches. Juice running down my arms and dripping from my elbows leaves stains on my dresses and dots on the kitchen floor. "Eat over the sink," you always remind me, following behind with damp paper towels, cleaning up my trail. I get tired of the smell of fried fish when I arise early on Sunday morning. And crackling skin and scales stuck to the cast-iron frying pan. You leave it on the stove, clotted, with curls of pink and white flesh clinging like the glue we used to paint on our palms for perfect imprints of all the whorls and heart lines. These beads are to remind me of better days when you brought me oxeye daisy buttons with one petal left standing, knowing I always begin and end with he loves me.

Citrine



A Crooked Crown University Avenue Sonnets by Maryann Corbett



Diane Jarvenpa

Free Way Raptors

I see them when I should be driving, eyes to rear fenders and road, but there they are perched above me on the long arm of the freeway light, all wing and talon, hook-bill and crop, impervious to engine roar and city blight. sitting and waiting, which they do so well. And I am not so good at this, not so good at holding position, pursuing, coursing or stooping across the fields and marsh of my own day. I am used to spying them through binoculars, kettling hundreds of feet above my head, losing them in tongues of clouds. There is a natural law in their cunning flight, that simple hanging still in wind, a broadwing kite, their fine eyes scoped for dinner. And I in my dumb blunt armor, rolling rubber toward home,

a still-life of brown bags, bottles and canned food stuffed into the back seat, lumbering my way across the landscape, my ignorant heart wanting and still not changing things.

Tim Nolan



Yesterday

As something like grief accumulated I became squirrel-like stowing it away for later

> Then I surprised myself on the way home talking to my sister Kathleen when I told her I loved her and how

Great she was with Mom how much she had done for Mom And I caught myself my voice caught up

> With myself and all the long grief or something like long grief came up in me in just a moment

And I was a wreck (I am a wreck) you could tell me any story about a boy and a dog if either dies

> I will fall apart and the grief if that's what is comes like spring rain on the roof of the car

Or tears or anything falling everything falling so alive and breathing toward the center of our Earth

In the Sunlight

I will stay here as long as it lasts the sunlight coming sideways at me

At the end of the day it's a great flaming ball the Sun across the street

Falling between the two houses it's love it's that simple the way I feel it on my face



Jeanne Lutz

Women Who Run With Holsteins

catherine the great kept a bottle of poison in her wig in case barbarians invaded but that's not my concern I am

- minnesota river valley my creeds come from there my word choice my philosophies my ideas of beauty my barbaric yawp
- if you are the unsure type or into marketing or you just like stability I'll tell you right now I don't fit into any one box my limbs are too long what's more I have irreconcilable differences that's what I get for growing up in a tornado belt I'm
- from where the weather don't care if you're walking with a prosthetic what you owe the bank how many miles you get to the gallon or if you're turned inside out and hanging with your heart dangling though attached

I have never met conan the barbarian but I'd love it if he came up and grabbed me from behind

I love my body rising

with friskiness and heat I'll love you frontwards and backwards or in the middle of some equinox storm I'll love you on top or at the bottom come on and grab me from behind!

though mine eyes have seen the glory I follow my own vision

I believe in blue earth mystery gravel roads baling hay and saints holy water and sweet corn love all love divine hopping trains the clarinet polka may day and killing the fatted calf

I keep a squirt gun full of pesticide in my pocket in case mediocrity arrives





Gerry Zeck

Border Patrol





Roy McBride

The Joy of Roy

A Tribute by Mike Hazard

A master of the spoken word, Roy McBride was a joy to the world.

"We want shoes that sing poetry to our feet."

"I don't want you to understand my poetry. I want my poetry to understand you."

<u>Read along</u> as he performs his wonderful poem <u>"Poetry."</u>

Poetry

My grandfather, who can neither read or write, wears a pen and pencil set in the pocket of his Sunday coat.

One night when I was in the fourth grade he watched me do my homework rocking in his chair by the stove. "Son," he said with a smile, "you've really got a nice hand; a real nice hand." Roy was a joy. The poet passed from this world into the next on July 29, 2011.

My doctor Tim Rumsey has noticed that when one of his friends dies, he says that person's name out loud, a lot, even when he is alone.

Roy. Roy. Roy.

Roy? Roy was a river of verse. Roy was, is, will ever be a mighty Mississippi of a poem. He was a river of verse.

Feel the joy of Roy in this video poem for their daughter Laci. <u>http://youtu.be/fFoU4qRHOiI</u>

"As long as we're alive, Roy's alive."

Watch Roy poet in A POET POETS. <u>http://youtu.be/3udIV_4peb4</u>

"Born in 1943, Roy Chester McBride began his literary career at Magnolia Colored Elementary School in Magnolia, Arkansas in 1948. After learning his ABC's and starting to read "Dick and Jane" and other great books of that period, Roy was bitten by the writing bug. It never let go."

Roy was joy is Roy was joy is Roy.

Credits

Videos, photos and text by Mike Hazard. Quotes and poems by Roy McBride are from the movie, A POET POETS, and comments folks made at the celebration of his life. A collected poems is being edited by Margaret Hasse and Lucinda Anderson, and it's coming soon. To learn more about this projct, visit <u>http://thecie.org/mcbride/</u>



Ricky Garni

Photos of There

I wonder if Austria is as beautiful as it appears in that picture. The gingerbread houses, the cows in the fields, the mist rising off the mountains, the church so grand, the grass so green.

But the church is pale and tall and could be knocked over. By a heleo-copter. That mist could be smoke. I think I smell smoke actually.

And there are no human beings. One cow is lying down. Maybe falling down.

She may be depressed! Or fatally injured by another cow who is no longer there.

The cow that was there has walked to Germany by mistake; She meant to go to Switzerland; already she misses Austria, although she can never return. She wishes she could. Here's why. Where are the bulls in Austria?

In conclusion, Austria is beautiful and vibrant.

Bump

Grandpa's blind but he can see anything, using his heart, he says. When he looks out the window he describes to me what's out there but I know it's just memory and things have changed since he lost his sight but he hasn't lost his vision, that's for sure, and besides maybe I'm not looking closely enough and my eyes are 20-20. And he laughs and says, Maybe your heart needs glasses. I'm just ten years old--I don't get it and tell him so but he says I will maybe when I'm blind, too, one day, and then

I'll see everything, he says. He pauses and adds, That is, everything worth seeing. He knows his way around inside the house and in the yard but still he bumps and knocks. I say, Let me help--watch out for the chair, or the table, or the cat, but he says, No, I meant to do that. And sometimes I bump into things, too, I mean on purpose, even when I'm not pretending I can't see. It's kind of scary. I need practice.



Barry Blumenfeld

Purgatorius

"First Human Ancestor Looked Like a Squirrel" - Discovery News, 19 October 2012

> Those who went down in The cave of Lascaux Found a handprint below A red huge bison Conforming to the Wall, but they never Told us about their Deeper descent.

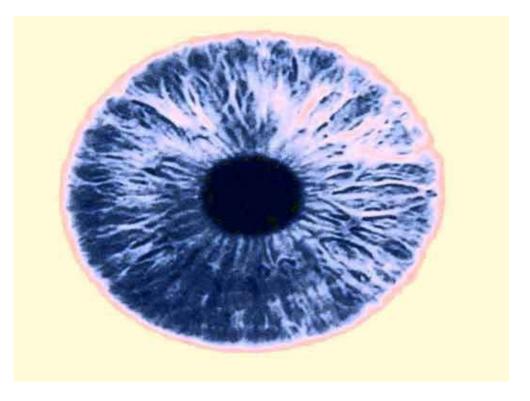
> > Ssshhhhh....

The weeping crags bent Inward, forcing those Intruders deeper Into lightlessness, Down ladders of rock, Below every sound, Into a zone of The mute, the deaf, and The dead. They stopped. They Waited for their eyes And ears to adjust, For the ghosts of the Ancestors to wake Up. Then water whistled Over the stones. A Giant breath was panting....

Ssshhhhh....

Someone-an atheist Or a Frenchman-Scratched a match across His boot. The flame leaped, And the rocks did too, And on them in black Danced squirrels. They Were tormenting a Prehistoric cat. Flames tipped their torches And burned in their Ebony eyes. Squirrels That knew fire and pain! Their cave-historian Was proud: below her Work, she planted a Blackpaint foot, and her Long middle claw Pointed at the dying Animal – a Boast, or a warning. Around the killing Place, charcoal leaves had Settled in mounds, like Souls of the departed.





Click on the iris to see even further.

Poem Under The Knife

I wrote a poem in 1977, called "Look Li Po." The poem referred to the great Chinese poet who, stories said, drank wine by the Yangtze and, seeing the moon's reflection in the waters, leaped to it – and drowned. Then, 35 years later, I took the poem out and tried to make it into a movie. I used several of the poem's images – the moon, the river, the grapes, the old man – and began to play. I added a soundtrack, a song from the move Inception. Then I came upon photos of murdered children, and wanted to include them. I wound up liking the movie so much I took the poem out – and still feel that the video is poemlike. Click on the eyeball and then read the poem – feel how the years have passed, and the old man's crazy vision is still alive.

Mike Finley

Look Li Po

Summer trembles in a breeze like the drunken poet Li Po stooping for a hand of white grapes

and these grapes are white rooms of summertime jiggling in the eye.

"Here is a clue to my horse's love for me and to my old hands anchored to the yoke I bear which is my collarbone laid brittle and exposed.

"And I see a man standing up to his thighs in the current, scooped at and torn by the waters.

"This

fruit is wine and never stagnant! It tumbles into gorges like blown silk pitched into summer and round as the moon!"



Val Frank The Old Story Stella Noelle

On Naming a Chickie

Stella to Gramma, holding up her stuffed yellow chickie: "This is a baby yellow chickie, and I know USUALLY what to name her."

Gramma to Stella: "Oh yeah? What do you usually name her?"

Stella, looking up at the ceiling and thinking for a moment: "Uh...how about...MAX?"

> For more thoughts of Stella Noelle click here

Carol Connolly

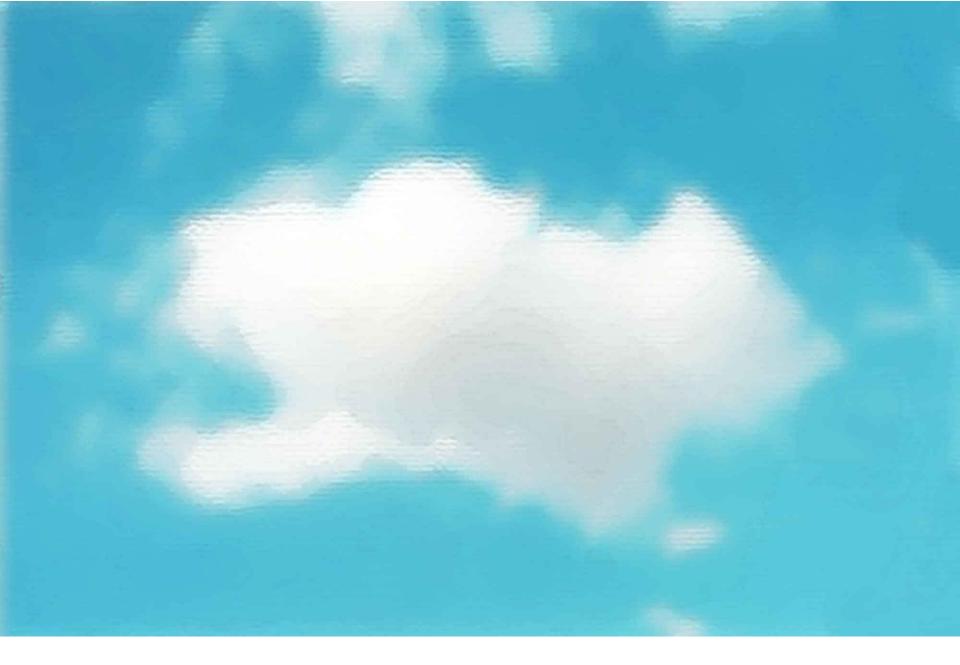
Snow

On a gray day an old man walks an old dog in new snow. Heads bent low,

no ear for honking traffic, no eye on the outside world. They are alone silent in a cocoon of their own quiet. Each must once Have known strange fits of passion, leapt over tall fences, bolted wild through green fields. Today they move slow, So slow, careful, leaving no mark on the winters pale.







Ethna McKiernan

Crow Wing River

For Georgia

Look, there's a bear lying on its back in the sky, swimming toward stars that will appear two hours from now. His pelt is made from cloud-tufts, dusky white against the pre-rain gray. Now his left paw drifts off and dissolves; what remains is pure suggestion. How will he reach where he's going, when his limbs loop and shift and swirl and shred like this, one foot melting to the next as he kicks his slow way toward Orion, high above the black river flowing outside Georgia's door?

S. M. Poole Surf Song

Morning. A hot bright sun shines down on the cool dark depths of the deep blue sea. A roar a rush a floosh a flush a sploosh a splish a splash a shoosh a shush a hush Break! Break! Break on thy sugar fine sands O Sea as you sayspray the sounds of the waves and the foam! Sing the swift swashing song of Poseidon's home! Noon. Thick gray fog wafts over the sea like clouds of steam from Neptune's soup bowl. Roar rushing floosh flushing sploosh splishing splash shooshing shush hushing crash crushing rocks and shells and seaweed swirling roiling surf rolling up shifting turf the sand the land the sun the sky the rising tide drawing nigh. Night. A chill wind kicks up sand and the dunes shift. Piled high here. Swept low there. A roar a rush a floosh a flush a sploosh a splish a splash a shoosh a shush a hush

Pat West

My Love Affair With Noam Chomsky

My husband dreamed that I was having an affair with Noam Chomsky.

We were sharing a house with Noam and his wife Carol and Henry saw me go with Noam into his bedroom. We both were wearing pajamas.

Henry didn't feel upset. But he thought, "I can't believe she likes his personality." In Response to a Rumor That the Oldest Whorehouse In Wheeling, West Virginia, Has Been Condemned



by James Wright

I will grieve alone, As I strolled alone, years ago, down along The Ohio shore. I hid in the hobo jungle weeds Upstream from the sewer main, Pondering, gazing.

I saw, down river, At Twenty-third and Water Streets By the vinegar works, The doors open in early evening. Swinging their purses, the women Poured down the long street to the river And into the river.

I do not know how it was They could drown every evening. What time near dawn did they climb up the other shore, Drying their wings?

For the river at Wheeling, West Virginia, Has only two shores: The one in hell, the other In Bridgeport, Ohio.

And nobody would commit suicide, only To find beyond death Bridgeport, Ohio.







Gerry Zeck

Blind Entanglement



Click to Read The Story of Jenny Jump

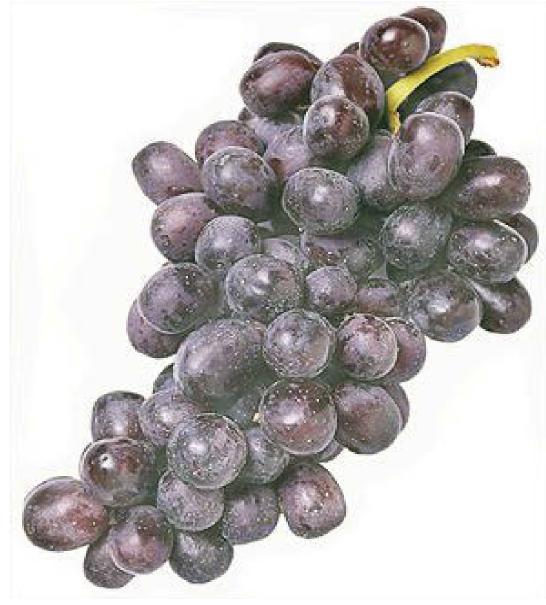
Mary Kay Rummel

Medieval Consolations

(a heard poem)

To drink like a Capuchin is to drink poorly. To drink like a Benedictine is to drink deeply. To drink like a Dominican is to drink pot after pot. To drink like a Franciscan is to drink the cellars dry. And only God knows how the Jesuits drink, says Britt. Thank god you don't know how I drink, says Tim. This is my story:

When I was a young nun we stole red altar wine from the chapel at night, took it to our rooms, toasted each other, laughing to the dregs. My first, worst wine and best remembered.





Val Frank The Assault Suite The Old Story

Where One Becomes Two

The old fox has died. Now his mate is alone. Now she must cross the river alone. Look. In the water. Two foxes.

Sharon Chmielarz

Bruce J. Berger

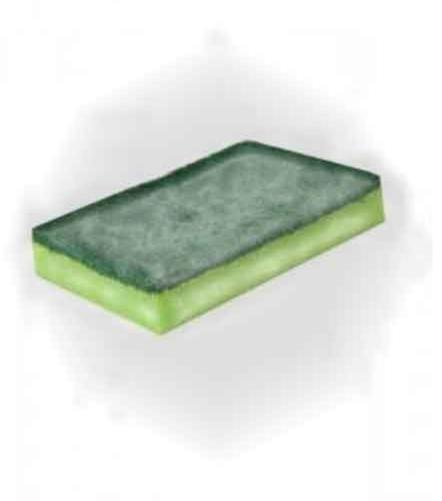
Opened and Closed

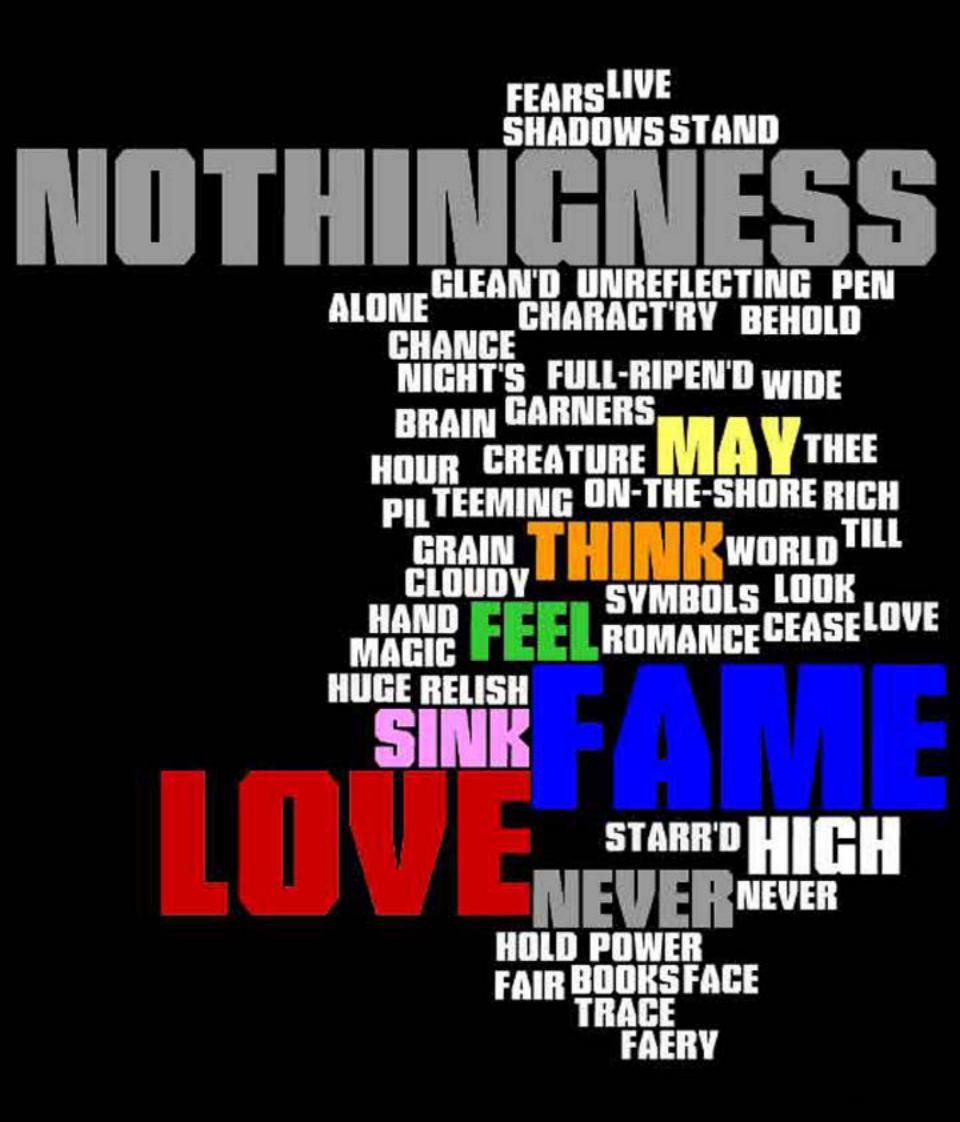
I like things closed But she likes them opened She opens I close And we work well together.

I like sponges behind the faucet

But she likes them leaning over counter's edge . She leans over I put back. Move the sponge Put it back Return Replace And we work well together. I joke and she laughs I tease and she falls for it again

She pokes me in the ribs I go "Ow!" And we work well together.

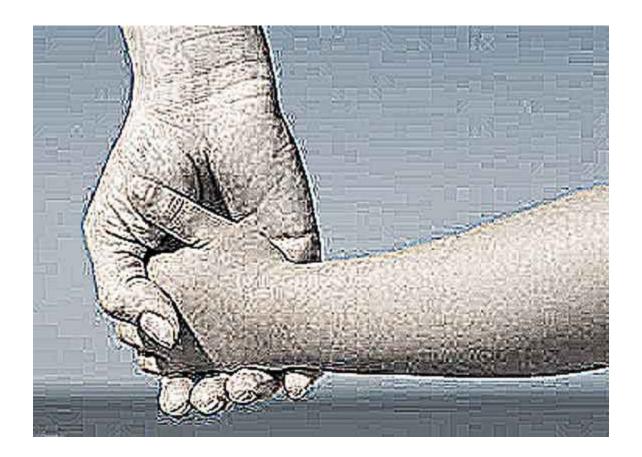




Mei-Yao Ch'en

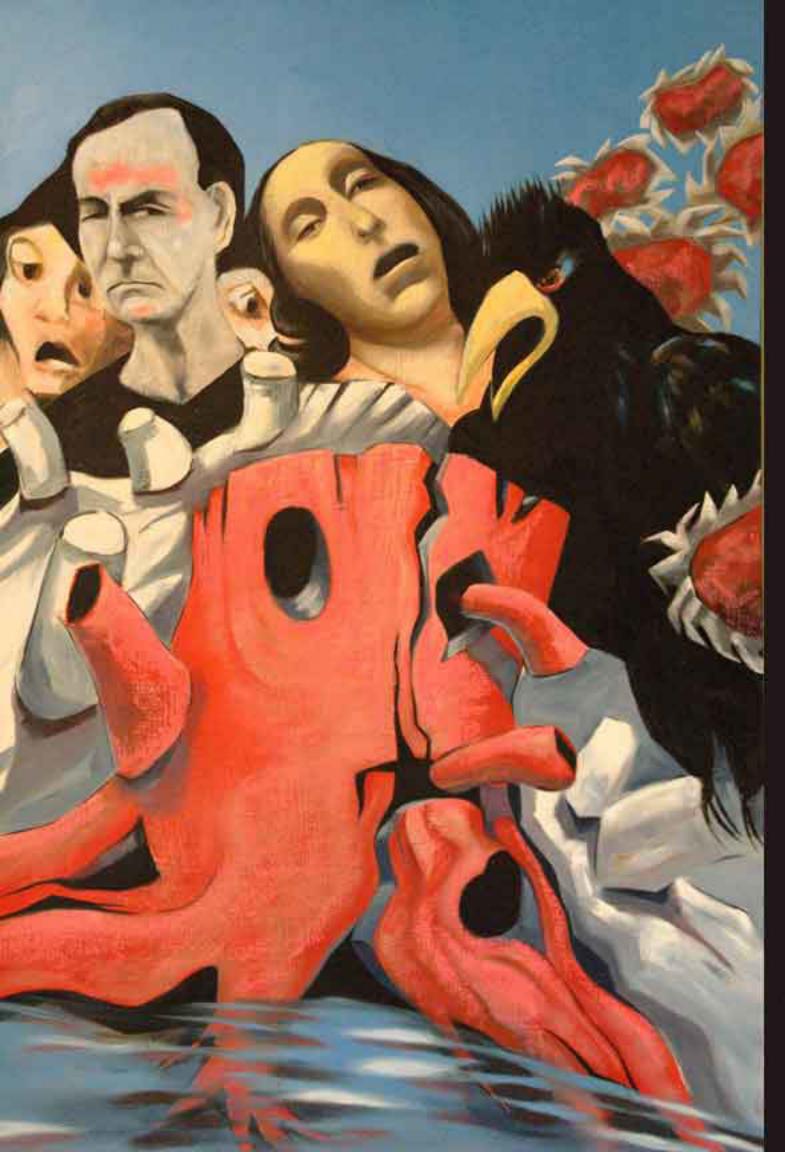
An Excuse for Not Returning the Visit of a Friend

Do not be offended because I am slow to go out. You know Me too well for that. On my lap I hold my little girl. At my Knees stands my handsome little son. One has just begin to talk, The other chatters without Stopping. They hang on my clothes And follow my every step. I don't get any farther Than the door. I am afraid I will never make it to your house.





Ed Eubanks CLICK HERE Limerick Corner



Val Frank Trickster Plains



"Are you gonna finish those peanuts?"



Two Suckers



Past And Future

Photography by D.J. Pearlman

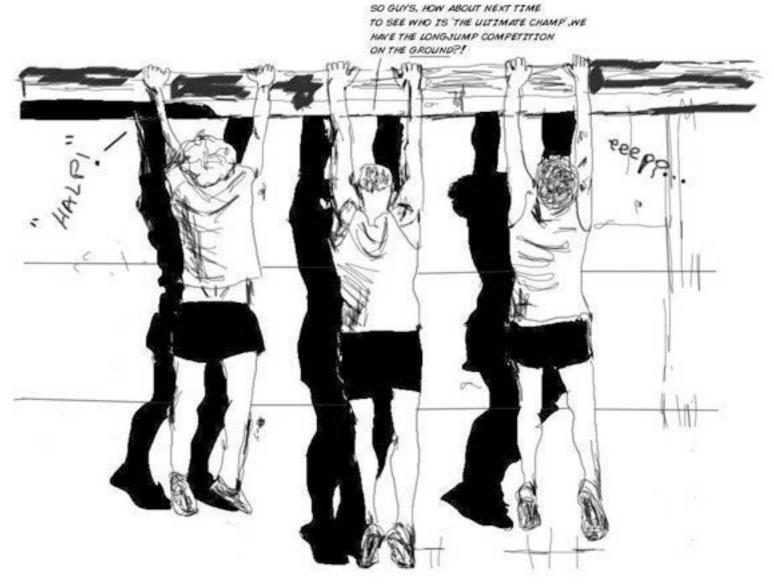
Florence Bocherel

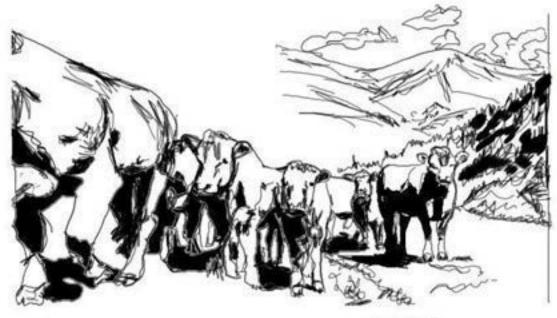
Hangin' Wise



AHH LIFE AS A HUMAN MUST BE SOMETHING. SO SMART, INTELLECTUAL, THE MOST INTELLIGENT RACE ON THE PLANET! OH TO BE HUMAN....I WISH I COULD FOR MAYBE JUST ONE DAY...SIGH..."

MEANWHILE SOMEWHERE ON THIS HUMAN PLANET, ON THE SIDE OF A BUILDING, THREE HUMANS





"...SIGH "

C 2012 FLORENCE.

Susan Koefod

Singed

In the cocoon of campfire, college friends catch up over Leinenkugels and chili. They hurry through the dull updates – everyone's well into their second marriages – and quickly move on to the more relevant dramas of the past.



The hottest topic thirty years on concerns the burning – and unresolved – question of who dumped whom: "I'd never been more heartbroken," she says. "You said you were moving on," he says. "Hardly," the jilted woman falsely laughs, and looks away from the firelight. "Well I'm sorry," he blurts out to her, to everyone.

Awkward silence snubs out the fireside conversation, and they all watch as the campfire collapses shooting sparks so high that burning embers drift around us like fiery snowflakes, scarcely turning to ash before lighting harmlessly on coats and bare heads.

Ken Sparling

Meeting

I heard about this place where you could go, this house, not far from the street where I lived, where you could go, and they would be having a meeting, and you could attend this meeting. So I headed out on my bike the next day to go to a meeting. I had the flu. I felt crappy. But was determined to go through with this. I was scared. I was so scared. I kept riding backward, back toward home, thinking, fuck it, I don't need this, I'm sick, I don't need to do this today. Then I'd think, don't be a wimp, and I'd turn around and ride back forward to where I'd been going all along. I finally managed to get up the courage to go and knock on the door of the house where they held the meetings and then, when they answered the door, to actually go in and join the meeting. I didn't like the meeting much, but there I was. I was there. Just being there at the meeting was enough. I didn't have to like it. I could tell people, after the meeting got out, that I'd been there, that I'd attended the meeting. People would know I had been to a meeting and this would make me the sort of person who went to meetings. He's been to a meeting, they would say, and they would like me.



Andrew Ward



"Don't mind Lois. She's on one of her fault finding missions."

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THE STARS ABOVE

Guitar Compositions by award-winning performer Jon Finley

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""Remarkable!"

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Lief Through The Decades

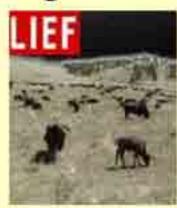
















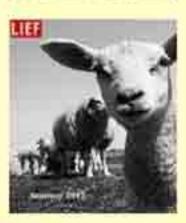


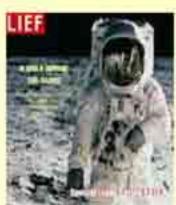












"In no one else's poetry except Vallejo's do I sense such hunger straining at the limts of words."

YUKON GOLD

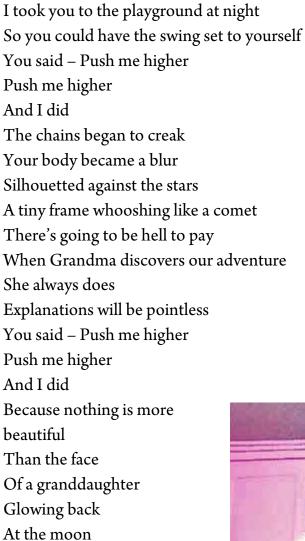
- Michael Cuddihy

POEMES DE TERRE 1970-2010 WITH A KEY TO THE MYSTERIES Mike Finley

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Danny Klecko

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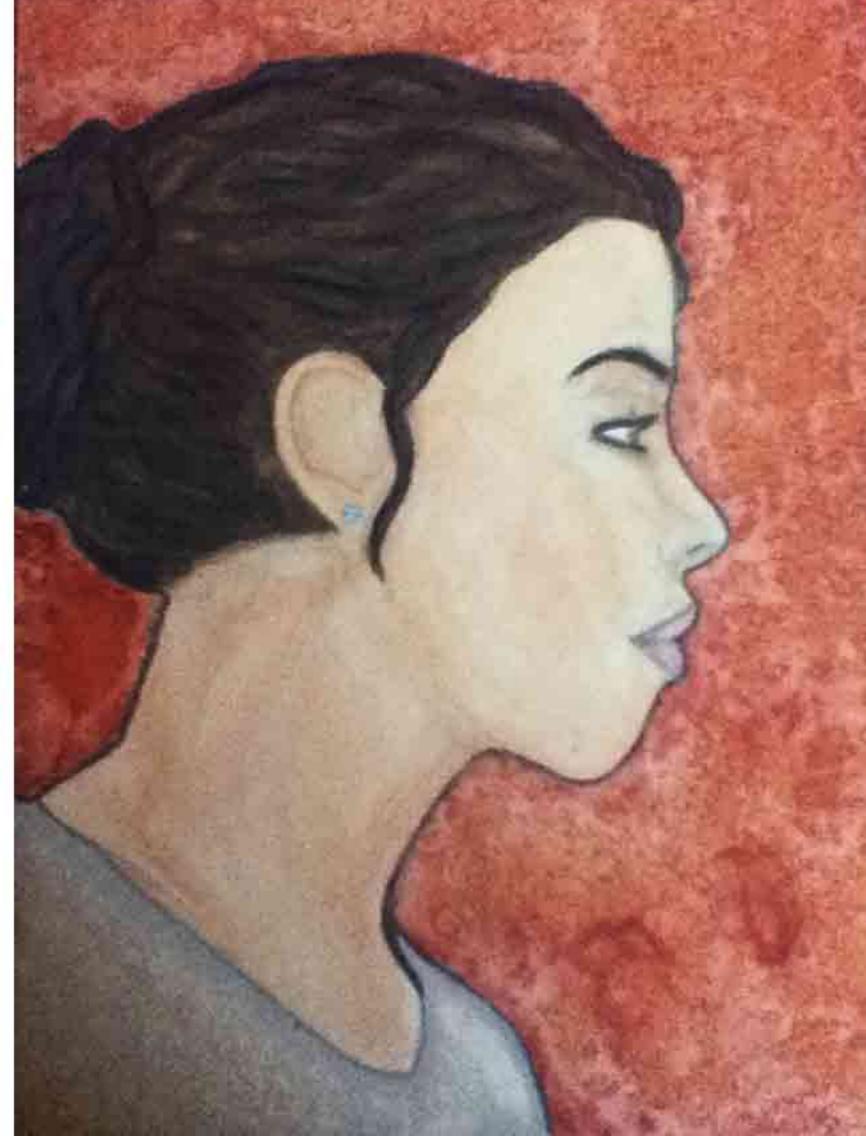
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Painting by R. Scholes





Emma Eubanks



Lief 2



ANDREW WARD D.J. PEARLMAN JAMES WRIGHT SUSAN KOEFOD FLORENCE BOCHEREL KEN SPARLING JON FINLEY DANNY KLECKO RANDALL SCHOLES

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Starring