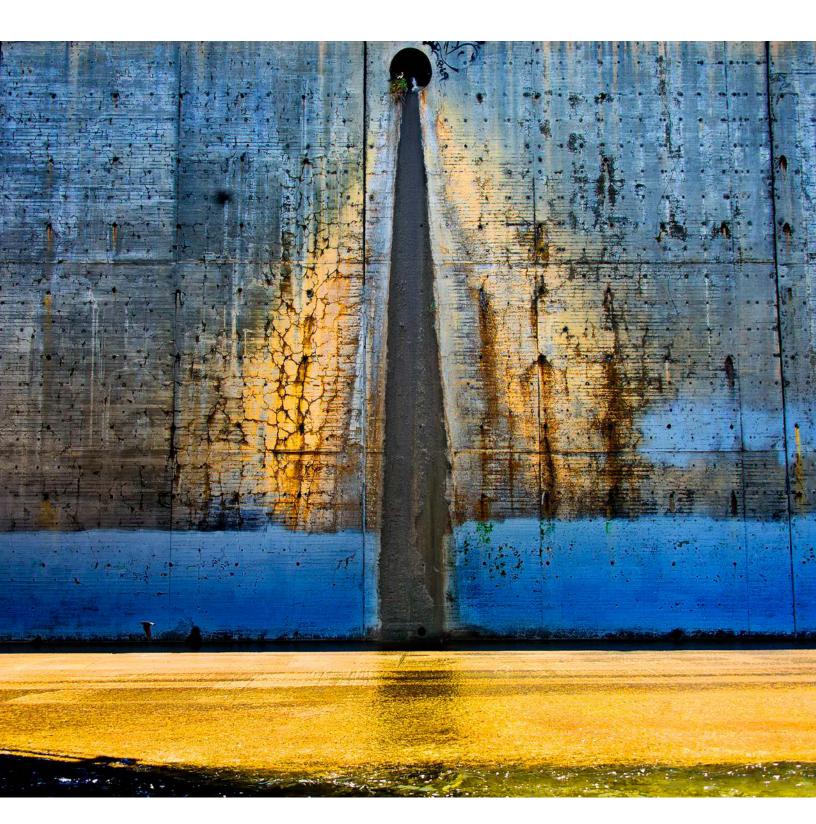
Volume Sixteen

The BEAT

David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA Journal of Arts and Literature



Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

It is our pleasure to present the 2014 edition of The BEAT. As medical students and healthcare professionals, we spend a great deal of our day listening—to lecturers, patients, colleagues, etc. While we metabolize facts and figures, we also serve as receptacles for difficult emotions. Stories of death and healing, love and loss, guilt and pride, traverse the halls of the hospital and inevitably find their way to us. The BEAT reminds us to engage in these stories and find solidarity in the ties that bind us. We invite you to immerse yourself in the voices contained within the following pages. May they offer some moments of clarity and introspection.

And The BEAT goes on...

Catherine Ni and Renee Thomas Editors-in-Chief 2013-2014

Acknowledgements

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Vital Signs Awards

Art

First - Digital Cortex by Andy Trang and Isaac Yang

Second - Woman by Adia Scrubb

Photography

First - Lone Wolf by Tyler Kern

Second - Teresa Hace Tortillas by Gerry Maravilla

Literature

First - Cheese Head by Dustin Harris

Second - How to Tell Time by Jill Narciso

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Unique

by Reggie Grisham

One small flake of newly fallen snow, A Starry Night digit, brushed by artists long ago. Careful plot of line and mark, A double helix stranded by pair and twisted arc.

A child, a brother, a parent, a lover, Life's collage, a clumsy mortar board cover. Celebrate essence and sail world's end, Delight in discovery of uniqueness within.

Years Later

Tears later, I close my eyes and can see her. Her light brown eyes, her caramel skin, those black curls.

She is beauty and she is gone.

A day after she dies, I wake up and feel someone beside me.

I thought it was her, after she spent the night again. Memories of making love, of kissing, of cuddling, envelope me.

And leave me in heartbreak when I see it is not her but my sister.

I cry into her shoulder. Amara is dead.

Five months after her death, I walked with my friends through campus.

We are laughing, joking, messing around. If she was still here, she would be right at my side. I walk into my dorm, and see her photo on my nightstand.

Smiling at me as if she had heard the joke, had never left me.

I pick up the frame, running my fingers over her lovely face.

That had been a good day; playing by the lake during the day, and kissing by the fire at night. Forgetting about my friends, I sit down and cry.

Two years later, I am home from college and at the market, buying some groceries for the family. I am in the fruit section, buying her favorite – mango.

I turn my head and she's just staring at me.

Laila – Amara's younger sister.

After an eternity, she smiles and images of Amara flood over me like water.

They have always looked like twins.

We embrace, right there among the old women and mothers with children dangling off each arm. And we cry.

Six years later, I am Christmas shopping with Samantha, my first long-term girlfriend since Amara.

She is the complete opposite in the looks; short blonde hair, bright grey eyes, beige skin.

I couldn't bear to wake up to a head of black curls beside me.

We stop at a perfume counter and she sprays a little of each on, making me smell every one.

I cough and sneeze at all of them.

Except one.

It is pure and sweet and smells of oranges and flowers; it's so familiar and instantly, I know. Amara. It's all Amara.

Samantha doesn't buy it, as I bite back the tears.

Fourteen years later, it is my youngest daughter's second birthday.

It is also the anniversary of her death.

I try not to think of the odd coincidence.

Even as we sing, in the back of my head, I'm thinking of her.

Of those lips, of those eyes, of her touch.

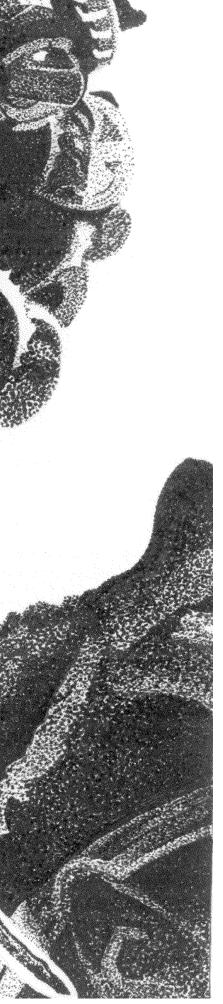
This would have been our daughter's birthday today. Grief becomes me, only a moment's worth, and I'm back to blowing out candles.

Years later, I close my eyes and can see her. Her light brown eyes, her caramel skin, those black curls.

But I no longer cry.







Song of Longing

by Paula Stoessel

Finally, Dusk Steals Your light

You are Silhouette Carved Out of night

And even though My darkness Raves For you

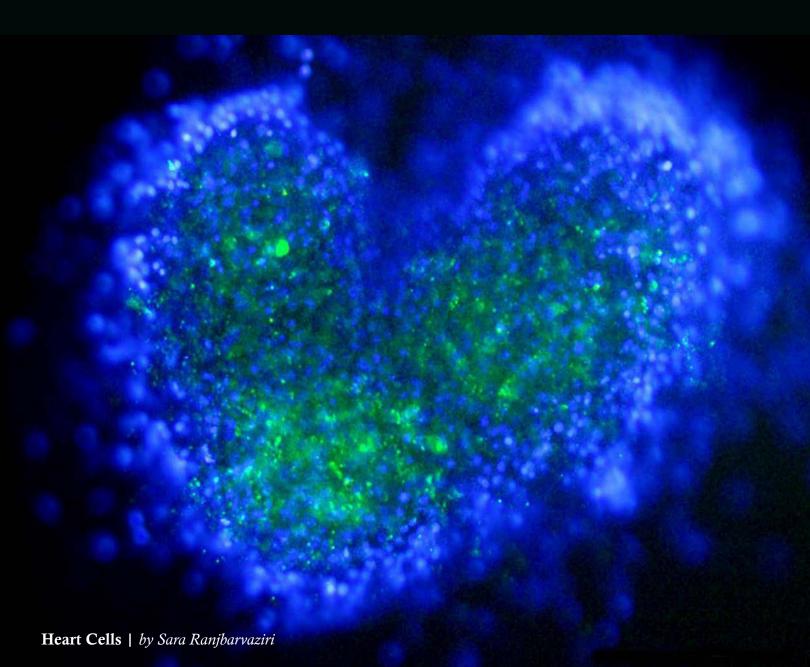
No quiver No flicker Of evening light Illuminates

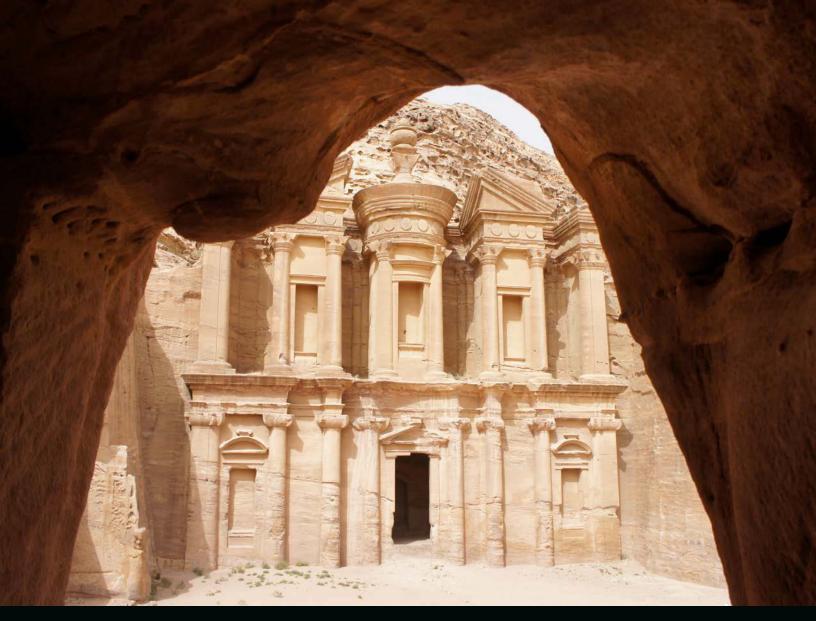
Your face.

Love and the Parking Space

by Dustin Harris

I say love is like a parking space
Some people found it so easily
While others spend years looking for it
You can miss it if you are not paying attention
You can pay for it, but we know that doesn't last
It's hard to tell if the space is a right fit, but once you try it, it looks awkward to stick with that tight space
Sometimes you leave a space, not knowing what you had
The space was perfect but you wanted to see other spaces
When you came back, someone else had taken your space
I'll wait for my space, no matter how long it takes, even if it's taken by someone else
Because that space, is right next to my heart





 $\textbf{Monastery} \mid \textit{by Brittni Johnson}$

What time is it?

by Dustin Harris

We have but one life
Don't waste your time with longing
Waste your time with love



Golden Temple Sahib | by Abraar Karan

The Stare Down | by Tyler Kern



Cheese Head by Dustin Harris

I learned to ride a bike when I was seven My grandfather took off the training wheels and it was like I could fly Once I got the hang of it, I spread my arms like wings and closed my eyes...

That's when I hit the curb and got hurt

My wing had been clipped and was covered in dirt

Went to the hospital, where the rooms beeped and the people waiting got sicker and sicker

I looked down at my arm to see it getting thicker and thicker

The doctor squeezed my arm to put my bones back in place

I wouldn't cry, I wouldn't cry, not one tear will travel down my face

It felt like he was giving me the worst indian burn I ever had

Twisting my arm like a wet towel, I tried to pull away, which made the doctor more mad...

6 weeks I wore that cast, had to write with my left hand everyday in class

In first grade, I failed art

Because closing your eyes on a bike isn't too smart

I learned to ride a bike when I was seven

My grandfather taught me, his name was Arthur, or Art

He was my Opa, German for grandfather, that was his part

He use to crack his nose to make me grin

I remember kissing him goodnight and feeling the stubble on his chin

No one could resist Opa's charm

He'd tell you a joke and you'd be disarmed

His charm led him to my grandmother during the war, they fell in love

Kaija, my Mummu, a Finnish angel sent from above

But, God's angels can still get sick

Even when my Mummu got Alzheimer's, by her side, my Opa would stick

I want to give him the best husband prize

Because even when his face she did not recognize, he'd still take care of her

He swore to move mountains for her through good times and bad

No matter how few memories she still had

He could put clouds in the sky if the sun was too bright

Take away her fears in the middle of the night

My grandfather was so strong he could hug a tree till it said uncle

He was so strong he could throw a lightning bolt

He was so strong...he was so strong he only let that stroke take half of his body

(Pause)

He was so strong he laid on that cold, garage floor, on his back Counting time until he lost track

Not moving...

His wife sitting in the car, not knowing, not moving...

She thought they were going to the hairdressers

But the only thing that needed to be addressed was every second he was losing brain cells

Happiness, sadness, carefulness, shyness,

But I digress...

I learned to ride a bike when I was seven

My grandfather had a stroke when he was 87

He taught me to ride a bike Now he taught me how to cut food the way he liked How to help him use the bathroom I guess we changed each others' diapers I call my Opa a cheese head Not because his head was filled with curds and whey But the way he watched his team play with foam cheese on his head on Super Bowl Sunday

Even though he couldn't speak, in his eyes you could hear him say:

"Go Packers. Go Green Bay." He passed away the same year they won It's like he knew to hold on just for a little longer He'll always be the one who marked my height as I grew Put me in my place every tantrum I threw Giving me the tools to be my own man Tools I'll pass on for as long as I can I learned to ride a bike when I was seven Taught by a man who belongs no where else, but heaven







Helen by Erin Merz

wonder if my grandmother is the world's oldest person to stuff her bra. Her husband passed away several years ago. Still, every morning, she places in the cotton padding before settling into a comfortable recliner, resting from nearly a century of activity. Raised on an apple farm, she helped ferment cider to barter with the neighbors during prohibition. She was valedictorian of her high school class, and met the love of her life when the heel of her shoe broke at a YMCA dance. After writing letters to my grandfather following his draft to the war, she worked for professors at Ohio State University, typing manuscript drafts on an old Underwood typewriter. She sits back when we chat, cozy in a sweater in the winter, or a flimsy blouse in the summer. She always appears to have two breasts.

Mv grandparents joined the Westerville Athletic Club after retirement, vowing to exercise and stay as young as they could, for as long as they could. I was seven or eight years old, praying every day that I would grow up. The men and boys had all gone to the showers following an afternoon spent playing racquetball and splashing in the pool. It was just us girls, rinsing the chlorine off, curling irons heating up on the plastic vanities next to rows of lockers. Grandma slipped the sleeves of her bathing suit down, chatting with my mother. I fiddled with my bag, nervous at the dozens of naked ladies around me. As she changed my grandmother turned to me. Oh honey, I don't want to scare you. You know I had cancer, right?

I glimpsed up from my hands for a second. Her chest was carved down

from the collarbone. Pink skin, cinched flat, thick, and wrinkled, where her breast should have been. The left one still in its proper place. My grandmother giggled casually, It was a long time ago. I'm all fixed up. She returned to her conversation, clasping her bra, half stuffed, around her slender rib cage.

I wasn't upset, really, or even surprised. I didn't understand what I had seen or what cancer was. Later, my mom told me that she had been afraid as a child. I thought I was going to lose my mother. Almost fifteen vears before Shirley Temple and Betty Ford and Happy Rockefeller, my grandmother shuffled back and forth to appointments and surgeries, the neighbors talking in hushed voices. Her doctors thought she would probably have six months. I imagine her, in that sterile office, holding hands with my grandfather. When she woke up in her own bed, half a year later, she couldn't believe that she was still here.

And then fifty-five more years flew by for my grandmother with her one breast. She sat proudly in the front row at all the graduations and weddings, and baked butterscotch pie every summer for the family reunion. She traveled through Europe, and then rolled around to all of the National Parks with my grandfather in their big blue van. She celebrated with two beers on her eightieth birthday and a big hunk of cake on her ninetieth. She smiled gracefully as she kissed my grandfather goodbye. Earlier this year I asked her if she was sad that she lost her breast as a young woman. She paused and then told me that she loves being my grandmother. She is not only living—she is alive.



Teresa Hace Tortillas | by Gerry Maravilla

The man Himself

by Zivad Khesbak

I have never met love in person but I have heard of him, and watched him in the cinema and sometimes on television, when I came home a little early, and my mind fumed with exhaust as I sat, and silence.

My friends say they know love In person Met him by chance And maintain it was no accident That they spotted him in the crowd When the crowd was chaos. And the chaos was all there was.

They say he is warm, and expresses good nature raised to want for nothing: An independent man—sufficient unto himself, and yet has been known (perhaps facet of his occupation) to find pleasure in the company of others.

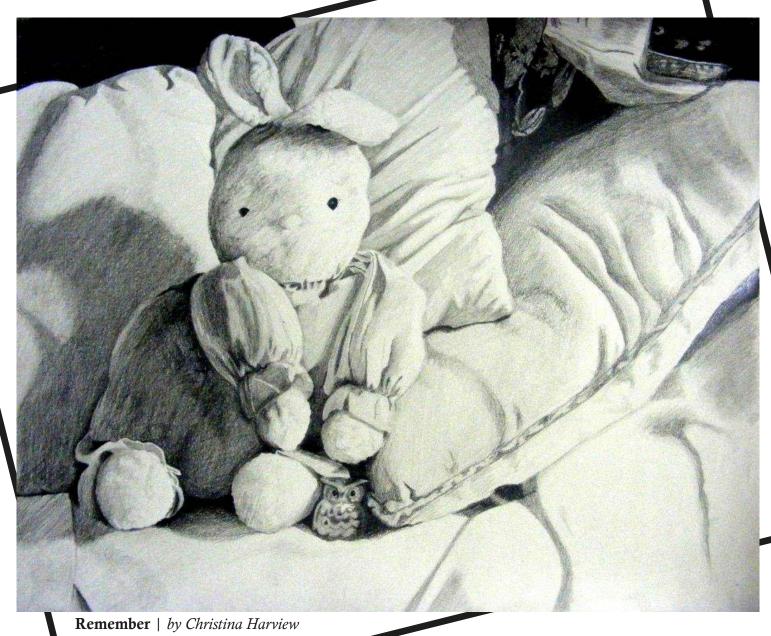
I have read about him, too, in books both ancient and obscene: the ageless one who charms with glances and falls away as easy.

The pages speak of his patience, his discipline, and his endurance Although I've heard that he may stop from time to time just to catch his breath.

Yet I have never met love only heard his rumors and seen his spirit reflected in the eyes of elegant curves.

But if I do, and meet his ardent gaze I will embrace him, and call him brother: for we are the same—the stuff of Aether. And of blood.





Healer

by Barry Baylen

Once more, at twilight, a healers ritual, vou shuffle on alone along the neon hall, doctors frock and shoulders bowed by clocks relentless sweep and tides of broken infants.

You pause, squinting, pressing horn-rimmed frames against distorted observation panes, then lean past faceless doors toward the temporary wombs of air and lines and tubes invading worried limbs as thin as wires.

Again, you falter before their wafer weight and transparent skin. You seem a stubborn willow weather worn, trunk bent, arms like tethered branches gathered round behind your back, unable to stall the strain.

Instinctively, you pace your bellows breath following hard and quick like theirs, encouraging spindle ribs that rise and fall and barely rise and fall again, exhaling only silent sighs and voiceless cries.

You return.

Passersby part startled from the path of your emerging owl eyed apparition; but not the children. These children know your prayers They hear your pleas to ease their plight and guide them safely through their night. They take your fragile hands.



Liking the Lichen | by Philip Bulterys





Together Through the Cold | by Stephanie Young

"I feel infinite."

A quote from one of my favorite books *The Perks of Being a Wallflower.*

Wouldn't that be an amazing feeling?

I'm reminded of how much I loved this book after watching the movie version today, which was quite cute even though Emma Watson struggled to hide her [gorgeous] English accent.

I love the notion of being a "wallflower," someone who sits back and observes and understands...an individual marginalized mostly by choice, who prefers the company of other shadows, who absorbs everything going on around them, internalizing the weight of each observation with such vigor, almost reflexively, to the point where pain becomes the central feeling, and everything

else is relative. I admire wallflowers because they know who they are. They choose when to be heard, when to be seen...it's like whatever actions they do or words they speak are that much more significant because that is the moment they have chosen to make themselves known. In that instance, they step away from the shadows.

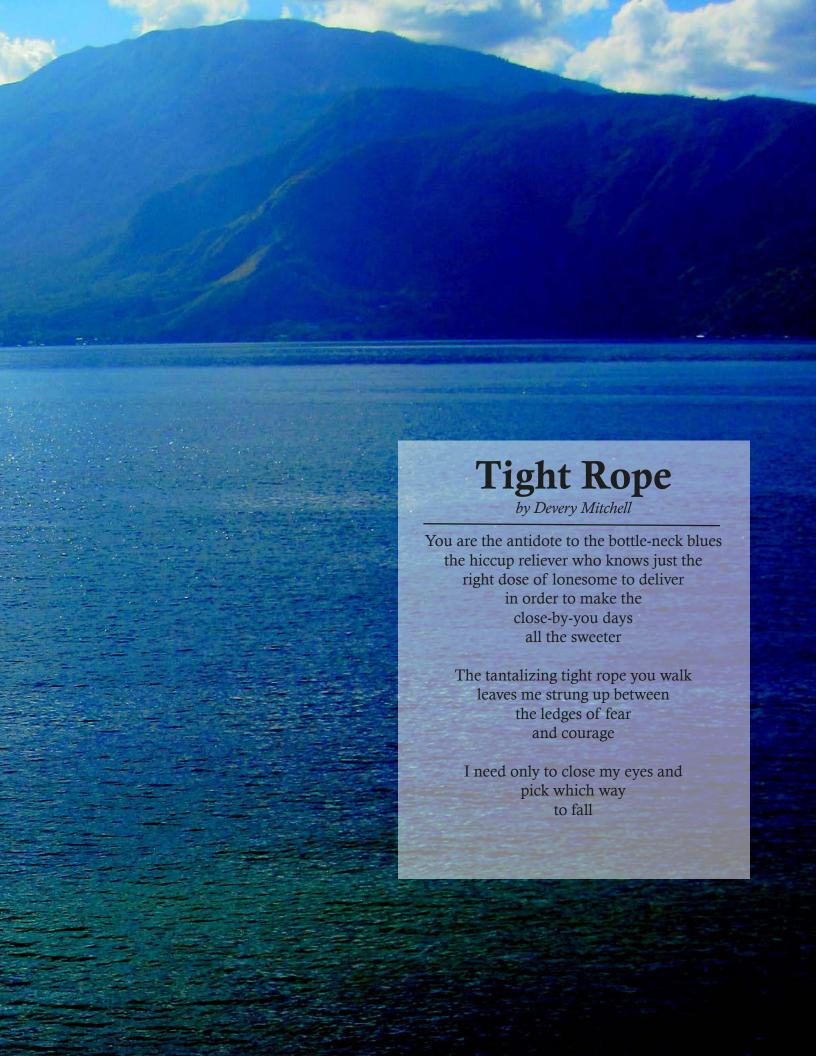
We accept the love we think we deserve. ??

How truer could this statement be. For the most part, I think we undervalue our self worth. Each of us deserves to be loved by another's full potential for love. More importantly, we deserve to love ourselves so much that it spilleth over. What have you done for yourself lately?

Truly Madly Deeply,

Roxanne Vasquez





Being Human

by Jennifer Ritch

He thought he remembered a time when he cared, felt connected to the rest of the world, but now, come to think of it, he may have just been imagining it.

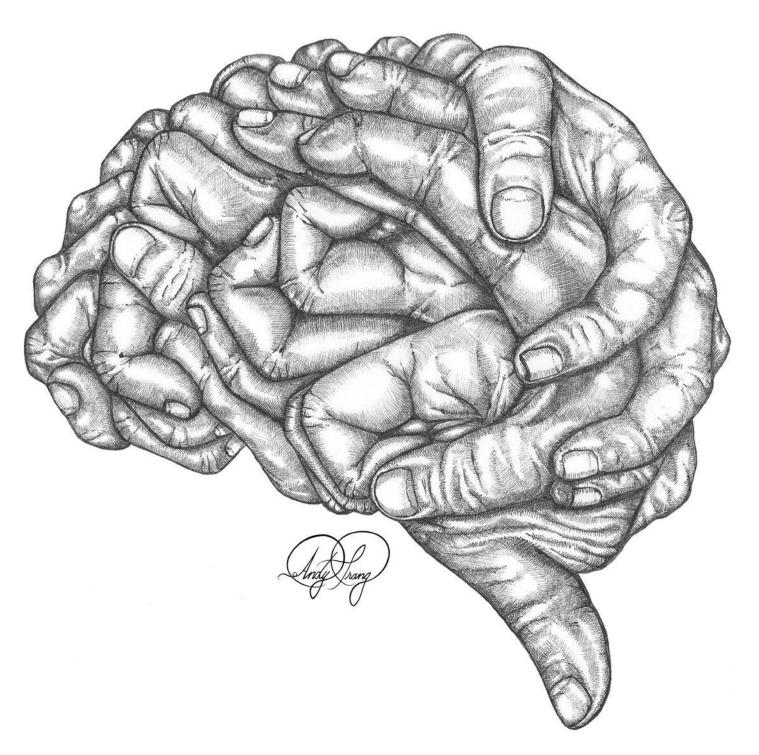
He couldn't remember the exact day he forgot whether or not he was human, but he was sure it must have been some time ago. Was he human when he was born? As an infant? A fetus? Was there even a heartbeat that he heard as he floated in the brine of his mother?

His humanness had become the only goal that remained in his life, the only thing that got him out of bed in the morning, kept his heart beating begrudgingly in his chest. It became the question that he asked of everything and of everyone. Is this what it means to be human? Feel human?

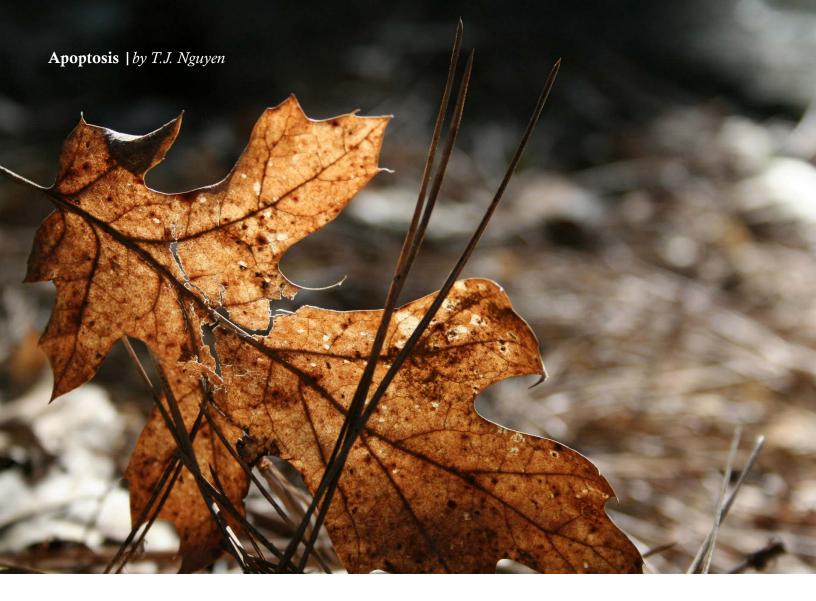
He saw it in other people, the look that they carried that proclaimed that they were a part of this human race. And he stood for hours in front of the mirror and dared his eyes to reveal whether or not he belonged, and if so, where, and to whom.

He existed in a sea of humanity, and yet remained oddly, infuriatingly untouched by it. And it seemed the harder he searched it out, the more illusive it became.

When it got especially bad, he forgot to talk, to respond to people when they spoke to him. He would stare at their lips as they moved and wonder to himself who they were talking to.



Digital Cortex | by Andy Trang and Isaac Yang





The glass elevator arrived almost as soon as I ▲ had pressed the button. A stinging blast of air warned its approach, and I hastily stepped away from the steel-barred gate. I've never heard of anyone falling into the shaft due to a gate malfunction, but the thought of splattering across the top of the rising elevator (and sending someone into a heart attack) was reason enough for me to take minor precautions.

After a brief moment of groaning resistance, the gate grudgingly clattered aside to reveal a blazing banner of afternoon sunlight. I took a deep breath, picked up my battered bag, and in three quick steps left behind eighty-odd months of my life like tattered autumn leaves.

There was only one other passenger, a teenager with black-rimmed glasses. All of the teenagers dressed the same way, in turquoise polo shirts and khaki slacks. He even sported a name badge, as if demanding that the world recognize him. It was unsettling how quickly fads could churn out clones.

"Where to?" he asked, fingers already poised at the panel.

"Straight to the top, please."

His fingers twitched like an electrocuted spider, and he laughed nervously. "You'll have to give me a real number."

"I did. I asked for the top floor."

"A number, please."

I shrugged, and set my bag against the wall opposite him. "3114."

He obligingly entered the floor number, and the elevator doors snapped together. No one could ever feel the elevator moving, but I imagined it gliding silently along the steel frame of a skyscraper, oiled by the butter-yellow sunlight. A frosted glass box, blindly bridging the world of endless floors.

Out of habit I turned my gaze to the panel of softly glowing numbers by the door. As a child, I tried to memorize all the numbers that I had seen, hoping to discover by elimination one that unlocked the secret of the top floor. I had kept my eyes fastened on the numbers for any clue or pattern, turning away only to peer at the floors that the elevator periodically revealed with a flourish of its doors. Nowadays I simply focused on the number panel to control my imagined motion sickness.

"Ma'am?" The word slipped from his lips like an awkward sigh, vanished into a fog of silence. I turned my head slightly towards him, but kept my eyes focused on the panel.

He tried again. "I'm guessing this isn't your first time, ma'am?"

"I've lost track," I replied. "The last floor I visited had a wild menagerie that frightened me back down to the ground."

"Well, you still got a lot of floors to choose from," he said carefully. "My mom works on the 7th floor, and the people seem nice there. Have you ever visited?"

"Maybe in the future," I said.

"No need to go looking for the top floor already."

I smiled politely. There was never a good reply to that kind of blunt assertion. The next few heartbeats passed in silence, as we carefully avoided one another's gaze. Finally, he succumbed to impatience. As they all did.

"What's so interesting about the top floor?"

he asked. "Even if you got past the guards, I'm guessing there would be nothing to see, nothing to do, nowhere to go except down."

"Is this your first trip?" I asked.

"No, this is my second."

"Well, maybe when you begin to lose count, you'll begin to see things differently. I'm not getting any younger," I pointed out. "I'm tired of moving.'

"Age doesn't matter," he countered. "My mom told me that young people, old people, mothers, fathers, even children have died looking for the top floor. It seems to me they all saw things kind of the same way, and things turned out equally bad for all of them."

"I'm old enough to remember time, back when it had meaning." I met his eyes fully, brown against black. "Before the rains of acid, these walls were clear, and you could see the sky. This was years ago—probably before you were born.

"You've noticed how there aren't any windows around here?" He nodded, and I smiled pityingly. "So strange, how we took them for granted. To simply lift our eyes from our desks, and behold a scene from a living painting—waves, clouds, sand, sky, and of course, the sunlight."

I placed my left hand against one wall. "Now, I can only remember the sun through this glass box. Always separated by four inches of sightless glass, and fading memory." He was looking at me with something akin to regret.

The muffled tone of a bell preceded the opening of the doors. "Thirty-first floor," a crisp, disembodied female voice announced. I looked out upon the familiar sea of billowing white coats, men and women milling around like captive seraphim.

"Home at last," I murmured.

He glanced at the band around my wrist. "Ms. Ohgi, do you know where to go from here?" he asked.

"Of course! I'm a real regular. If you hang around this glass box long enough, you'll meet all of us." He looked properly embarrassed. "Well, I hope you find the top floor someday."

"Thank you, dear. Give your mother my regards."

He was fast disappearing. First his arms, then his trunk, and now his face. Only the words "I will" slipped between the doors, and then he was gone.

Now by Devery Mitchell

If ever there was
a time you could love me –
caress me as waves
flatter the sand,
as the moon draws deep
heavy gulps of the sea,
as the sun embraces
with arms the length of
light years –

Let it be now,

in this moment
while my heart is breaking.
Disintegrating,
sandtrapping itself from the inside,
crying out in muted tones:
ONE and
TWO and
THREE and!

Let it be now,

because soon
there will be nothing left
but a pile of what once
was alive
and beating
for you.





 $\textbf{Self-Portrait of Marilyn} \mid \textit{by Roxanne Vasquez}$



An Unfinished Poem

by Clayton Vetter

There is nothing as ugly As an unfinished poem Sitting in front of you Messed and crocked, Begging for attention Like a bleeding patient Punctuation masking the pain, Missing the name or The point or The real thing.

> It laughs, Turing dreams to nightmares And aspirations to tearful Dribble. These blank, Spaces that will not go away Creeping past the stairway, Tiptoeing around my psyche Slipping to the basement A familiar enemy, That knows all secrets.

> > It's there. Keeping me awake at night, Interrupting my vacation, Tickling me while I shower. Pages blown away by a simple Beautiful breeze more profound then The syntax of earthly language Crying in the empty corners Waiting to be picked up like some Manipulative child.

> > > Until the page is filled, Each detail designed, And perfected like Hand painted porcelain birds, I will be haunted by Imperfect pages and Blank spaces to painful to Fully explain. So Unresolved that I drowned By my own anticipation.



Memories | by Dorwin Birt

Teenage Mutant Ninja by Dustin Harris

Much like a turtle That what makes her so special Is under her shell

You Tell Me

by Clayton Vetter

On the day I was writing this,
When I vowed to be less negative,
promising to celebrate the twists
and turns of life's joyful journey,
determined to smile more,
laugh more, to stop and smell
the roses and really,
really
count my blessings,

And
motivated by an internal sense
that despite any evidence to the contrary,
all things are perfectly and
reasonably connected,
A bird crapped squarely on my head.
What do I do with that?
Except wipe it away,
trudge forward,
and write about it.

And the Ship Sails On | by Viktor Sigalov



Waiting for X-rays

by Melvin Scheer

Now living in the neighborhood
where death is just down the block
small changes are noticed like never before
the changing colors of sunrise from day to day
and of the sky and water
and even smaller changes
like the color of urine.
an almost umber tone
provokes particular feeling.
does it mean that I
will greet my neighbor,
introduce my wife and daughter
to that dark household?

Or is this new shade of voiding
the ridiculous result
of trying to be fit in the waning years of my life
to nurse this planet by limiting my carbon footprint
and having thus
subjected my bottom
to energetic jostling
by a new bicycle seat?

So having submitted to the wisdom of the caste of death fighters now I sit waiting for my turn to lie on a sheeted table and absorb X-rays, energy almost as old as creation



Disney Concert Hall by Bruce Hirayama

B Horay sum



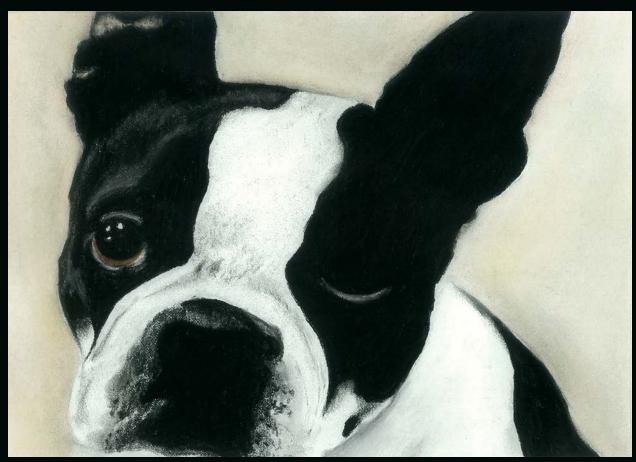
Fly by Christina Harview

Two doves claimed my window sill.

Tempting me with gentle song, they convinced me to come along. Jumping up with a graceful speed, I turned and saw a feathered tail. Spreading out my plumaged wings, into the sky I began to sail.

Startled by increasing height, I called out for the singing pair: help me, help me, help! I say.

No response, to my despair.
As I fell through choking air,
I thought I heard a single word:
fly, said they, in steady tone.
It was the last I ever heard.
Though I know not where I lie,
it's somewhere lovely, somewhere free
for soaring was my last memory.



Edna | by Alison Holbrook

The Black Lab Said, "Moo"

by Kathy Carlin

"Outrageous! Outlandish!
This simply won't do
On our perfect farm
A dog who says, 'Moo.'"

Mrs. Gallingsworth¹ ranted,
"I am highly offended
Only cows moo
That's how it's intended

"A horse may not moo Not a chicken nor duck Although they may whistle For the frosty cream truck

"All our social advancement Will wash down the drain Since this silly black lab's Gone completely insane "And just as the livestock's
Math was improving
Well, except for the sheep
Who would rather be
grooving

"Our Finishing School
Has done more than
expected
Ever since I
First was elected

"As President of Our Society Group And now we're ahead Of the Apple Farm Troupe

"Our Coming Out Ball Had the whole farm atwitter In their gowns and tiaras The yearlings were aglitter

"Our glee club excels Their concerts sell out Our fine Actors' Guild Is the best beyond doubt

"The ballerinas swirling
In tutus and tights
Danced to perfection
In Late Autumn's Nights
"Now a ridiculous lab
Just begins mooing
Imagine what's next?
Will pigs begin cooing?

"Laughingstocks, jesters That's what we'll become All of our progress – Completely undone

"Our neighbors will gloat At our horrible fate I'm sure they are howling And hardly can wait

"For the next county fair

When the mayor will decide
The most refined farm
In the whole countryside

"I'll deal with this matter 'Now, Blackie, see here You will stop this mooing Right now, won't you,

Dear?'

The lab looked bewildered And laid down on the floor And he simply said, "Moo" Not a single word more

"Okay, Mr. Smarty. You won't get the last moo When I tell Farmer Wilson We'll see what you do"

Off Mrs. G. pranced To the kind farmer's study As if she were a man And he were her buddy

His assistant took off Thinking I'm not involved Hoping the matter Would be quickly resolved

The farmer quietly said
"How may I help you?"
"You must tell that lab
That he simply can't moo"
So the lab being
summoned
Lumbered happily in
Jumping up on the farmer
Licking his chin

"Speak, Blackie, speak"
Coached the loving master
"Moo," replied Blackie
It was a disaster

"Come on, Blackie, bark Let's hear a 'woof,' Boy" "Moo," mooed the lab Not to anyone's joy

"Mrs. G., I agree
That something seems
strange
The vet better check him
He's just out in the grange"

Dr. Dogsworth seemed stumped,
"Let me see, open up Make room for my scope Now that's a good pup

"This pup's vocal cords
Are in need of some
snipping
But once I am finished
This lab will be yipping"
The surgery took hours
And it was well after dark
When Blackie woke up
And barked his first bark

Mrs. G. was ecstatic No longer aggrieved And with this lady happy Everyone was relieved

Until Mrs. G. shouted After spotting the sties, "Now, clean up those pens Or we'll lose the first prize!"

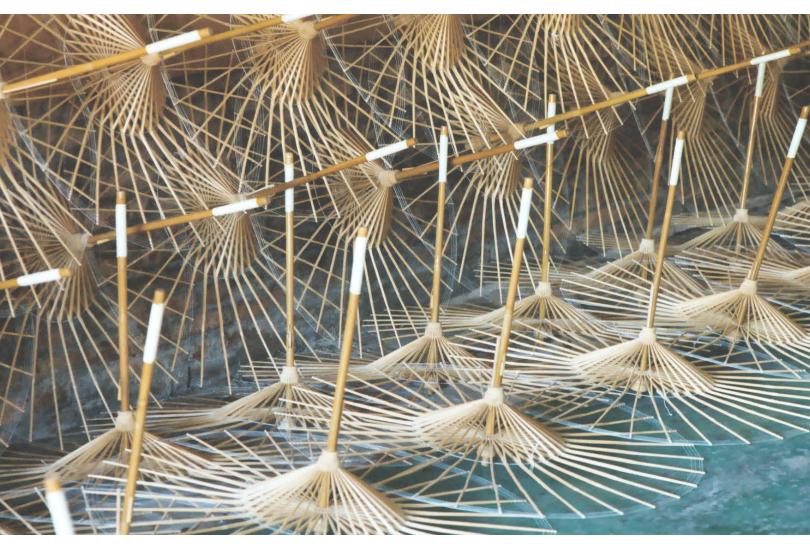
¹ Mrs. Gallingsworth is a cow.



Bull Moose | by Adrian Garcia



Elephant Portrait | by Ryan Schmidt



Taiwan | by Elizabeth O'Gara

How to Tell Time

by Jill Narciso

It's a simple question, really. Once asked, we glance at our wrists, stare at that spot on the wall, or push that little button on the smart phone we can no longer live without. We tell the stranger a series of numbers that really mean nothing at all. And to them, maybe it means how high or how low the sun is in the sky.

But time is not as simple as that.

If you asked me about the first time I kissed anyone, I wouldn't tell you three o'clock in the afternoon. I would tell you how loud my heart pounded. I would tell you I was barely breathing. I would tell you I really didn't know how long it was because I'd rehearsed the scene over and over in my head for weeks.

And if you were my friend sitting in front of me on the bus, you would tell me it was really only a few seconds or so – that my technique was all wrong. And I would call you a liar because no, this person did not just do the exact same thing with Susie behind the swings. This person was my one true love, the person I would grow old and gray with, and if you didn't like it, well, it was time for you to go to hell.

Then fast forward past those awkward freshman days in high school where everyone shoved past you in the hallway because you were invisible. Keep skipping past that really short haircut you got your sophomore year where you wanted to "be different" but everyone thought you were diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

Let's go back to college, yes. The time when you got your face pierced because you didn't have a job with benefits yet. The time when experiments with sex and drugs were studied more than the experiments you wrote down in a lab notebook. The time when you could still hold your liquor like a champ. The time when, wait a second, what happened that night again? The time when yes, oh, yes, that was a good, no, that was a great time.

But then you open your eyes and it's Monday morning. The sun isn't up yet because it's still an ungodly hour. You have so much to do. So many emails to answer. You glance at your alarm clock. It flashes back more meaningless numbers. It tells you nothing. You get up. You hear your back crick. You hear your knees pop. It tells you everything. You shake your head. Where did the time go?

And then fast forward some more and you realize that hold on a minute, you don't even have the remote anymore. Who's fast-forwarding? Who's doing this? Time to stop! Time to rewind! You'd rather have pimples than wrinkles! You take back all the jokes when you called people dinosaurs because they were in their 30s. You would give anything to be back in your 30s. You'd even compromise and say to no one in particular that okay, you wouldn't mind your 40s again either.

And then fate plays that cruel, cruel joke and grants your wish. Nothing moves fast anymore. Your body setting is stuck in slow motion. Everyone is moving faster than you. You think even your own grandmother moved faster than you. You annoy the 20-something behind you who can't get around fast enough on the stairs. But you smile and shake your head because you know you're moving as fast as you can, which is equivalent to the speed of molasses. Then you frown because you remember the doctor will no longer let you have molasses.

And then, just a few days later it seems, you end up on that bed. Your family surrounds you. You hear them sob and confess dark secrets you don't really care about. You wish you can do more than piss on yourself and you scream at your brain to move your arms or your tongue so you can tell them you love them no matter what and that everything will be okay. But you don't move. You can't. You think back on your 80-plus years of existence. You would do it all again because it really only took a moment. How do you tell time? You don't. And then in that same moment, you slip away.





Kep Sailing Club | by Ben Kelley

An End's Call

by Mario Eason

The weight of it all wears on me Like a coat of metal Nothing so precious Or worth owning Nothing of value Or worth selling

My spine is curved Like a wave that won't crash Bent by the swell of the sea A misery that's drowned what hope treads

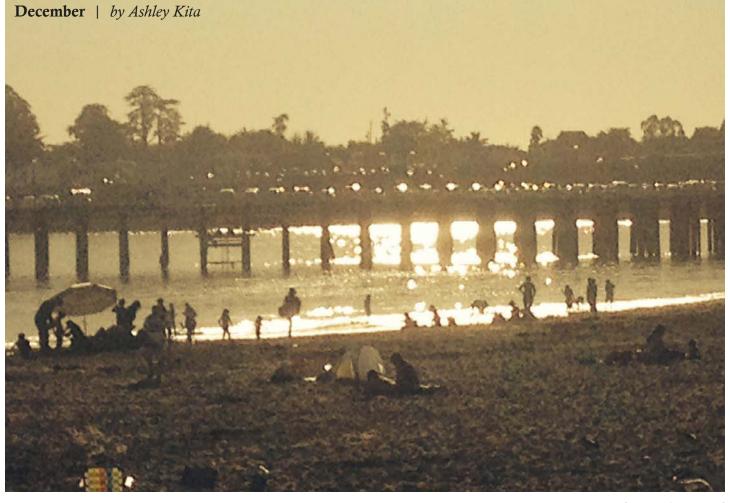
Rolling back into myself Diving below the surface Through the swells The distended darkness dense Crushing sound and light I'm silenced remorsefully

I am devoured, awash with salt Feed for fiends and greed Fodder for feeble shipwrecks watching me drown It's too late Now is too late, unrecoverable and broken I'm too late I can't recover The light has left me, pinched to the top I'm panicked Unable to break free I'm panicked Unable to rise to the surface I can't breathe Sinking faster and faster still

Sinking to the bottom

Sunk...in panic

This is death – an end A death I wanted, an end to a means Means of loathing gluttonously, tried and trusted cruelty Meager ambitions spurned of meager intentions An end nonetheless To a hiccup in this time An end to panicked devotions An end nonetheless An end in death at last Nothing more, little less



Biographies

LITERATURE

Barry G. Baylen "Healer"

Barry G. Baylen is a distinguished UCLA medical school faculty member who is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Pediatric Cardiology at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He has been recognized internationally for his research and accomplishments in the fields of neonatology and pediatric cardiology. He has served at the Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, Department of Pediatrics, for nearly 25 years where his appoinments included director of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Chief of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology. He has been a researcher, author and contributor of numerous original publications and has been a member of the Society of Pediatric Research and American Pediatric Society. Retired, Dr. Baylen's interests include his family, travel, literature and continued teaching and development of "virtual" pediatric problem-based learning programs.

Christina Harview "Honey Making" and "Fly"

Christina Harview, who is currently working as a research associate in the Department of Medicine at UCLA, believes that medicine hovers elegantly at the intersection of art and science. As an artist, Christina attempts to capture her understanding of the world in writing, drawings, and photography. As a scientist, she works to uncover and describe the beautiful and mysterious patterns of nature.

Clayton Vetter "An Unfinished Poem" and "You Tell Me"

Clayton Vetter is a Training Specialist at BRITE where he supports the ongoing design, development and facilitation of training classes for the UCLA Health System. Clayton also enjoys television writing and served as a researcher and consultant for three seasons of HBO's BIG LOVE.

Devery Mitchell "Tight Rope" and "Now"

Devery Mitchell is a second-year medical student at DGSOM. Originally from Napa, California, she later moved to Southern California to study creative writing, chemistry, and biology at the University of Redlands. Her interest in poetry began in her teens and continues to permeate her academic life, acting as a creative ballast during the arduous blocks of medical curriculum.

Dustin Harris "Love and the Parking Space" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja" and "Cheese Head"

Dustin Harris is a mild-mannered medical student. He hopes one day to be bitten by a radioactive animal and gain superhuman powers. If you have such an animal, please feel free to contact him.

Emiley Chang "Ascent"

Emiley Chang is an advanced fellow in the Division of Geriatrics, with a focus on community partnered research and primary stroke prevention. "Ascent" was written in 2006 as part of a creative writing elective during medical school. She is seriously contemplating whether to anthropomorphize two betta fish for her next story.

Erin Merz "Helen"

Erin L. Merz, M.A., M.P.H., is a clinical psychology intern at UCLA and a Ph.D. candidate at San Diego State University and University of California, San Diego, where her research program focuses on quality of life in the context of medical illness. She has enjoyed writing since she authored her first story, which was about a deer, when she was four years old. Because she could not yet write sentences, her grandmother did the transcription.

Fanta Bayoh "Years Later"

Fanta Bayoh is a recent graduate of UCLA and began working for the UCLA Health System in July 2013. In her free time, she reads, writes, and volunteers for AIDS Project Los Angeles. Fanta hopes to return to school in the very near future to pursue a degree in Nursing.

Jennifer Ritch "Being Human"

Jennifer Ritch works behind a desk in a large brick building. She doesn't know where some of her writing comes from but tries to be gracious and welcome it nonetheless. She occasionally has to let the demons out like restless dogs scratching at the door.

Jill Narciso "How to Tell Time"

Jill Narciso is a senior administrative analyst who spends her weekdays assisting her boss with administrative tasks, grant preparation and mental health preservation. During her free moments, she reads, writes, eats, and dreams heavily. Every day, she is amazed at how quickly time flies.

Kathy Carlin "The Black Lab Said 'Moo"

Kathy Carlin has been a UCLA employee for 9 years, and she is currently working in the MITS CareConnect Group as the Application Manager for the Professional Billing Team.

Mario Eason "An End's Call"

Mario Eason is an AAII with Brentwood CPN. He writes poetry for clarity and sanity while blissfully living with Granchie.

Melvin Scheer "Waiting for X-Rays"

Melvin Scheer practices Medicine/Infectious Diseases in Santa Monica. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Medicine at UCLA. Raised and trained in New York and Los Angeles, he came to Los Angeles in 1970 and has lived in Venice since.

Paula Stoessel "Song of Longing"

Paula Stoessel is a clinical psychologist at UCLA and directs the UCLA David Geffen Mental Health Services for Physicians-in-Training and the Department of Psychiatry Interpersonal Psychotherapy Clinic. She loves the Lakers, swimming, writing and, especially, The BEAT.

Reggie Grisham "Unique"

Reggie Grisham is a per-diem access rep at the UCLA Ronald Regan admissions office. Reggie, as a trumpeter and producer, just finished The Who's 2012-2013 Quadrophenia tour in North America and Europe. Mr. Grisham also completed a master's degree in music with an emphasis in education and music industry in 2011.

Roxanne Vasquez "Journal Entry #---"

Those moments of feeling so exposed and confused and unsure, yet firmly and vividly engrossed

in chaos and beauty, can "err" on the side of pathologic dissociation to some. She finds it rather compelling...and foxy.

Ziyad Khesbak "The Man Himself"

Ziyad Khesbak is an MS4 with aspirations to Emergency Medicine. His poetry was written to fill the space of meaning between the man and his ostentatious world. Tragically, the man remains baffled and the world carries on.

Rapunzel's Tower by Renee Thomas



ART

Abraar Karan "Golden Temple Sahib"

Abraar Karan is a second-year medical student at DGSOM. He enjoys photography, following in the footsteps of his grandfather who ran a photography business in India.

Adia Scrubb "Woman" and "La Familia"

Adia Scrubb is a second-year medical student from Oakland, California. She began drawing at a very young age and later switched to painting.

Adrian Garcia "Cooper's Hawk" and "Bull Moose"

Adrian Garcia has enjoyed photography since age five, focusing on colorful landscapes and wildlife. He also enjoys salsa dancing and playing the flute.

Alison Holbrook "Edna"

Alison Holbrook is a second-year Ph.D. student specializing in autism intervention research. "Edna" is her first drawing in ten years. Edna is a strange little Boston Terrier that loves walking, chewing on blankets and tilting her head for attention.

Amit Oberai "A Tree Like Him"

Amit Oberai is a postdoc in endocrinology doing research on epigenetic inheritance of methylation markers in the context of diabetes and metabolic disorders. "A Tree Like Him" is a portrait of his father and a tree that to him represents his characteristics.

Andy Trang & Isaac Yang "Digital Cortex" and "Vestibular System"

Andy Trang is a researcher in the Department of Neurosurgery at UCLA. He is passionate about studying many elements and styles of art including portraiture, architecture, technical illustrations, and abstract surrealism. His pieces are predominantly in the medium of pen and ink where he practices the technique known as cross-hatching to render a multitude of textures, tones, and lighting effects through the precise placement of a myriad of lines. Dr. Isaac Yang is an attending neurosurgeon at UCLA.

Ashley Kita "December"

Ashley Kita is an MS3 who loves bubbles at sunset and running around frantically trying to save them before they meet their untimely death upon any non-soapy surface. She loves concerts and cacophony and the echoes of valleys and the stillness of the pre-sunrise hours, but most of all she loves the ocean for its textured beaches, cliffs of yellow flowers, eroded caves, seashells, waves, and ability to make anything other than that exact moment and its associated happiness trivial.

Ben Kelley "Kep Sailing Club"

Ben Kelley enjoys traveling and views photography as an extension of that interest — both in the ability to transport others to places he has been and in the ability to recreate visions he has already seen.

Brian Fung "Sunny Pursuits"

Brian Fung is a first-year medical student at UCLA who has been fascinated with photography since a young age. He specializes in portrait, lifestyle, and event photography and will never turn down an opportunity to take photos of the world around him. For him, photography is all about telling a story and conveying emotion.

Brittni Johnson "Monastery"

Brittni Johnson is an avid traveler who also loves photography. She has been lucky enough to travel to some of the most fascinating countries and with that, has captured several beautiful moments in time.

Bruce Hirayama "Disney Concert Hall"

Bruce Hirayama is a scientist in the Department of Physiology and enjoys both research and photography as creative endeavors.

Christina Harview "Remember"

Christina Harview, who is currently working as a research associate in the Department of Medicine at UCLA, believes that medicine hovers elegantly at the intersection of art and science. As an artist, Christina attempts to capture her understanding of the world in writing, drawings, and photography. As a scientist, she works to uncover and describe the beautiful and mysterious patterns of nature.

Dieter Enzmann "Water Touch"

Dieter Enzmann has been taking photographs for over 50 years using range finder cameras, 35mm SLRs, and now digital cameras spanning landscapes, cityscapes, abstract and people subjects. During his radiology residency, he had a photographic exhibition in the "Modern Photography" gallery in New York City. This photograph was taken at the entrance of the National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne, Australia, of a child fascinated by an apparently dry wall of water.

Dorwin Birt "On the Bank of the LA River" and "Memories"

Dorwin Birt is a computing support coordinator in the UCLA Intellectual Development and Disabilities Research Center. He has been at UCLA for 31 years.

Eileen Garcia "Pointilism"

Eileen P. Garcia is a life artist working to inspire self-healing through artistic expression. During the day, Eileen works as an HIV prevention advocate, empowering each individual to make healthier choices for themselves. When she's not at work, Eileen is an art therapy student, teaching individuals how to self-heal through art.

Elizabeth O'Gara "Taiwan"

Elizabeth O'Gara (Liz) brings her varied background as an actor/director/writer and a secondary-school teacher to her role as the Director of the Standardized Patient Program at the David Geffen School of Medicine. She loves travel and photography but even more so, her dog, Molly, and her 2 cats, Coco and Jet. She had a photo published in the very first issue of "The BEAT" and is thrilled to be accepted again.

Gerry Maravilla "Teresa Hace Tortillas"

Gerry Maravilla is a Mexican-American independent filmmaker and photographer. His work focuses on individuals outside of the mainstream American and pop-culture experience. More of his photos, as well as his video work, can be found in his website: gerrymaravilla.com.

Leonard Walts "American Gothic"

Leonard Walts was a member of the anesthesiology faculty from 1962 until 2002. Upon retirement as emeritus professor, Dr. Walts returned to a longtime hobby of photography. Much of his work is created with the aid of a computer. He belongs to an amateur group, the Los Angeles Photography Project (LAPP) that meets monthly to review and critique their photos. They also have periodic shows at various venues in the area.

Neil Parker "China Lake"

When Dr. Parker is not administrating, teaching, or seeing patients, he likes to see the world through the lens of his Nikon. Landscapes, nature, and underwater scenes most catch his eye. The old master prefers camera to print without photoshop.

Philip Bulterys "Curious Lizard" and "Liking the Lichen"

Philip Bulterys is a fourth-year MD/Ph.D. student interested in global health and emerging pathogens. He grew up in Rwanda and went to high school in Zambia. Photography has been a way for him to tell stories and appreciate the immensity of nature.

Phong Huynh "Winter Song"

Phong Huynh enjoys eating, traveling, listening to music, coffee shops, and spending time with those he loves. This piece is called "Winter Song." Even in the midst of a winter storm, love is always alive.

Roxanne Vasquez "Self-Portrait of Marilyn"

Those moments of feeling so exposed and confused and unsure, yet firmly and vividly engrossed in chaos and beauty, can "err" on the side of pathologic dissociation to some. She finds it rather compelling...and foxy.

Ryan Schmidt "Elephant Portrait"

Ryan Schmidt is a fourth-year medical student and member of the Medical Scientist Training Program. "Elephant Portrait" was taken during a trip to Thailand in 2011.

Sara Ranjbarvaziri "Heart Cells"

Sara Ranjbarvaziri works in the cardiology department and was recently accepted to the MCIP Ph.D. program at UCLA. Sara is interested in the origin of cardiac fibroblasts during normal heart development and injury. When not in the lab, Sara likes to hike, paint, and spend time in nature.

Stephanie Young "Together Through the Cold"

This photograph was taken while on a four-day hike to Machu Picchu in the summer of 2011. The artist summitted over 15,000 feet above sea-level through hail, sleet, and fierce winds while capturing this photo. The horses traveled alongside the campers and carried the tent equipment, always huddled together through the bitter cold.

T.J. Nguyen "Apoptosis"

T.J. Nguyen is a first-year medical student who enjoys cultivating her interest in creative arts through painting, photography, and graphic design. She draws inspiration for her art from being in the great outdoors.

Tyler Kern "Lone Wolf" and "The Stare Down" Tyler Kern is a third-year medical student who enjoys nature and wildlife photography.

Tyler Larsen "Glacial Speeds"

Tyler Larsen is a third-year medical student. He occasionally takes photographs.

Viktor Sigalov "And the Ship Sails On"

Viktor Sigalov works in the Department of Radiology. In addition to photography, he likes traveling, teaching, and reading.

Virginia Tancioco "Hiatus"

Before choosing to study medicine Virginia spent years working and traveling abroad. To appease the travel bug that lives inside her, she gets out of the country whenever medical school will allow. During winter break this year, she was able to spend a week in El Salvador and a few days relaxing on Lago Coatepeque, where "Hiatus" was taken.

Zhuang-Ting Fang "Maori's Rocks, New Zealand"

Zhuang-Ting Fang is an Associate Clinical Professor and faculty anesthesiologist at the UCLA School of Medicine and is passionate about the art of photography. The round rocks in the photograph have been standing on the beach of New Zealand for many years. It was a very cold day in May 2013 with heavy rain and strong winds.



Winter Song | by Phong Huynh



Vestibular System & Cochlea, The Snail & Pretzel in Your Head by Andy Trang and Isaac Yang