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# EPIGRAPH <br> Magazine 

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# Chap Goh Meh, Fifteenth Day Kendra L. Tanacea 

I am at the edge of the Pacific.
Hello.
I'm calling you, not by phone, but relying on older methods.
Nudging this pulsing universe.
Here I am, kneeling
next to this ring drawn in sand,
knuckling down my shooter, this aggie, aimed at clustered marbles.
Whole worlds with cloudy atmospheres.
I close one eye, shoot.
They ricochet outside this known circle.
Here are my words.
Written on the skin of an orange.
I hold it in my palm as if I have you, the entire world, in one hand.
If my arm is strong, my aim good, it will reach you.
In the slush of February or the thaws of April.
Pay attention, because these days, supernatural signs are few. And both our hearts were beating fast.
You heard it too!
A disturbance in the electron's orbit.
Atoms splitting, creating energy. All neutrons and light.
They strike other atoms, splitting them, and so on...
Beautiful, terrifying fireball!
Rack 'em for the break!
Pool balls, striped and solid.
I strike low and with English.
The full spectrum spins in all directions.
Heavy orange!
I throw overhand.
Snap my wrist for speed and distance.
The moon is full.
I have the strength, the power to reach it.
Orange comet, brilliant tail.
So bright and out of place in the winter sky.
You'll gasp if only you'd look up. Look up!
And if I told that mountain to walk into the sea,
it would.

## Us

## Kendra L. Tanacea

You're a room with an unassuming deck.
I'm a palm tree filled with raccoons.
Let's keep the living room spare.
Not going for the usual sitting options.
Avant-garde, Taoism, and Tantra.
Let's get loud and zany!
Can we be wholesome and let go?
Get down with our bad selves!
This is a temple.
Healer and exorcist.
Here, you can walk out dressed dumb.
Nobody cares.

## WNUR 3 freeform 9/19/16

## R. Bremner

The Canadian word burglar hallucinated a red tribe of retribution for the fool who was quite like you and took good advice at the party. Your type of emotion defected from the black mountain, and its white lung hungered for flesh in paradise without the blood of art angels. Oh no, it means I love you when U.S. girls with window shades are $99 \%$ holy and Moses is half free to leave me alone. Don't be afraid to get your number from the balcony and pay Evelyn to not go to the white shadows with postdoc blues and eat winter wheat. I'll be there in Tokyo when blue is not the word at my house, where the koala's kid has carpal tunnel syndrome.

## KCRW Streaming 09/20/16

## R. Bremner

Alaska went downtown in a velvet ring to let it grow, but had to save tonight for the cool because there was nowhere to run. There was no way to be both lost and Latin, so the June bug with selfcontrol turned guns inside out when the day sounded light upon the lake. Vestiges of Vienna just wanted to see the future, so they got together with two bears in the Alps and went orange into the valley. They were not cruel while cracking up but a blue sky gave electric light back to music so that life could close its eyes and exit. The schoolboy was wrong and clean. The clean girl played cool dominos with a housecat and an orchestra.

## WNUR freeform 9/21/16

## R. Bremner

Wearing a poncho, the black hole was stuck in a room with paradise and the Grand Canyon. The sun blossomed into a garden which tried to be its own pet until adolescent fruit bats brought their kids to a shrine for the king. Dr. Dog, a monumental criminal, experienced total body erasure in the desert when it was driving alone past roadwork at night. An angel gave up her woman at Sears Roebuck to a young man who had free cake for every creature and for all princes too. During his first summer in a city, he talked quietly of anything with you, including a reason to believe in 1966. At Hamilton Square, the passenger's great grandpa who was mostly here took a can opener to wide, lovely eyes and pushed the sky away. Have mercy because if it's Monday morning, Earth will turn into ether and there'll be consumer complaints no matter where we go, even if Mommy's long legs are feeling fine and her life is ripped.

## Sincere

## AJ Caldeira

as I ask you<br>if you're hiding behind the deep red of a matador's cloak you say nuh uh and hide behind<br>the deep red<br>of someone's cloak<br>and hide a blade<br>and the crowd explodes<br>and I ask what you have done<br>and you hide his falling eyes<br>and smile

## Untitled <br> Texas Fontanella



## Untitled

Texas Fontanella


## Untitled

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Health Food Stores
Go Vita -Marrickville
Nourish Health Foods teich hart
Healthlards $\qquad$
Summer Hililorg. Fruit maket
Real tood comection clanperson
Ubect,
Ur ernen Market? Marrich
Har mony whotefods
Cruelty Frie shop Glebe
TKU wholefood
saurce bultefrods
DR. Earth Neutown)

## Company <br> Martha McCollough

the river boils
\& pops with silver
bodies flooded out of ponds
picked up and dropped by birds
slowly working north
keeping low profiles
in cool weedshadow
until trigger-noise flings
them into alien air
pleased to meet you america
america why u
no like me
meanwhile
in the old meadow
a monster has begun to grow
time to put on the hazmat suit
You have to get it
before it gets you
queen ann's lace from jupiter
our caucasian guest weed
waving fatal umbrels overhead
\& here come
fireweed and garlic mustard
The yellow starthistle closely attended by the yellow starthistle weevil
everything living
wants to keep
living, right?
a little dust-colored snake
wriggles in the dust
successful adaptation
like yours:
slipping from pond of things
to river of words
no net
fine enough
for you
from above one can see
the burning town's surrounded by endless forest
soldiers have followed a silver thread the smell of a handful of smoke
it's snowing
on the other hand it's light

# Not Working <br> Martha McCollough 

work is our<br>punishment<br>and because I<br>am not sorry<br>I mean to do as little<br>as possible<br>eye adrift<br>like Redon's<br>ominous balloon<br>looking at nothing or the wall with great intensity<br>I want to see<br>what the cat sees<br>insect ghosts or jittering molecules<br>or between dust motes<br>into some elsewhere<br>that might be heaven though<br>no one here<br>cares to find out

# Buddha's Tooth <br> Martha McCollough 

In sleep a witch<br>hands me a box of powder<br>labeled Against Monstrosity.<br>I say, for me?<br>and wake up<br>at 4:15<br>a mockingbird also wakes<br>to put in an hour's hard mocking<br>I too will soon form<br>highly effective habits

for instance right now I'm typing as fast as I can
this bird's repertoire
is not large
neither one of us knows
what should come next
bulldozers
digging up the shabby woods
at the end of the street
a far off train a faint
almost imaginary rooster
beyond the reach
of municipal ordinance
there's no mirror over the sink only
a post-it that says you look fine
how can I tell if it's safe
to leave the house
today's talisman-choose from:

1. vulture's pinfeather
2. lucky coin
3. buddha's tooth
morning shambles
toward a new condition
boiled down to remedies for migraine and possessionwhere virtue gets you-ask
a medieval scavenger
this box I was given
is it for me
or my neighbor

## what is alive though Philip Elliott

hard to breathe / havent slept at night since the old days
falling and rising with the spin of this forever circle / what is alive haunting this apartment at night / the past a face peering in the window
stop watching me long for you / vanishing at the tips of outstretched fingers
i know theres air in here i just cant seem to get it / how will i know when i get to nowhere
been dealing with this kind of shit for years /
what is alive though / it was only a matter of time / you
try
to
make
it work
it
doesnt
work
it
never
works sometimes
though
almost
you
try
to
make
it
work
it
doesnt
work
it
never
works
sometimes
though
almost
you
try
to
make
it
work

## DシRンEプAソMンIズN波G Sebastian Mejia

dense moyamoya
amongst double－blind taste tests
a sedan sauna
that envelops
the colors of yellow
diamonds catching the sun
and a $102^{\circ}$ fever
just as
a fly buzzes by
causing his eyes to edge open and his afternoon
sleep to shed
slowly，like
his hair had
so long
ago
I am not dead yet，my
little friend．Be patient．My time will come．

## Next Step

 Bob CarltonThere is no fit place
to feel
>>>this way>>>

## This

## Bob Carlton

none taken
nor given
notice

## Strong Wind Advisory Mureall Hebert

| A tornado tore | apart |
| :--- | :--- |
| the signposts |  |
| so I |  |
| not knowing <br> which <br> to grieve | wandered |

## Contributors

KENDRA L. TANACEA, attorney, holds an MFA in writing and literature from Bennington College. Her collection of poetry, A Filament Burns in Blue Degrees, was a semifinalist for the Washington Prize and a finalist for the Idaho Prize for Poetry, and will be published by Lost Horse Press in early 2017. Kendra's poems have appeared in 5AM, Rattle, Pearl, and Pebble Lake Review, among others. She has studied with Kazim Ali, Henri Cole, Amy Gerstler, Robert Hass, Juan Felipe Herrera, Ed Ochester, and Sharon Olds. Kendra attended the June 2016 Squaw Valley Community of Writers Poetry Workshop and the Bay Area writing workshops with Kim Addonizio. kendratanacea.com.
R. BREMNER has a long history of publication (International Poetry Review, Poets Online, Quarterday, etc.) of various styles including formal, Beat, and surrealism. He now has ascended into Absurdism, the only poetry that makes sense to him in an absurd world.

AJ CALDEIRA is a student of philosophy, religion, physics, and poetry.

TEXAS FONTANELLA has been publishing poetry for over two years. Their work has appeared various places. More and more they work through the mail. Find them on Facebook to collaborate.

MARTHA MCCOLLOUGH is a writer and video artist living in Chelsea, Massachusetts. Her poems have appeared in The Baffler, Cream City Review, and Salamander, among others. Her videopoems have appeared in Triquarterly, Datableed, and Atticus Review.

PHILIP ELLIOTT is Irish, 23 years old and Editor-in-Chief of Into the Void Magazine. His writing can be found in various journals, most recently Otoliths, GFT Press, Strands, and Subprimal Poetry Art. Stalk him at philipelliottfiction.com.

SEBASTIAN MEJIA was born and raised in Dallas, Texas by two very Colombian parents. He recently graduated from the University of Texas at Dallas with a degree in Neuroscience and will be attending the Texas A\&M University College of Dentistry in the Fall of 2017.

BOB CARLTON lives and works in Leander, TX. bobcarlton3.weebly.com

MUREALL HEBERT is a writer and editor near Seattle, Washington. Her work has appeared in The Blotter, Yellow Chair Review, decomP, and Bartleby Snopes, among others. She holds an MFA from the Northwest Institute of Literary Arts. You can find her online at mureallhebert.com and @mureallhebert

Epigraph Magazine publishes three times per year. We love experimental poetry. We love poems that make us question what poems are. We love the internet. We love immediacy. We love distance. Guidelines for submissions can be found at epigraphmagazine.com.

Send us your poems.

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