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fostering the literary arts since 1999

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Epistle, Osprey
Poems by Geri Doran
In her third collection, Geri Doran continues to seek a quieter poem in a more natural form. Against the immediacy of troubled times, these poems retain a belief that long thought, solitude, restraint, and immersion in the world given to us (not made by us) are a means of passionate, even radical, devotion. And yet—what happens when a poet begins to doubt her singular reliance on poetry? When the only way to speak is in a language poised to evanesce? Modal, flexible, sonorous—the lines and tones of these meditative lyrics trace one route back.

Geri Doran was born in western Montana and now lives in Oregon. She is the author of two poetry collections, Sanderlings and Resin. She teaches in the Creative Writing Program at the University of Oregon.

boysgirls
Stories by Katie Farris
A host of characters emerge from a madwoman’s dreams, populating a world as strange and magnificent as a painting by Hieronymous Bosch. A boy with one wing seeks the secret to flight. A girl with a mirror for a face, adored by all, longs to simply eat. A pregnant girl reflects on the effects of metamorphoses. The stories of boysgirls are modern myths: tales that exist within our present time but also outside it, in a place as eternal as Atlantis or Middle Earth.

In addition to the hybrid-form text boysgirls (first published 2011 by Marick Press), Katie Farris is author of the chapbooks Thirteen Intimacies (Fivehundred Places, 2017), and Mother Superior in Hell (Dancing Girl, 2019). Most recently she is winner of the 2018 Anne Halley Poetry Prize from the Massachusetts Review, and the 2017 Orion Anthology Prize in Fiction. Currently, she is an Associate Professor at San Diego State University.

Diurne
Poems by Kristin George Bagdanov
Diurne is part autobiography, part journalism, part theory, and part apology for not being “poetry,” it is a project that trusts its procedure more than its speaker as it approaches poetry as durational rather than inspirational, work rather than epiphany.

Kristin George Bagdanov earned her M.F.A. in poetry from Colorado State University and is currently a PhD candidate in English literature at U.C. Davis. She is the author of Fossils in the Making (Black Ocean, 2019) and the senior poetry editor of Ruminate Magazine.

America, That Island Off the Coast of France
Poems by Jesse Lee Kercheval
America, That Island Off the Coast of France is a book about the impossibility of immigration, of ever being the citizen of only one country. Kercheval was born in France, raised in Florida, and now divides her time between the U.S. and Uruguay. The poems hurdle across literary and linguistic borders toward a lyricism that slows down experience to create a new form of elegiac memoir. With Paris, Florida, and Montevideo as backdrops, the poems explore citizenship and homelessness, motherhood and self, family and freedom, the very meaning of the word home. As Kercheval says in her poem “The Red Balloon” “is leaving/ ever painless? Is returning?”

Jesse Lee Kercheval is a poet, fiction-writer and memoirist who was born in France, raised in Florida and currently divides her time between Madison, Wisconsin and Montevideo, Uruguay.

Butterfly Sleep
by Kim Kyung Ju, translated by Jake Levine
Kim Kyung Ju’s allegorical drama Butterfly Sleep refracts a critique of South Korea’s headlong development through a mixture of magic realism and absurdist dark humor set early in the joseon dynasty. With lyricism and grace, Kim unfolds a lesson of consolation by confrontation, and finally reconciliation, with the ghosts of the nation.

Jake Levine is an American translator, poet, and scholar. A PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at Seoul National University, he holds a BA and MFA from the University of Arizona. He teaches creative writing at Keimyung University and is a lecturer at the Language Translation Institute of Korea. He is assistant editor at Acta Koreana and editor for the Korean poetry series Moon Country at Black Ocean.

Kim Kyung Ju is a Seoul-based poet, dramatist and performance artist. He has written and translated over a dozen books of poetry, essays, and plays, and has been the recipient of many prizes and awards, including the Korean government’s Today’s Young Artist Prize and the Kim Soo-young Contemporary Poetry Award.

Franciscan Notes
Poems by Alan Williamson
Franciscan Notes carries us from the deaths of loved ones and the poet’s own approaching old age to the grounds of hope glimpsed at La Verna and Assisi, and from a pilgrimage to India and Japan. A wide gamut of human spiritual experience and a spot of the ecstatic, these poems form in deference to the great Rinzai Zen question, “If you cannot endure this moment, what can you endure?”

Alan Williamson is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Davis, teaches in the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers, and has published five books of poetry and five of criticism.