

THE FESTIVAL REVIEW

VOLUME 3 | WINTER 2020





MASTHEAD

EDITOR - IN - CHIEF

Neal Tucker

POETRY EDITOR

John Sherer



Opening Remarks

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I am pleased to introduce Volume 3 of The Festival Review, the first volume in which I have served as Poetry Editor. Neal and I are proud of the work here and look forward to sharing more in the future.

As a practicing poet, I often think about the differences between poetry and prose, especially given that we live in the age of the novel (or, increasingly, of the memoir, and of the novel that critics haphazardly assume to be memoir). Of course, there's the formal difference that in a poem, it matters where the lines break.

But more fundamentally, I believe lyric poetry offers a unique opportunity to convey attention to the experience of a moment—to stop time, to crawl inside an instant and investigate its every possibility.

Prose fiction or nonfiction can show this kind of attention to an extent (as the story in this issue does with aplomb), but I believe it is in a poem that such attention reaches its fullest and most uninhibited potential.

The poems presented here all exemplify this special power of lyric poetry. From one speaker's detailed noticing of a quiet morning by a pond to another's rumination on not living up to the expectations inherited from both past and present, these poems all have something unique to show us about the world and how we might inhabit it.

We hope the work in this volume gives you a meaningful space for reflection and contemplation.

John Sherer, Poetry Editor



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Na
Sodium

BY ROBERT RENÉ GALVÁN

Sal

sapiente:

in its purest face

provoked

to violence

by water;

palatable

when wed

to a noxious

ghost,

quelled

together

in a divided

sphere –

ligature

between

fire & water,

eros & enmity;

desire

born of brine:

drawn by the sun,

white deserts

embody

the goddess;

we strive

to be worthy

of her,



the soldier's
salary,
offered
in hospitality,
though
spilled
by Judas,
Lot's wife
left behind,

a little
on our bread,
salvation,
too much,

our demise,
as it fills
the greatest
oceans
&
the slightest
vessels
of our frame;
a precarious
balance
of toxins:
the eternal
ring
of
rings.



Perversely Clean for Reasons of Its Own

BY LINDAANN LOSCHIAVO

they lived in Venice in obscurity
it charmed me to hover she was very
amused he was no doubt not a woman's
poet And she pretended to make light
of his genius took no pains to defend
him. They live on nothing in such a big,
imposing house dilapidated and
perversely clean, for reasons of its own

— *erasure from Henry James' The Aspern Papers*

Pseudoanachronism I

BY ANASTASIA JILL

I've gotten on the wrong bus four times.
Lived here my whole life—
tell me, how does that happen?

Tell me how I got so lost
on twenty-first century land
with my Mary Janes, and my
darling poodle skirt?

I'm not proud of the woman I am.
I see her, yes;
she is the oldest soul in the big city.

I am not the modern woman,
I am ashamed of my portrait
in vintage Arden lipstick.



CONTRIBUTORS

BIOGRAPHIES

Yan An

Author of fourteen poetry books including *Arranging Stones* which has won him The Sixth Lu Xun Literary Prize, one of China's top four literary awards.

Chen Du

Member of the Poetry Society of America, the American Translators Association, and the American Literary Translators Association.

Robert René Galván

A Shortlist Winner Nominee in the 2018 Adelaide Literary Award for Best Poem, his latest collection of poems is entitled *Meteors* (Lux Nova Press).

Anastasia Jill

A queer writer living in the South. Her work has been nominated for Best of the Net and Best Small Fiction Anthology.

LindaAnn LoSchiavo

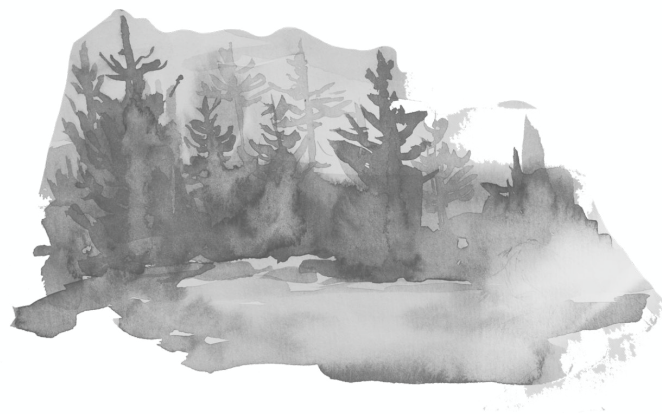
Dramatist, writer, and poet. Her new book, *A Route Obscure and Lonely*, is forthcoming from Wapshott Press in March 2020.

John Stanizzi

A former New England Poet of the Year, John teaches literature at Manchester Community College in Manchester, CT. He lives with his wife, Carol, in Coventry.

Chris Viner

A recipient of the F H Pasby Prize for his writing. His first book, *Lemniscate* (Unsolicited Press, 2017), was nominated for a Pushcart Award.



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