

# THE FESTIVAL REVIEW

VOLUME 4 | SUMMER 2020



*poetry • fiction • essay • translation*



# MASTHEAD

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*NONFICTION EDITOR*

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*POETRY EDITOR*

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# Opening Remarks

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to Volume 4 of *The Festival Review* – an issue our editorial staff has produced in the midst of a global pandemic and during a social justice movement.

The material you're about to read was put together by four editors using today's novel collaboration method – a socially distanced one. Through tools such as Zoom, Slack, and text chains, we tried to maintain some semblance of normalcy over these first few apocalyptic months. It was a creative frenzy; it was a unique challenge. If you're a writer (or a breathing human), you can probably relate.

A news journalist by trade, I find these days my writing rarely strays beyond the bounds of immediate societal relevance. In the process of selecting work for this issue, my first as Nonfiction Editor, I found it somewhat unsettling to digitally thumb through submissions, captivating though they

were, that did not seem to reflect the world's new status.

But even as we all struggle to find a new footing, it's important to remember life as it was and as it still is – reflected in art, poetry, fiction, and personal prose.

We truly hope that you enjoy this issue, where we believe you'll find both an escape from and a reflection of the world as it is.

*Kat Schuster, Nonfiction Editor*

# *elegy for the end of night*

EUNICE KIM

the evening drips quietly. when you  
bare your hands, you give them a

following; a habitable estrangement.  
a monster isn't monstrous until

you take away its teeth to sow them.  
the animal melts. we drift apart,

flotsam and jetsam. there's a warm  
body here in this place where grief

second-guesses itself. call it ruinous,  
dawn spidering her way up the walls.

# *Mayfly*

L I N D Z M C L E O D

In my dreams you exist as wide, enclosed spaces;  
locked warehouse full of supplies.

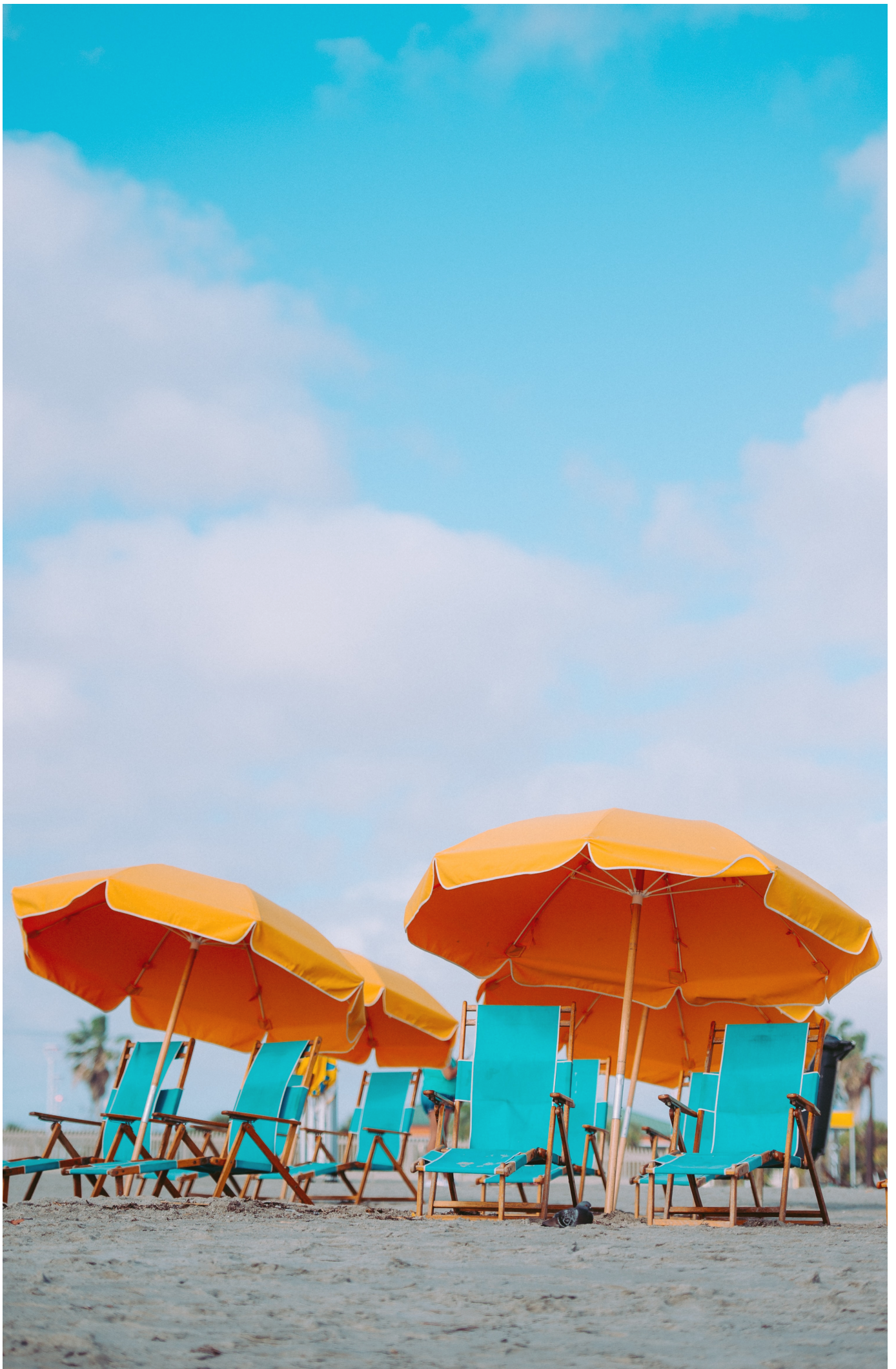
New-built castle. I travel  
footsore and lost, circling  
the outer courtyard. Checking  
the contents of a chest against  
an inventory you wrote with your lips; I never  
touched it, fingers combing through  
thickened air, always pulling up to win  
second place.

My pulse beats the rhythm to your  
unsung thoughts, championed cheer.

Glimpsed a burst, a mayfly's strained existence;  
a constant present-not-future, lived  
a foot above the water.

As long as you're aware that  
they die when the sun sets,  
but we live on.





*Photo by Annie Spratt*



# CONTRIBUTORS

## **LAYLA BENITEZ-JAMES**

Artist and translator in Alicante. Work has appeared in *The London Magazine*, *The Acentos*

*Review*, *Anomaly*, *Guernica*, *Waxwing*, and others. Her chapbook, *God Suspected My Heart Was a Geode But He Had to Make Sure*, was selected by Major Jackson for the 2017 Toi Derricotte & Cornelius Eady Chapbook Prize and published in 2018.

## **JEFF BINKLEY**

Writer, musician, and educator from Huntsville, AL. Enjoys time to think and pursue creative projects, but not as much as a good cup of coffee with his wife, Amy.

## **RENÉE COHEN**

Winner of *The Fieldstone Review's* Banner Art Competition (2019). Her work has appeared in *The Globe and Mail*, *The Montreal Gazette*, *Reader's Digest*, and others.

## **ÓSCAR CURIÉSES**

Writer, translator, and professor. His poetry collections include *Sonetos del útero*, *Dentro*, *Icebergs*, and *Hay una jaula en cada pájaro*. He has translated books by Rolando Pérez and Sharon Olds into Spanish. He received his doctorate in Literature and Fine Arts from Universidad Complutense de Madrid.

## **LYDIA FALLS**

An elementary school teacher and writer who currently resides in New York. Prior to this, she lived abroad in South Korea and Taiwan for four years.

## **EUNICE KIM**

Korean-American writer living in Seoul. Her work has been published in *The Hellebore Press*, *Anatolios*, and *Rose Quartz Magazine*. She is currently a poetry reader for *The Adroit Journal*.

## **EMILY LENNOX**

A Shenandoah Valley native and young professional. Her work has been published in *Z Publishing's* Emerging Poet series for the past two years.

## **LINDZ MCLEOD**

A committee member of the Edinburgh Writers Club. Her prize-winning writing has been published in numerous journals, with forthcoming work in *Coffin Bell* and *Sunbeam Anthologies*.







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