

Contributors



Andrew Abbott is 31 years old. He was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but grew up mostly in Boone, North Carolina. He was an “art” major at U.N.C. Wilmington where he failed beginning ceramics twice. After college he joined the army for some reason, but got kicked out after about four years due to a “pattern of misconduct.” Since then he has committed himself to being an artist “professionally.” It is unknown where Andrew Abbott currently resides, probably Maine. His work can be found at “Bambi Projects” in Philadelphia, “Gallery Susan Alexander” in California, and “Art Modern Gallery” in Florida.

Natalia Andrievskikh is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Comparative Literature at Binghamton University. She grew up in a little provincial town in Russia reading tons of books and writing poems and children’s stories. After teaching English and literary analysis for two years at a local university, she won a Fulbright grant to study in the States. Natalia has taught literature courses at SUNY Binghamton, published poems and essays, and has recently joined the staff of the literary journal *The Broome Review*. She likes good poetry, dancing, hazelnut chocolate, cozy old-fashioned towns, and having tea with her friends and family.



Emma Bean is a poet and fiction writer who grew up among the sleepy evergreens on a small island in the Puget Sound just outside of Seattle, Washington, where she still frequently visits. After attending NYU for undergrad and living in Brooklyn, Emma traded in her waitress apron for a teacher’s hat and moved to Austin, Texas, where she lives in a cozy house on the east side of town, and bilingually battles with/along/against/for the public school system. She has had poems published in *Haggard* and *Halloo*.

Amy Bernhard is an alumna of the University of Iowa. She lives in Iowa City and plans to take a year off before applying for her MFA in creative nonfiction. She writes because if she doesn’t, she feels itchy and mopes around the house all day. Also, it’s a much better alternative to working in retail. You can contact her at amybernhard3@gmail.com.



Ryan J. Browne once threw a dart into another dart. He teaches literature and writing at The University of Alabama. He also teaches literature and poetry in Alabama state prisons with the Alabama Prison Arts & Education Project. His work has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *West Branch*, and elsewhere. He’s honored to be included in the debut issue of *Palooka*.



Jona Colson's poems have appeared in *Crab Orchard Review*, *Painted Bride Quarterly*, *Subtropics*, and others. He is perpetually entertained and inspired by a trio of Annes: Anne Sexton, Anne Rice and Anne Carson. He currently teaches at Goucher College.

Deana El-Farouki Dueno discovered writing poetry at St. Mary's College in Maryland. She signed up for a week-intensive poetry workshop in the summer and met some of the most wonderfully wild, poetic people. Since then, she has found multiple sources of inspiration including being a woman of Arab descent, being married to a quirky artist, being a first grade teacher, and having wacky women in her life. Deana has published poems in *MIZNA*, *The Comstock Review* and *Creation Literary Journal*. She lives in a suburb of Northern Virginia with her husband and 9-year-old twins.



Jim Fuess works with liquid acrylic paint on canvas. Most of his paintings are abstract, but there are recognizable forms and faces in a number of the abstract paintings. He is striving for grace and fluidity, movement and balance. He likes color and believes that beauty can be an artistic goal. There is whimsy, fear, energy, movement, fun and dread in his abstract paintings. A lot of his abstract paintings are anthropomorphic. The shapes seem familiar. The faces are real. The gestures and movements are recognizable. More of his abstract paintings, both in color and black and white, may be seen at www.jimfuessart.com

Amy Heiden is a San Francisco-based photographer specializing in the abandoned urban environment, night photography and landscapes. She began capturing moments with her camera after receiving an SLR and telephoto lens for her seventeenth birthday. She staged photo shoots with friends, photographed the landscape during family vacations and even snuck her camera into over a dozen concerts one year. Years later, she is still sneaking around with her camera, often being forced to evade law enforcement while exploring and photographing abandoned buildings: hospitals, military bases, ships and factories. She is intrigued by the decay and the history that lie inside the desk drawers, in photographs covered in dust or in the artifacts people have left behind. She often ventures into these locations under the cover of darkness and relies on the full moon to light most of the long exposures. When moonlight isn't available, adding off-camera lighting, via a strobe or flashlight, helps to emphasize the subject.





Dustin M. Hoffman spent ten years singing in punk rock bands and painting houses before trading his rusty SM58 and paint brush for an MFA in fiction from Bowling Green State University. He is currently pursuing his PhD in creative writing at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where he's been singing much more quietly, working on an acoustic cover of Steve Martin's "Thermos Song" to serenade his wife for their second anniversary. His work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *Takahe*, *Sugar House Review*, *Conclave: A Journal of Character*, *Echo Ink Review*, *Marginalia*, *Cream City Review*, *Black Warrior Review* and *Gargoyle*.

Liz Kicak hated poetry for most of her life. Then, one fateful collegiate day, she was introduced to Hopkins, Milosz, and Rukeyser and was forced to reconsider her traditional anti-poetry stance. Once détente had been declared between Liz and poetry, she began to learn about the world of verse beyond Hallmark-ish couplets and lame student haiku. Her torrid love affair with poetry began in earnest about six years ago and shows no sign of ending any time soon. She lives, works, and writes in Tampa (though she won't say no to a long weekend in Vegas).



M.V. Montgomery is an Atlanta writer and the author of two books of poetry. His first book of flash fiction, *Dream Koans*, will be published this fall by Fast Forward Press. He writes: "When I was growing up, my Grandpa Lagorio would sometimes box the air in front of my brother Tim and me, and then pinch our noses between the knuckles of his strong hands, calling us 'a couple of palookas.'"

Alex Park graduated from Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in the spring of 2009 with a degree in Sociology & African Studies. Currently, he lives in his underrated and unfairly disdained hometown of Oakland, California. During his summers in high school, he trained as a river guide in Idaho and shared a flat with a Congolese refugee in Cape Town. He has won a humanitarian award from the Red Cross and others for academic research. However none of these honors compare to the time he played a round of pool with an Irish ex-champion snooker player in a bar in Vietnam—and won. Currently, he is working on a novella drawing largely from the experience of having his senior thesis on collective violence in South Africa plagiarized by a Johannesburg-based academic. "These Days in Borderland" is his first printed literary work since ending a tenure at his college newspaper. He dedicates it to Hazel Schaeffer for putting up with his tirades throughout the process of writing it and loving him back anyway.



Carl Peterson lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He plays darts at Egan's, and he was there when Ryan J. Browne threw the dart into the other dart. He was there when the lucky bottle was discovered, before it started being a plant. He was there when the chocolate elephant was divided among the true believers, when Oliu pumped his fists in the air and declared we'd won everything. And where were you, dear reader, during those times, and what other stories were being whispered into your ear?



Dan Piorkowski has lived in New England his entire life and rarely ventures out, except for the occasional weekend getaway. He holds a B.A. from Boston University and is currently earning an M.S. from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. While he's not writing, he can be found fishing in local streams or roaming the aisles of random gas stations, looking for a hard-to-come-by bag of slow-cooked Louisiana potato chips. His short fiction has recently appeared or is forthcoming in *The Delinquent*, *Monkeybicycle*, and the anthology *Pellucid Lunacy*. He is at work editing his novel *The Arch of Iris* and can be reached at Dan.Piorkowski@yahoo.com.

Kelley Rae in her own words: I started writing when I was six years old. At first, I copied by memory the nursery rhymes I heard in school. I would mail them to my grandmother who was my best friend. Books became my favorite pastime and writing went right along with the books. In fourth grade, when I heard "Paperback Writer" by the Beatles (on the flip side of "I Want to Hold Your Hand" –(alone a symbol of my rebellious nature), I knew that writing was my calling. It took me until the tenth grade to stop following what I thought everyone else wanted or what was cool or acceptable. There was this existential, avant-garde poem circulating the tenth grade class. It was about Spot on acid—at least that is what I remember. I turned it into my tenth grade English teacher Mrs. Crowe who laughed at it. She told me to write my own poetry and that poetry can be anything I wanted it to be. I am not the best poet, but I do write what I want without caving to the interests of others. There are not many people who want to read about a young girl growing up in the mountains of West Virginia, but I write about it anyway. Thanks *Palooka* for publishing it and thanks readers for reading it. Mrs. Crowe would say, "Cheers."



Chrissy Spallone studied art and psychology at Oberlin College and recently graduated from Syracuse University's Library Science program. She started drawing underground comics early in elementary school, as a coping mechanism. Her artwork also appears in *The Salt Hill Journal #25*, and she maintains a blog of current comics, art, and writing at bibliowhining.blogspot.com. She is currently writing a bio note.