

Contributors



KELLY DUMAR is a poet, playwright, and workshop facilitator from the Boston area. She's the author of two poetry chapbooks, *All These Cures* (Lit House Press) and *Tree of the Apple* (Two of Cups Press). Her poems, prose, and photos are published in many literary journals including *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Tupelo Quarterly*, *Sky Island Review*, *Storm Cellar*, and *Tiferet*. Kelly serves on the board of the International Women's Writing Guild (IWWG) and runs the annual, weeklong Play Lab at the IWWG Annual Summer Conference as well as produces the annual Boston Writing from Your Life Retreat. She also produces the Our Voices Festival of Boston Area Women Playwrights, now in its thirteenth year. Kelly blogs her daily nature photos and creative writing from her home on the Charles River at kellydumar.com/blog.



JOHN MICHAEL FLYNN was the 2017 Writer in Residence at Carl Sandburg's home, Connemara, in North Carolina. In 2015 he completed a one-year English Language Fellowship through the US State Department in Khabarovsk, Russia. Poetry collections include *Restless Vanishings* and *Keepers Meet Questing Eyes* from Leaf Garden Press (www.leafgarden.blogspot.com) and *Blackbird Once Wild Now Tame* translated from the Romanian of Nicolae Dabija. He's published three collections of short stories, his most recent *Off to the Next Wherever* from Fomite Books (www.fomitepress.com). In 2018 Jaffa Books of Australia (www.jaffabooks.com.au/about) will publish a trilogy of novels from him writing as Basil Rosa: *A Million Miles from Tehran*; *Tax Free Ride on a Midnight Carousel*; and *A Laugh at Sex*. He teaches at TED University in Ankara, Turkey. Visit him at www.basilrosa.com.



MADELYN FRYE is a student at Southern Oregon University. She is working on getting a bachelor of fine arts in creative writing and a bachelor of science in psychology. She was born in China and was adopted by Americans when she was fourteen months old. Her recent writing projects are themed around her experience as a Chinese-American adoptee. Other than writing, she enjoys Chinese tea ceremony, playing on aerial silks, and traveling to new places. Her work has appeared in *Chantwood Magazine*. She can be found on Instagram under the username [@adventure_writer](https://www.instagram.com/adventure_writer).



NOAH HULSIZER likes to draw comics. He likes other stuff, too, of course, but this bio is about his artistic side. Noah currently resides in Portland, Oregon, with his family. Instagram: @noah_hulsizer.

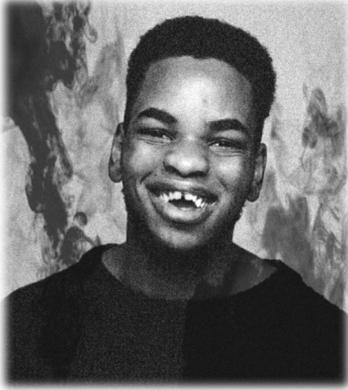


D. E. LEE's short fiction appears or is forthcoming in *Little Patuxent Review*, *Quiddity*, *Alligator Juniper*, *The Lindenwood Review*, *Saw Palm*, *Broad River Review*, and many others. Awards include Pushcart Prize nominee, finalist in *Prairie Schooner's* 2018 Book Prize, Honorable Mention in *Cincinnati Review's* Robert and Adelle Shiff 2018 award, *Nimrod's* 2011 Katherine Ann Porter Prize, and the 2014 Nelson Algren Award. His novel, *The Sky After Rain*, won the Brighthorse Books 2015 novel contest and is available in paperback.



JOSEPH REYES was born in the Philippines and grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He graduated from the University of Manitoba's School of Fine Arts and afterward started exhibiting his works in North America. After moving to South Korea, he started experimenting with different ways to showcase his art. Joseph published a collection of works, showed his works in Korean galleries, experimented with sculptures, and exhibited his works using pseudonyms. Although his works have been featured in many places and he's currently living in Asia, he still considers himself primarily a Canadian artist working on prairie themes. Joseph's works are mainly small drawings made up of small text and images dealing with themes of isolation, anxiety, and more

recently the longing to be back home. As he doesn't use magnification in the drawing process, he wants viewers to enjoy his images without using any forms of magnification. He feels the strain of looking at small images and the satisfaction of discovering another image or text within the piece is like sharing a secret with the viewer as well as a way to connect with the drawing process.



XAVON ROSS emptied his adolescence in St. Catherine, Jamaica. He found his admiration for art in the way it explained things, unlike how grown-ups did. When people tap into this mystical realm of their minds, as artists, it makes changes in the way they think, live, and behave. Especially when the artwork rebels against the status quo. The defiant artists seemed to make the greatest impact over time, like Van Gogh. So Xavon took pride when people disliked his work. Not that it was something to rely on, if people liked or disliked his work, but what really mattered was the impact it had and emotions it stirred up. He saw that art had a huge influence on the

history of the world. Art and its philosophy penetrated his mind, because what was going on inside him showed its face outside him. The more he learned about art the more he learned of himself in different forms: writing, sculpture, painting, rapping.

Xavon now hopes to tackle all these art forms that have piqued his interest and in which he's seen something of himself, both as homage for making him not feel so alone, or like a weirdo, and to know there's a place he can go where it's all right to be who he is, where other people have gone and poured it out or nurtured themselves through art, as opposed to trying to fit in and suppressing their true nature. You can't control nature, you can just guide it toward a comprisable means. When people try to control nature, it breeds more chaos. Thus, when we eject we breed more chaos in ourselves. We should never forget: We are nature, too, and need this harmonious balance through expressing ourselves.



CHARLIE SCATURRO was born and raised in Brooklyn and currently resides there. His work has been published in *Star 82 Review*, is upcoming in *Bending Genres*, was short listed for the 2017 *Best New Writing Anthology*, and has appeared on CBSsports.com, USAToday.com, LATimes.com, and various publications on Medium.com. Charlie is currently working on a collection of short stories and a few other projects.



MATTHEW SHOVLIN's writing career began at a New Jersey public school, where he appeared to be taking diligent notes each day in class but was actually writing an expansive fantasy novel. The final result was terrible, but Matthew was nonetheless hooked on writing fiction. Over the years, he's gotten away from the fantasy genre and become more focused on poking fun at the trivial struggles and experiences of his day-to-day life as a Brooklyn barfly. He's now a writer and musician living in a New York City apartment that calls to mind certain episodes of *Hoarders*. To see more of his short stories, original music, and more, check out www.clippings.me/matthewshovlin.



RENÉ GEORG VASICEK is the son of Czech defectors, born in Austria in 1969. He grew up in the pine barrens of eastern Long Island and has lived in New York City since '95. His writing has appeared in *Barrelhouse*, *Bellevue Literary Revue*, *Gargoyle*, *Mid-American Review*, *Nowhere*, *Post Road*, *Uncanny Valley*, *Western Humanities Review*, and elsewhere. He earned an MFA at Sarah Lawrence College and was awarded an NEA fellowship. René lives in Astoria, Queens, with his wife and two sons.



VIRGINIA WATTS is the author of poetry and stories found or forthcoming in *Burningwood*, *Temenos*, *Halcyone Magazine*, *Green Briar Review*, *Ginosko*, *Moon City Review*, *Florida Review*, and others. Her essay “Marti’s Father” was nominated for a 2018 Pushcart Prize by the *Ponder Review*. She received honorable mention in *Passager’s* 2018 Poetry Contest. Virginia currently resides near Philadelphia.