

Contributors



JULIE E. BLOEMEKE's poetry manuscript, *Slide to Unlock*, placed as a recent finalist or semifinalist in seven book prizes. A graduate of the Bennington Writing Seminars and a past fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, she also served as the 2016 inaugural Poetry Director for the Milton Literary Festival in Georgia. A disciple of kismet, her poetry explores our ever-shifting perceptions of intimacy through the interface of texting, e-mail, social media, and apps. Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals and anthologies including *Gulf Coast*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Four Chambers*, *Bridge Eight*, and others. She is currently working on a second manuscript of ekphrastic poetry. When not writing, she enjoys Paris, the ocean, her Lagavulin neat, and photographing abandoned buildings.



ROBBIN BATES was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, located in the valley of the Sonoran Desert. Growing up in this unique atmosphere seemed customary to her until she moved to Wisconsin. It was Wisconsin's dissimilar environment where she discovered the idiosyncrasies of desert life and how much she had missed it. This contrast of environments inspired her to reminisce on the desert life she had lived in and learned about as a child.

Her current work focuses on the life cycles of plants, animals, and insects, all interacting with each other in the harsh habitat of the Sonoran Desert. She creates invented floating sceneries with many desert life forms, mostly relationships between predator and prey. These floating and disconnected scenes represent her current separation from the desert and creates almost a memory of this wildlife. She has recently been with flat shapes in contrast to more rendered subjects and their interaction. She incorporates occasional themes of mortality, not only to state the obvious fate that all living creatures must face but also to highlight that life in the desert is even more of a struggle to uphold. She loves to play with color and use bright palettes to accentuate the subtle colors that naturally exist in the desert where most natural colors, other than tan, are scarce and sacred.



COLM FAHY is originally from Achill Island on the west coast of Ireland, though he has been living in Madrid, Spain, since 2012, where a lifelong interest in painting has been reinvigorated. A lawyer specializing in human rights and democratization support, Colm’s journey through Africa and Latin America has infused his artistic passion with a deep appreciation of the communicative power of color. He believes that the language of art, like that of the lawyer, succeeds only when it is easily understood. He considers that this is the duty of the artist to strive to communicate in an approachable language

while aiming to provide a space to question dogma.



DYLAN HUGHES is a writer and communications professional based in Winnipeg, Canada. He has spent the previous sixteen months living in Dublin, Ireland, and considers himself a formidable leech. When not working or writing, he can usually be found quartered in eastern Manitoba among the muskrats and the mallards.



JAD JOSEY in his own words. As with most of my stories, “Between Us, This” was born from a single image—a tall, young man hunched over a map of the neighborhood fruit trees. And then, from whatever mystical well stories emerge, the narrator suddenly knew this young man intimately, and I watched their relationship unfold. It took over three years to write the first draft of this one, but I never left it behind. Some stories do that: They show up like an old friend, and we catch up over dinner and a few beers.

And then they're gone, but the visit leaves a mark. It comes to mind while washing the dishes or rocking the twins to sleep—because, yes, there were many occasions when I had to rock both of them to sleep at the same time—or standing under the stars on a cold October night. “Between Us, This” kept coming back, and I was always glad to open the door and listen to the stories these characters had to tell.

If you are interested in reading more of my work, please visit www.jadjosey.com or find me on Twitter: @jadjosey. My fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Glimmer Train*, (b)OINK, *Atticus Review*, and elsewhere.



ANNE LINDLEY KILLHEFFER sometimes wears the superhero cape of a public librarian and sometimes the cozy cardigan of a writer. She grew up in Los Angeles. She now lives in Connecticut, but she has never adjusted to paying for lemons and avocados. Her story “The Lobster Boys” was selected as an honorable mention in the annual *Zoetrope All-Story* short fiction contest. Her stories have appeared in *Across the Margin*, *Prime Number*, *Five Stop Stories*, and the Sunday magazine of the *Hartford Courant*. She also writes lyrics for songs, which can be heard on public radio.



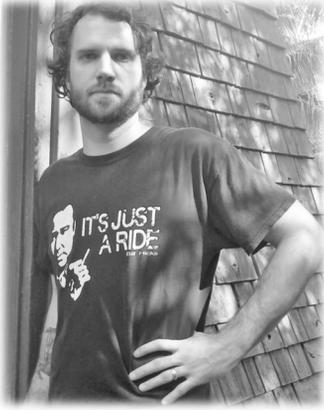
BOB KUNZINGER splits his time between traveling and not traveling. When he is traveling, you can find him in places as diverse as Spain and Siberia and Prague as well as West Virginia, New York, and local pubs. When he isn’t traveling he is pursuing his passions of hiking, hanging out, and when he gets a chance, being a full-time professor of arts, humanities, and creative writing. But usually he’s traveling. His work has appeared in many publications, including *Kestrel*, *Southern Humanities Review*, the *Washington Post*, and more. Several of his essays have been noted by *Best American Essays*, and he is the person behind the award-winning blog, www.aviewfromthiswilderness.wordpress.com.



DAVID MAHLER is a cartoonist and filmmaker from Melbourne, Australia. His work has been published in *Voiceworks*, *The Lifted Brow*, *Cordite Poetry Review*, *Grapple Annual*, and a few anthologies.



DAVID ROCK is what the Industry calls an “emerging poet”—emerging like a swarm of seventeen-year cicadas, or re-emerging, rather. He wrote a fair amount of poetry back in the 1990s and managed to publish a handful of poems here and there, then he became interested in other things (bagpipes, origami, firearms, clawhammer banjo, French literature, baseball, rhythm bones, philosophy). Almost exactly seventeen years went by, and he got the urge to submit poetry again. Like the cicada, David makes a delightful croaking noise if you stroke his abdomen. He teaches Spanish at Brigham Young University-Idaho in Rexburg.



DAMIEN ROOS writes from New York City, where he lives with his wife, painter Julia Soehngen-Roos, and cat. He is at work on his first novel.



HANNAH J. SHAW is the blogger behind *Lizard Is Writing*. This New Jersey resident graduated from the College of the Holy Cross. Her story “Big Teeth” is part of a collection created for her honors thesis. Hannah’s work has been published in *Red Cedar Review* and *The Purple*. She’s currently working on a novel.



MICHAEL SMILOVITCH works in neuroscience, a field he finds to have many underappreciated poetic qualities. Nonetheless, he will be taking some time off in 2017 to focus on writing. He spends his extra time singing and shouting in the vaguely progressive metal band, Bird Problems. They perform around Montreal from time to time. He is also quite fond of soup.