

BACKWARDS CITY REVIEW

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COVER : Mark Bradley Shoup. *Aquaview Dumpster on Woodlawn Lace*. Oil on panel. First Appeared in *New American Paintings* No.52.

CONTRIBUTOR NOTES

Adam Berlin is the author of the novels *Belmondo Style* (St. Martin's Press, 2004) and *Headlock* (Algonquin Books, 2000). His stories and poetry have appeared in numerous journals. He is an Assistant Professor of English at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City.

Erica Bernheim's poems and reviews have appeared in *Black Warrior Review*, *Gulf Coast*, *Volt*, *The Canary*, and *Bridge*, among others. She teaches poetry and literature in Chicago, and is working on a PhD.

Tom Chalkley is a freelance cartoonist and writer from Baltimore, Maryland. His best work appears in the *Baltimore City Paper* and the *Chicago Reader*, but he had two cartoons published in *The New Yorker* in 1999 and hopes to get back there someday.

Peter S. Conrad's work has appeared in many publications, including *TooMuchCoffeeMan*, *Kitchen Sink*, *The Berkeley Daily Planet*, and several alternative news weeklies. His work also appears in the anthologies *True Porn*, *Big Dumb Fun*, *Swell*, *SPX 2003*, and others. He has been publishing mini-comics such as *Attempted Not Known* since 1994. Born in New York City, he is currently serving exile in California.

Cory Doctorow is the Campbell- and Locus-award-winning author of the novels *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* and *Eastern Standard Tribe*, as well as the short story collection *A Place So Foreign and Eight More*, which were simultaneously published on the web as free downloads and by Tor Books. He is the co-editor of the popular weblog Boing Boing (boingboing.net), a columnist for *MAKE* and *Popular Science* magazines, and a contributing writer at *Wired Magazine*. He resides in London, where he is the European Affairs Coordinator for the legal group Electronic Frontier Foundation.

Johannes Goransson is the co-editor of Action Books. His work, either original poems or translations (Aase Berg, Henry Parland), is set to appear in upcoming issues of *Denver Quarterly*, *jubilat*, *Hanging Loose*, and *Octopus*.

Arielle Greenberg is the author of *Given* (Verse Press, 2002) and *Fa(r)ther Down: Songs from the Allergy Trials* (New Michigan Press) and co-editor (with David Trinidad and Tony Trigilio) of a new poetry annual, *Court Green*. Her poems will appear in *Best American Poetry 2004*, *Conjunctions*, *The Laurel Review*, *Spoon River*, and other journals. She teaches in the poetry program at Columbia College Chicago.

BACKWARDS CITY REVIEW

Gabriel Gudding's first book, *A Defense Of Poetry*, was published in the Pitt Poetry Series in November 2002. He teaches literature and creative writing at Illinois State University. Recent work appears in *New American Writing*, *Mandorla*, and *LIT*.

Paul Guest's poems have appeared in numerous journals, including *Iowa Review*, *The Greensboro Review*, *Slate*, and *Third Coast*. His first book of poems, *The Resurrection of the Body and the Ruin of the World*, was awarded the 2002 New Issues Poetry Prize. He is currently teaching in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Kristin Hall lives in Iowa City with two handsome cats. Her chapbook, *Power Weapons in the Basement*, is forthcoming in 2005 from Rhyming Orange Press.

Kent Johnson has edited *Doubled Flowering: From the Notebooks of Araki Yasusada* (Roof, 1998), as well as *Also, with My Throat, I Shall Swallow Ten Thousand Swords: Araki Yasusada's Letters in English*, forthcoming from Combo Books. He has also translated (with Alexandra Papaditsas) *The Miseries of Poetry: Traductions from the Greek* (Skanky Possum, 2003) and (with Forrest Gander) *Immanent Visitor: Selected Poems of Jaime Saenz* (California UP, 2002), which was a PEN Award for Poetry in Translation selection. A second book of Saenz's work, *The Night*, is forthcoming. Recipient of a 2004 NEA Literature Fellowship, he teaches at Highland Community College and was named the State of Illinois Teacher of the Year for 2004 by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association.

Stephen Kuusisto is the author of *Planet of the Blind: A Memoir and Only Bread, Only Light* (poems), and has a forthcoming book, *The Art of Listening*, soon to be published by W.W. Norton. He is editor of *The Poet's Notebook: Selected Journals of American Poets* and a contributing editor at the *Seneca Review*. Kuusisto's poems and essays have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Harper's*, *Poetry*, and *Partisan Review*. He is a frequent commentator on National Public Radio and lectures widely on disability and public policy.

John Latta is the author of two collections of poetry: *Rubbing Torsos* (Ithaca House, 1979) and *Breeze* (University of Notre Dame Press). "Gadabout" and "Umbrage" are part of his recently completed *Some Alphabets*, five abecedarian arrangements, other pieces of which are appearing in *Epoch*, *Jacket*, *Boston Review*, *Verse*, and elsewhere. He currently lives and works in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CONTRIBUTOR NOTES

Sarah Manguso is the author of *The Captain Lands in Paradise* (Alice James, 2002) and *Siste Viator* (Four Way, 2006). She teaches at the Pratt Institute and in the New School's MFA program, and lives in Brooklyn.

Joyelle McSweeney's *The Commandrine and Other Poems* will be appearing this fall from FenceBooks. Her first book, *The Red Bird*, won the Fence Modern Poets Series prize and was also brought out by Fence. Her work has appeared in the *Boston Review*, *The Canary*, *Monkey Puzzle*, and elsewhere. She lives and teaches in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. She has recently co-founded Action Books with her husband, Johannes Goransson.

K. Silem Mohammad is the author of *hovercraft* (Kenning Editions, 2000), *Deer Head Nation* (Tougher Disguises, 2003), and *A Thousand Devils* (Combo Books, 2004). He lives and teaches in Ashland, Oregon.

Ander Monson lives in Michigan where he edits the magazine *DIAGRAM* and the New Michigan Press. Two books are forthcoming in May 2005: *Vacationland* (poems, Tupelo Press) and *Other Electricities* (fiction, Sarabande Books).

Alix Ohlin teaches creative writing at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Her first novel, *The Missing Person*, will be published by Knopf in May 2005.

Michael Parker is the author of four works of fiction including, most recently, *Virginia Lovers*. His stories have appeared in *Five Points*, *The Georgia Review*, *Shenandoah*, and *The Oxford American*, and have been anthologized in *The Pushcart*, *New Stories from the South*, and *O. Henry Prize Stories* anthologies. A new novel and a collection of stories are forthcoming from Algonquin Books. He has raced several triathlons in the Novice Male category, and he writes, swims, bikes, and runs in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Karri Harrison Paul lives and teaches in Baltimore. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and winner of a Pushcart Prize, her poetry has appeared in *Boston Review*, *Fence*, and other journals.

More of **Jim Rugg's** work can be found at the Web site for his ongoing comic series *Street Angel* (www.streetangel.com), where you can also find previews of the *Street Angel* issues available for purchase via the Slave Labor Graphics online store at www.slavelabor.com.

BACKWARDS CITY REVIEW

Mary Beth Sanders received a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in 1999. Afterwards she began pursuing other interests by running off to New Mexico for a brief spell. Her work during this period reflects a melding of painting and archaeology. Currently working in an artist's bookmaking studio in Chattanooga, she has found a happy medium in the art and science of paper and bookmaking.

Mark Bradley Shoup received his BFA in painting from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and has recently acquired his MFA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His work has been exhibited throughout the southeast, and has been featured in *New American Paintings* issues 34 and 52. He currently lives in Chattanooga with his wife, Kelli, and son, Oliver.

Marcus Slease is a native of Portadown, N. Ireland, who currently lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, where he writes and is a member of the Lucipo poetry collective. Recent poetry has appeared or is forthcoming in *Conduit*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Spork*, *Typo*, *Octopus*, *DIAGRAM*, *Gut Cult*, *Milk*, and *Shampoo*.

Tony Tost wrote *Invisible Bride* (LSU, 2004), which won the 2003 Walt Whitman Award. He's almost done with his new manuscript, *Sex Hat*. New work can be found in *Verse*, *The Hat*, *Jacket*, *Typo*, and *Cue*.

Kurt Vonnegut needs no introduction.

Greg Williamson's second book of poems, *Errors in the Script*, was runner-up for the 2003 Poet's Prize. In 2004, he received an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.