

A Journal of The Arts Kingsborough Community College The City University of New York

### Antheon Literary and Arts Journal

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### **President's Note**

Dear Antheonites,

The time has come when we part ways and bid farewell. But there's no need to worry, our friendships will last as long as we keep our bonds intact. Working on Antheon has been a long and fruitful journey, and I am thankful for the experience. Since I became your President back in the fall of 2011, and again in the fall of 2012, I have watched. Antheon grow into a powerful and creative organization that surmounts many obstacles. Additionally, this is the most dedicated team I've ever worked with. The motivation, talent, and leadership of you Antheonites have lead to two successful KCC's Got Talent shows and two beautiful magazines. In fact, we've done so well that we finally have the recognition and reputation we deserve. Now we can end the year being proud that we have left a legacy for those who will continue after us.

I also want to personally thank some of my most committed Antheonites, including the advisors. Vice-President Colleen Mims for her amazing contribution to the club – she started strong and became my right hand woman almost instantly. Treasurer Niaz Mosharraf for his energetic contribution he fueled the organization with optimism and kept them up their toes at all times. Former Assistant Treasurer

and now Spring 2013 Vice-President Ashley Parsaram for her outstanding leadership skills – she is definitely a one of a kind, independent woman who can lead an army if she has to. Designers Rafael Teixeira and Mohamad Kechaiche for their overall creative imprint on the 2013 Antheon Magazine: There is no stopping these guys from creating a world with their minds. Advisors Brian Katz, Kristin Derimanova, Tom Lavazzi, and Levy Moore for their thoughtful and wise contribution to Antheon: With their experiences in their own fields. Antheon molded into an incredible club. And finally, Student Life for funding our organization throughout the years. Without them there wouldn't be a magazine.

In the end, we joined together as a family and prospered For those who are graduating, like I am, this spring, good luck on your own journey. I'm sure success is around every corner. For those who remain, keep our legacy honest, strong, and proud. Nothing can stop you if you put all your energy into it. And to everyone, please remember one thing: Let the universe be your mind because creativity is infinite.

Thank You. Carlos Rodriguez



Carlos Rodrigue

Niaz Mosharraf – Treasurer David Grazi – Fall 2012 Secretar

Stacey Feliciano - Spring 2013 Secr

Colleen Mims - Fall 2012 Ashley Parsaram - Spring 2013

Christopher Cook Christopher Cook Christobal Deleon Marianne Salatandre

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### Raya Dimitrova Poet in a Shoebox

Poet in a Shoebox (Inspired by Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie*)

His poetry muses ransacked the whole St. Louis Until they were arrested by a glued shoe. The seagull of the merchant ship was giving it voice Until her beak was sealed forever with grease. His mind was applying lyrics while his hands were applying glue

To a waxed shoe that would never go on a cruise. He was a poet with dreams of sailing to Belize, Yet, he sailed into a shoebox – what a woe!

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### Blanca Lopez Little New Bag

l got a new bag It says Sydney on it So when I wear it I pretend I'm in Australia

There are so many flowers on it So many that they make me feel As if I'm walking in the botanical gardens The colors are so vivid on my little new bag I make believe I'm on a sunset beach in the Bahamas

The pink looks so delicate So delicate like a new born child Whose skin is soft and pink And the red is so bold So bold it reminds me of a red flag waved at a bull

I have a little new bag



# **Silvia**

A glimpse of her, A glimpse into the abyss. I look at her little feet, White plain cotton socks, I see them now on my feet.

Walking in the hallway. Everything's so big now, Although the same. The smell of summer and dust.

I hear an echo, My squeaky voice yelling "iimaaaamii!"

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But they seem like hundreds. I reach for the knob, Right above my little head And twist it. I find her, my mother. Her eyes distilled affliction. Sunset gleaming through the window. He is there too, my father. I turn left. A blank stare. But when I sit on her lap, Everything turns normal? It's the safest place for me now. And now for Silvia, I sit on a chair, rocking you. The little one. Safe. Asleep. Tranquil. And yet for me this cold chair, Does the opposite. It would never replace you.

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Jason Green

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lowers are like phoenix, they blossom pretty and sie quickly, to be revorm once again even more beautifully.





### Dara Jones Snapes

I said "snapes." He laughed and asked me to repeat. l say it again —. The word I couldn't pronounce, But he loved to hear. I remember clear, my iPhone so hot that night. Fell asleep on the phone after talking for hours. "Heat," like the Sahara desert. The heat that consumed my body when I realized the hurt? He's there. Always there.

Waking means Time to hang up, His special name in my phone, He says it's not our time As we know, separated on the line.

Gabriel<sub>a</sub> Zinovy We laugh again, Never really hanging up. Hanging on.

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Nature

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### Brianna Villafane A Ghost World of My Own

### SCENE 6

[Luna and Chloe are wandering around the hallway at school to kill time before their next class. They start to talk about *Ghost World* and the part of the book where Enid dyes her hair green.]

Luna: I don't understand why people have to give punk kids such a hard time.

• Chloe: You're only saying that because you're one of those punk kids.

Luna: Am not. Hike some of the clothing and the music, but that does not make me a punk kid. I hate how people are always bashing punk kids or any type of rocker style. Like they're just so fucking ignorant. If we don't wear Juicy or have the newest Jordans and don't have the latest iPhone or Louis Vuitton bag then that makes us broke losers. For some reason there's this stereotype that all punk kids are broke, and can't get jobs, and all

we do all day is start fights with people and do drugs, well you know, that's fucking bullshit. **Chloe:** Why are you getting so crazy for no reason? [The two girls sit down in the hallway.]

Luna: You know how I am, I'm just so sick of all the stereotypes and being classified as something I'm not. I don't fit in with anyone at this school, but that doesn't give anyone a reason to talk shit about me just because I'm not one of those preppy stuck-up white girls, or those ghetto ass wannabes. If I could go into this book I would punch Johnny Apeshit in the face. I'm just as capable of going to business school and being an ass-corporate fuck just like anyone else. And let me tell you, punk rock is not that pussy shit like he... [A student overhears their conversation and cuts Luna off.]

**Student:** Yes it is. [Luna stands up, gets closer to the kid.]

Luna: Oh really? If you think that, I dare you to come to a concert with me and say that. You'll be knocked out in the pit before the first band even finishes their first song. [She bumps him, and storms away, Chloe gets up



a few seconds after and catches up with Luna. They head to their next class. Chloe walks into the classroom and sees Luna sitting in the back away from everyone

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reading *Ghost World*. Chloe sits in the seat next to Luna.]

Chloe: [Whispers.] Psst, Luna. [Luna

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does not hear so she whispers again, a little louder this time.] Luna. Pssstt... [Again Luna does not hear Chloe so she takes out a piece of paper, writes something on it, crumbles it up and throws it at her.]

Luna: [Looks up at Chloe, mouthing the words] What the fuck? [Chloe makes a motion to open up the paper and read it. Luna opens the note. On it is scribbled the words "Are you okay?" She looks up at Chloe, nods her head, crumbles up the note, tosses it onto the floor and goes back to her reading.]

### SCENE 7

[Luna and Chloe just got back to Luna's house after going to a concert. They both had a very good time at the concert except Luna is upset.]

Luna: I hate him, I swear he better never talk to me again.

Chloe: Who are you kidding? You know you like him still, and from that kiss he obviously likes you too.

Luna: If he liked me so much he would have said goodbye to me. If he liked me he wouldn't have ignored me all night...

Chloe: [Interrupting Luna] He was with his friends.

Luna: He has like two friends! I was with my friends and I still tried talking to him, didn't I? Plus he sees them all the time and sees me never. If he liked me so much he would have texted me.

Chloe: Maybe he went to sleep or is still on the way home

Luna: Or maybe he just doesn't give a fuck about me. Stop defending him! I'm done with him and his bullshit. He better not try to talk to me. I swear if I see him at ) another concert ham so going to punch him in the face.

I can't stand him...

Chloe: [Interrupting Luna again] Okay, Enid.

Luna: Enid?

Chloe: Yeah, you're acting just like her.

Luna: And how am I doing that?

Chloe: You're so picky with boys. You like someone then they screw you over or do something that you don't like and pisses you off and all of a sudden you "hate them." You know you don't hate Derek. You say you hate him now but watch when he texts you or you see him. You're going to be like, "Oh my god, Derek just texted

me, he's so hot, he's so amazing, he's so perfect," and all that shit and then when you see him you guys are going to be all over each other.

Luna: Shut up, he's not going to text me, he's an asshole. Face it, I'm forever alone. No wait, I'm not forever alone, I'm just going to grow old with my four-million cats instead. Enid has the right idea. There are no decent guys out there, they're all jerks. Now, women...

Chloe: [Rolls her eyes at Luna] Whatever...

# Jathanael Dayen



### **Bobby Grazi** All the Shadows Reaching

It only got easier with time Just like he predicted it would As the months fell from the calendar His grip loosened around the gun He was comfortable with it now

The barrel doesn't quiver anymore No sweat dripping down his sideburns His eyes kept a listless disposition Grazing the grooves of the cylinder He was comfortable with it now

It was simple to Simon He was conditioned this way When the muzzle was off He had not a word to say He was comfortable with it now

He put the gun on the windowsill And took a deep breath It was the middle of the night Around half-past-two The streets hushed ( )

The basketball court under the porch light Cast a long dark shadow down the driveway Reaching for the street Like all the shadows reaching in some way And the streets were hushed

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It's the sinister tricks The dark plays on us We long to go elsewhere... Anywhere But there's nowhere Just the streets all hushed

And so just like leaf-clogged water Streaming down the sewers Like the violet clouds drifting Across the plum night sky Just like the sirens howling Across the intersections Simon picked up the gun Pulled the trigger Like every other night

**Bobby Grazi** Braided in Tragedy

Lemon cake served on little white plates With a smile she swings gracefully through the arbor gates A man in the corner writhes a brown leaf in his hand Quite annoyed to see such joy on this little girl's face Braided in tragedy, but still she bore a smile

Frolicking past the counter, she dips her finger in the pudding Under the table, feeds her pie to the golden retriever Picks up her woven flower basket from the floor And this man in the corner is burning, like fever How can she be so braided in tragedy and still wear a smile?

And it's always the same, he doesn't make discoveries, he just happens upon things With a waving red flag, he turns away to leave And like clockwork, the story shifts, a change in the game And like clockwork, the story shifts, the hands turn a page

But the basket drops to the floor, the rose petals scatter She looks down at the mess, and a little cry sounds; All who came wishes they hadn't now Except the man in the corner who got what he came for To be braided in tragedy is to never live it down



Because it's always the same, you don't make Discoveries, you just happen upon things With a waving red flag, you turn away to leave And like clockwork, the story shifts, a change in The game

And like clockwork, the story shifts, the hands Turn a page

Lemon cake served on little white plates And like clockwork, the story shifts, a change in The game She swings around The story shifts, the hands turn a page



### **Arber Rafuna**

Wonder What Are We

Wonder what are we Stories of apples eaten from the trees And stories of apples falling on the head Recycled souls, I will be you? Immanence felt by the dinosaur?

Sounds of cavemen now sentences we read Roots of our babies suckling on the ape's nipple Atoms eating atoms and trees breathing me Shadows in a cave We know what we see?

Sleep. Unfinished homework due Assigned last week. Class. Home. Sleep. Yea, I'll finish my homework. After I eat! Class. Home. Sleep. Trise Hrasher Central

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### **Dara Jones**

Class. Home. Sleep

Class.

Home.

Sleep.

Class.

Home.

Sleep.

of weeks.

Class. Home.

Class. Home.

Literature, Bio, Health and Sociology. I have so much to read.

Yiren Zhu (Judy)

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Yikes, I'm behind a couple

Not enough hours in the day to keep up with







### Farmana Sharmin

My Dress Is Blue

Untitled

Liu

Jay

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My dress is blue Not as blue as the sky

The sky is big Bigger than my backyard

The backyard is fenced in Not like the horizon

But the grass The grass is fresh and moist As a new born baby



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### Arber Rafuna The Thousands of Men

- The thousands of men alike grab their briefcases and head out their door.
- Some set off for the subway and some for their BMW's, all heading toward those buildings that eat up the sky.
- The less fortunate crying out to the "more fortunate" for a penny, a nickel, a dime.
- The faces getting lifted and the faces getting stretched.
- The neverending sounds.
- The millions of voices whispering and yelling, children's screams of joy.
- Voices of singers from people's devices, talking to each other connecting to others forever away. The sirens of policemen, and firefighters,
- and ambulance off to an emergency call. The noise pollution, and light pollution, and all pollution devouring the streets.
- The ladies in dresses, and the ladies in jeans.
- The curly hair, straight hair, pink hair, red hair, black hair, short hair, long hair, shaved hair. The aroma of pizza on every corner, McDonald's and Burger King everywhere you look.
  - Continues on Page 23



The morning birds singing, pigeons competing for a crumb of bread or two,

THC fills everyone's lungs, snow in the noses, the roses wrapped in plastic, freedom? the people running up and down, running toward their programmed destinations, mindless beings minded machines,

the thousands of televisions turned on across the city to hypnotize children as their parents escape for a fix, the dancers surrounded by a mob of people with a bucket on the side filled to the brim with all sorts of moneys, the smell of shit, the smell of daisies,

the musicians in the subway capturing some people's attention as others zoom by, nothing heard, the men holding men and women holding women, the yellow cars filling up the streets with people's hands out calling for one,

the drugs hiding in people's apartments begging not to be

found, under cupboards under beds under pillows and high in the closets,

the people selling fake DVD's and fake fancy purses and fake Rolex watches, money money, this city starves for money,

the camera flashes across the buildings, and the flashes from the two floor red buses blinding people as they walk, each flash holding onto moments, moments of nothing, the stray cats and prostitutes in alley ways, the moonlight shining somewhere and the stars invisible, the bikers and skateboarders roaming the streets, the green grass and never ending trees,

the dirty hipsters conforming to nonconformity, we're all different, we look different, act different, poor, rich, old, young, yet we're all intertwined and all made into one piece, as if weaved by the Oodi weavers, the panhandlers grubbing for money.

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### Stacey Feliciano

Someone Once Told Me

Someone once told me I would change my mind constantly and live a long life. She said I would have two kids and think about the third. I would marry and remain eternally sincere.

Who would have known that someone's life could be foretold? I sit in front of the tree, the one that guides us all. My senses heighten; I could hear the crackling of the trees, the wind whispers as if cackling with a friend. I try to focus on the dream that seemed so real as if it had just happened yesterday, or would tomorrow. I look up at the darkening gray sky and feel the first drop of rain run from my cheek to my breast and down back to the earth. I wait... and the rain finally let's go, it pours harder with each breath. The drops touch my skin like needle points. I am at one, with the rain. I thank the God of rain. Tlaloc, for hearing my prayers. I feel the energy from the rain, beating down on my skin but emanating something so innocent, so pure of the world into my soul. The ground shakes, my toes slither in the soil, something charges...I hear random commands, and suddenly there is an abrupt silence. There is nothing to be heard except the stallions' hard breathing, I open my eyes. Their

hooves penetrate the ground as they begin to charge like beating drums. As I stand, the rain transitions to a light drizzle. I begin to feel dizzy, until I hear screams. I turn to face my home, and see smoke. I run. The smoke from the village increases, I hear yelling and all I could see is red. The fire burns the leaves, turning to dust. I run, not for me but for my people. I cannot stop, I must not... they need me.

"Alex... Alex, what was Pythagoras' view on the essence of life?" I pull myself awake, I adjust my eyes and slowly hear Ms. Sinclair's question. "He believed that numbers are the language of the Gods". She nods in agreement, and continues the lesson. I look at my book, and see numbers...equations of all sorts and am not able to recognize one thing. The dream felt so real, a memory of another time

The bell rings. As I walk out Ms. Sinclair calls for me. "Alex, you have been unfocused in class lately. Your eyes are open, but you're not really seeing, as if you were in another world". Strangely enough, I think she understood what was happening to me more than I did. I didn't have much to say, "It won't happen again". I walk away, not giving her a chance to continue her sermon.

I open the front doors of the school, and feel the nice cold breeze of air. I welcome it. As I take a step forward, I fall, and open my eyes. I had jumped over a river and

(**M**)

landed on a tree. Next thing I know, I am running. I am heading towards the tribe. I grab a long staff, and yell the numbers of the Gods. But when I get to the tribe, all is gone, all is dead. I carry the children of the village and shut their scared eyes. The women were taken, and the men dead from gun wounds. Others just gave up, for there is nothing left of our people, but I shall live

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Kenya Seifert uiqim annan

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on. I sit on the ground, crying no more. I slowly close my eyes, and name all who I have lost. I call Mother Nature, and begin to feel warm on the chilly night. I look down at the child in my arms, beautiful thick hair, and a face so innocent, her almond shaped brown eyes look up at me, smiling she says goodbye mama. She is I.





### Jordanna Rosen Couloir Rouge

In the hall There were pictures Framed just like a memory Of what was once real to me The walls were red Everything red Who knew a color so pretty Could cause such anxiety If these walls could speak They'd scream I've been running Wish there was A reason or rhyme These walls are closing in on me Stifling reality I never wanted anything But these dreams aren't just When I sleep All the people Frozen in the past With these false advertisements That they tried to sell to me On that big empty screen

Before my eyes Desensitized Wandering These corridors Something more I'm out of line And I'm stumbling This memories when I sleep

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### Flashing all these lies

- Only left us stranded
- All those brilliant colors
- Still stick in my mind
- In hopes of finding
- A fantastic reality
- Ill never posses what's out of reach
- Try to keep my head held high
- Were marching forward
- Taking my steps out of time
- Cause lve been running
- Off the chosen path
- Are pictures to me
- These dreams aren't just

# Yukhananov Masha

28



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Vincente Farley Been So Long

It has been so long since I've spoken to you, so you can only imagine how I feel writing this. But despite that being said, I'm writing for closure. I'm writing because I desperately want to know something? Why did you let me go? How could you let me go, let me fall flat on my face? I doubt that you even give a shred of concern of what happened that autumn day. I can't explain my exact feelings but what I can say is that I wanted to be as cold and heartless as you were to me. So I went the direction of the wind, not looking back.

I tried to forget about you, I tried moving on, I tried to erase the history that we shared by seeing other plants. Unfortunately, they never worked out. I went out with a mushroom that had a younger sister. I had to break it off with her because all that they do with their time is get high. You of all plants know that I'm not into that type of stuff. So that was it between us.

Later along the way I took my chances with a dandelion who had kids. That didn't bother me at all. I love kids; I want kids. However, the way she was raising them didn't sit well with me. The fact that she shows

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no concerns for their well-being, no concerns for their safety. She just allows them to come and go whenever they want. But it turns out that she wasn't the only dandelion pulling that stunt; her friends fell in the same category. I could have stepped in and taken over but I didn't know them well enough to intervene and she really wouldn't learn anything from my actions.

After that I started seeing a palm tree. Besides her being beautiful, she was perfect. There wasn't anything for me to complain about – we had fun, we enjoyed our time, no problems at all. I thought I had found my time of bliss and my solution to forgetting you. That was until she came and said that she needed someone to look "up" to.

He same sadness, the same pain, the same heartache that I felt when you broke up with me out of nowhere. But you know what? I'll let her and the other plants slide, at least there was a reason for why we are no longer together. What's you're excuse? That's all I want, a reason, your reason for breaking up with me.

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# Memory OSC evedo



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### 33

### Kyle Leon Norville The Book

It sits there...

Silent

Cold

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Smooth ebony recycled paper my fingers trail down to open it

See the white pavement as the blue people named 'lines' walk among one another in organized lines

They wait to connect with one another

They travel from one page of their world to the next, filling their lives out as they end up in the sky discovering moon

Or on the grass watching the moon

It seems as if these lines have become parents

They give birth to words

Pregnant silences make way to loud statements

I make love to this book, every time my ballpoint strokes the paper

Ink smears into it, only to become a beautiful responsible guardian

What a relationship I have with the book.

With exclamations that point out that life never becomes a period...

lt is a comma,



### Larisa Krasner Femail's Lines



### Arsentiy Zelinsky

MA.

### Zola Bodden

And I Let You

And I let you Take my hand into The meadow Our love is real it makes Earthquakes Cracks the ground It swallows It takes me whole as you watch Then you jump and within our Unwinding clock You reach me And though we're no longer peaking We descend  $( \bullet )$ 



Sydney Rashad Net Circus

"Come one. Come All!" Come see the spectacle of a lifetime A digital delight that will surely give you a fright Watch the blogging acrobats as their fingers Twist and type at the speed of light The shippers and sailors screaming about who's Who kissing whom Watch the net strongmen flex "What did you just say to me you little bitch?" Watch the mimetic drivel go on and on To a fancy indie tune Gaze in awe at "Lady Duckface" And the "Orange Horndog" Look but don't touch Double click for naked pics Don't be shy give it a lick





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## 37

"Watch it you sick-" "SHHHH" Vblog clowns will tickle your fancy And all the videos of a cat Named fancy And cats not named fancy And cats with hats And cats in racks And not the coat kind if you Get what I mean Boo and jeer Have a beer Because "NO1Curr" It's all for the "lulz" It's a grande ole show Come over here Take a seat And just point and click.



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### Jordana Rosen Lady Blue

You knew? Of a Lady Blue A frightened, lost young women

They took the innocence Out from under her shoes

Stolen a kiss A touch amiss Broken, unknown Of the damage you can't atone

The storm came Quick and went the same

Stranger took her by the hand Affectionate to death Another left to be damned

Left abandoned in the cold Soul alone and worn so old

In the darkness she finds Soaking up bits of sunlight Sweeping emotions The spectrum as extreme as the ocean

Calm in one instant Next Caught in swift upward motion

Sucked in the sea Spiraling out of control

But her blue eyes always see Into the depths of the soul

Lady Blue Woke from a nightmare So desperate for life

I showed her the way Through a mirrored blue night

You knew Lady Blue Only in your dreams Is this story now as real As it seems  $\bigcirc$ 



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Jun Jay Liu Bliu Landscape

### Blanca Lopez My City

My city my city there is no comparison People with all different ethnic backgrounds My city my city stands strong through the attacks Even through 1926 stock market crash

My city my city over the years has become so diverse

Go uptown Manhattan you`ll have the best rice with beans

My city my city we are known for our rude manners

Walking down Times Square during rush hour is like

Waking up from a peaceful sleep to an adrenaline rush

My city my city has the statue of liberty 126 years and still standing pretty My city my city gives you many ways of expressing yourself



Fashion Night out in SoHo makes you feel like a movie star

My city my city is the city that never sleeps There's always a party going on in the streets

My city my city has 5 boroughs Each one with its own uniqueness Go to Brooklyn you`ll find the NY nets And the Bronx home to the massive Yankee stadium My city, my city is a light in the storm An ounce of hope in making dreams reality

John Berry Jr.

4/30/13 11:25 AM

### Kyle Leon Norville

House of Truth

This is what life is? Is this what it all comes down to? Dead bodies littering the floor like crumpled paper

Living in the house with the same man that raped ya

Pillaged ya mind for innocence so your hope is cashed out in a sense

Sentimental value is equivalent to petty ness

This can't be

Life in the 21st century when entirely the only one to blame

ls you...

What are your dreams? Are they still in mind?

Or have they all been shot down in a



### school... Columbine

Clear your mind...

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Find whatever rose you planted in your concrete project streets and water it

Blood from the enemies ending each other relentlessly

Tears poured out from the mother who puts their pictures for all to see

Sweat dropped from the killers who run from the killer to be Bullets fly past windows that could make a Stacey dashThey say he was a fresh prince but now we hope his body rings bells in

Where is our freedom? When will we





### Petra Nagy Stairs

What a circle of life

No Simba

No savior

the air

At least that's what they like to tell ya

These people are clueless

birth it

Or is it too much of a task to nurture care for and watch grow so we just abort it

Cry...

For our future...

From the sky...

Let our lost ones...

Reign from their cloud 9's and bring down upon us...

Норе...

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### **Cathy Zang** There Are No Two Waves Identical

There are no two waves identical Like snowflakes dancing across the horizon The peaks covered in white snow An avalanche of white foam Contrasting with ocean blues

They go left, right Each wave a mind of its own Even the rain does not affect the wave The rain picks apart little by little Pitter patters little dents

But it does not slow down the majestic monster It goes on and on the wave The waves that have formed first grow and grow Swallowing some of the younger ones Leading them to shore Meeting the shore in a collision of energies The flighty soul of the wave and the headstrong Body of the beach The energies like fireworks In a spectacular crash the colors shine through The spray like the celebration spray From a champagne bottle It opens the mind

As when all the pieces in a puzzle click together Or when everything makes sense

Waves are meant to be ridden on They are there for us not to tame but to try

The first wave he catches is a rite of passage He is no longer trying to be someone, he has reached His goal All his hard work paid off The early mornings to the beach To get in before work All the videos he's studied All the waves he's analyzed Being on top sending you to the top The top of the highest mountain the top of the world So close to heaven Before it painfully brings you back down to earth And reminds that you are human Every time the boy gets back on the board It's a chance to be more than he can imagine Every time for a chance to reach the sky Sometimes he gets there Sometimes he doesn't But to chase is the thrill The top is not The goal the ride is the goal



## Cisneros Gabriela

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### Arber Rafuna Perceive and Understand

Animals that perceive and understand. Ignorant to their own beauty; but not me and maybe not you. Sony Telans

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As they rid the other for pleasure the lion kills	to
keep its belly full.	
With its belly full it marvels the gazelle, just	
letting it be, just letting it be	
Tell me why those animals that perceive will	
never see the beauty in we!	

Pick up the gun it's easy to do when it isn't you. Their brains so lost, too late to be found.

They have gone astray...

The skulls will keep piling up! Twelve million or so.

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### Stacey Feliciano

Once Again, I Soar

The water cold as ice A piercing pain from the fall I am afloat, smiling at the sky knowing I can take on the world. My breathing slows I awaken I'm ready SOAR And so she looked east where the sea glistened and gleamed She yearns for its secrets But her fear of the unknown keeps her within boundaries Something she dislikes and rebels against Why does she hold back? She was meant to fly and soar She looks behind, to find her past jointed with her steps... Without another thought, I jump

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Jessica

Peiyue Ma History

Styles

(**M**)





### Carlos Rodriguez I Remember...

I remember getting lost in the woods for two hours. I jumped for joy until I found my way out. I remember the small yellow snake that slithered into an outlet. It never came out. I remember when ice cream tasted like it had come from heaven on a hot summer day. I remember dressing up as a vampire for almost every Halloween.

I remember Jumping over houses in Dominican Republic. I remember the thought of fear of falling. I remember chocolate milk, peanut butter and jelly, sliced apples, and dried chicken in the high school cafeteria.

I remember the intense taste of tequila at a family party. I don't remember what happened next. I remember climbing tall trees and always thinking, "how the hell am I suppose to get down."

I remember the bitter taste of orange juice after brushing my teeth.

I remember my first crush. She was like a Sour Patch, sour then sweet. I remember breaking my left arm. Sounded like branches being stripped off a tree one after another.

I remember almost drowning in a hotel pool. It was the first day I learned to swim.

I remember how the moon seemed to stand on top of the hill. I felt like it was going to roll down on me. I remember thinking a bright green light descending from the sky was an alien space craft.

I remember crying after watching *Titanic*. I remember my first day on a theater stage like I was on top of the world.

I remember killing a bird with a sling shot then cooking it on a small fire. It tasted like chicken. I remember eating bright red flowers. Don't ask me why.

I remember when my mom's pants caught on fire on a camping trip. She was performing with sparks around the campfire when her pants burst into flames as if it was soaked with oil. I only clapped harder thinking it was part of the show.

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### Colleen Mims

La Douleur Exquise

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- The saddest gift you can give to someone is a friend, The exquisite pain of loving, Putting your heart, soul, everything you know, Out on the line, the sleeves you bare, For the whole world to see, No privacy, no space to be aware of what reality shares. Open your eyes and see what is there, A friend that is really not a season nor reason, But a figment of thought, Someone you wished was more clear.
- Instead we're fooled by a wolf in sheepish clothing, Ripping apart of the matter and pieces of everything you wore on your sleeves.

Discarded like yesterday, You're lost like yesterday. Remembering the friend that once was, A foolish foe in disguise. Disenchanted thoughts become rage and anger, Afraid and alone, You don't know who to turn to. We are all alone, In some way or another. We distance ourselves from those gifts, Believing that one will be like the rest. Judge not, we're all forsaken. The saddest gifts are not friends, They are the distance of time we Have with those faces.



### Velázquez Llanes He Keeps the Window Open

He keeps the windows open always... Lights are shut on my side. I can hear the tires carefully caressing the pavement

Ouiet stares... She enters the rooma rerunbut I refuse to turn away. He knows his audience. And this pleases him.

The lights dim, it gets colder in my room. It's hard to breathe. I'm captive and swollen. Broken and soaked like the concrete. Ouietly, I cave-in. Their bodies are attached to a flame not strong enough to fuse them, yet I hear the burning screams.

Lights on. lt's done. No moans or whispers of despair.

I see it clearly. What I've been waiting for. Another tally mark. The disenchantment and awkwardness. The honking sounds. She leaves deflated, he grins in satisfaction or exhaustion as she walks away in shame.

> Sabina Vafaeva Birds

### Zola Bodden Midnight Mornings

Morning floors creep She shivers Skin bare as the ground She covers Yet, how they creep When someone walks them Her back presses against sleek walls Concrete He opens her door She clutches sheets between her knees • His shadow is tall against the walls The bottle in his hand empty His groan echoing Her shut eyes Her prayers Guttural



### Rachelle Benoit

The Bulging Belly

The bulging belly tells a story Her naked hand is a cause for shame She is scared And alone Fornicators look at her And laugh Pointing Three Angers point back She thinks her only way out is to destroy the thing inside Angels and demons struggle in her head Fighting for life She goes to church Pro-life people shun her They whisper: "She is not married" Against all odds she decided to tell her family She is going to see this through She encounters anger What a little whore she is from a family of old values God seems to not love her She makes an appointment Tears in her eyes she ascends the stairs Carrying the weight of her cross the doctor

will see you Then behold A miracle A women dressed with the sun Do not harm this child Take comfort my daughter I have been where you are I have received their teasing Do not listen to them God himself has touched you the bulging belly tells a story Her naked hand proves how brave she really is.

> Nude Vincente Farley

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