Contents

03 Girls by Alessandro Pessoli
06 Transposition #1 by Valentine Schmidt
07 Introduction by Nina Rapi
08 The Roxy by Phillip Crymble
09 Sculpture for the Blind by Phillip Crymble
10 Tomorrow/Seppuku by Kenneth Emson
20 Not Politically Correct I by Maria Georgakaki
21 Journeys by Richard Parker
21 Bouperg by Richard Parker
21 Herod by Richard Parker
22 String of Bright Moments by Kieron Devlin
27 Our Myra by Steven Taylor
28 Landscape Particle #2 by Joan Edlis
29 Wooden Steps by Tolu Ogunlesi
32 Current Affairs by Paula Balfe
33 A Tin Can Mind (In Search of a Voice) by Michel Sauret
38 From ‘Basho in Riyadh’ 2 by Martin Bennett
40 Not Politically Correct II by Maria Georgakaki
41 A Day in Adult Form by Dawn Sanders
43 The Interpretation of a Greek Letter by Roy Endean
47 There is only ever one sport in the future by J.E.A. Wallace
48 The Boy on the Bicycle by Gina Betcher
49 After David Batchelor’s Pink Pimp Mix photo by Tina Davis
50 We Are Only Human by Heidi James
52 Late Night Shopping by Paula B Stanic
61 la citadine by Zena Assi
62 Summer Snow by Amanda Michalopoulou
64 Tangled Bodies by Dawn Sanders
65 Layover in Iceland by Megan Scharmann
67 the monkeys by Michael Stewart
72 Warsaw Ghetto by Liz Helman
73 Valediction by Gabriel Gbadamosi
74 Gobshite by Judith Johnson
75 Vocabulary by Judith Johnson
76 ell-oh-v-eee by Katy Murr
Entertaining Angie by Jay Merill
wallace monument by e.g. jönsson
Jounich #3 by Zena Assi
Untitled by Amel Rebika
Family Ties by Bernie McGill
Excerpt From Working Progress by Robert Herbert
Hustler #4 by Caroline May
Plaza Mayor, Salamanca by Andrew C. Ferguson
Writing Under the Bridge: An International Conversation between Elizabeth Pisani, Wayson Choy, Christos Tsiolkas, Zdravka Evtimova and Michael Langan
Four Typhoon Poems by Wang Xiaoni
translated from Chinese by Pascale Petit
Budapest by Liz Helman
Postcolonial Futures: Postcolonial Literature and the Obama Moment by Justine Baillie
Untitled by Valeria Kogan
A Moment for Creation by Valeria Kogan
Hustler #11 by Caroline May
A sense of Place by Nadia Kingsley
Stutter by Jennifer Farmer
Steps #8 by Robert McGowan
That Particular Coat by Ruth O’Callaghan
A Poet has been murdered by Hiva Panahi
translated from Kurdish by Shirin Youssefian Maanian
The Golden Ticket by Jennifer Barclay
First Length in Holloway #2 by Valentine Schmidt
La luciérnaga/The glow-worm by Kath Mckay
A New Hometown – To the Residents of a Housing Complex by Shuntaro Tanikawa
translated from Japanese by William I. Elliott and Kazuo Kawamura
Biographies
The Way it Used to Be and Always Will Be by Jeffar Khaldi
Zena Assi, born in 1974 in Lebanon, graduated with Honours from L’Academie Libanaise Des Beaux Arts (ALBA) with a D.E.S. in publicity. She worked for Saatchi & Saatchi’s creative department for two years, then shifted into painting in 2000. Since then she has participated in numerous exhibitions both collective and solo, and has featured on the cover of several publications in Europe as well as the Middle East.

Dr. Justine Baillie is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Performance Studies at the University of Greenwich. Dr. Baillie has published on African-American women’s writing and Postcolonial literature, in various journals including Women; a Cultural Review, Routledge; and Critical Engagements, University of Westminster Press. She is co-author of Beginning Gender, Manchester University Press (forthcoming).

Paula Balf is a registered nurse, complementary therapist and mother of two grown up children. She lives in the village of Stubbington in Hampshire. In 2007 she graduated from the University of Portsmouth with a first class Honours degree in English and Creative Writing. Since then, her poetry has appeared in Iota, Other Poetry, Reach Poetry, The Dauntreader and Obsessed With Pipework. This is her first piece of published flash fiction.

Jennifer Barclay’s plays have been produced and developed across Europe and the USA, including the Edinburgh Fringe, International Theatre of Vienna, and Steppenwolf. As an actress, Jennifer has performed in Austria, Scotland, Chicago, California and New York. Awards include: Kennedy Center National Science Playwriting Award second place, Final Draft Big Break semi-finalist, Princess Grace finalist, Pinter Review, San Francisco Fringe Best Dramatic Solo. Education: Northwestern University (Bachelors) and UC San Diego (MFA Playwriting, 2009). www.BarclayStudios.com.

David Batchelor is an artist and writer living in London. His work has been exhibited widely in various venues, including the São Paulo Bienal, Tate Triennial and MOMA, New York. He is the author of Chomophobia, Reaktion Books, 2000.

Martin Bennett lives in Rome where he teaches and proof-reads at the University of Tor Vergata. He has been published in Babel, Stand, Poetry Ireland Review and elsewhere.

Gina Betcher earned her MFA in fiction in 2003 from Western Michigan University and she has published short works of fiction and non-fiction in ReDivider, and poems in the Feminist Review. She lives and works in Kalamazoo, Michigan, adores her boxer Bea Bea, swims laps regularly at the YMCA, and in the fall of 2008 she was humbled to instruct a classroom of former foster youth in English composition.

Wayson Choy was born 1939, in Vancouver. In 1996 he was co-winner (with Margaret Atwood) of the Trillium Book Award, for his novel, The Jade Peony. His most recent book is All That Matters (long-listed for the IMPAC Prize) and he is presently working on his fourth and fifth books, a memoir and a novel. In 2005 he was made a Member of the Order of Canada and is Professor Emeritus at Humber College.

Phillip Cryamble was born in Northern Ireland and emigrated to Canada with his family as a child. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in The North, Iota, Succour, Cúirt Annual, Poetry Ireland Review, The Echoing Years: An Anthology of Poetry from Canada & Ireland and numerous other publications worldwide. In 2007 he read in Poetry Ireland’s annual Introductions series in Dublin. Wide Boy, his first short collection, was recently released by Lapwing, Belfast.
**Tina Davis:** While walking along the South Bank one day I came across David Batchelor’s neon lit cement mixer outside the Hayward Gallery’s bar, aptly named *Concrete*. I loved the way the pink neon feminised an essentially very masculine object and wanted to give the photo a solarized fuzziness which I think brings the object to life. Tina Davis is a painter, photographer and mosaic artist.


**Joan Edlis** has just completed the MA Fine Art program at City & Guilds of London Art School. She likes the idea of landscape, as opposed to nature, which has been described as clinging her imagery and formats, she enables her work to inhabit a space between reality and

**Kenneth Emson:** In 2008 Kenneth wrote *Enduring Voices* for The Old Vic’s 24 Hour play event. He also took part in the Royal Court Young writers’ programme and their Invitation writers’ group. He was commissioned by Menagerie Theatre for their Hotbed Festival and has had short plays performed at The Union, Theatre 503 and Live Theatre. He has had plays performed at the Hotlink Festival in New York in both 2008 and 2009.

**Roy Endean** was born in Ireland where he graduated with a degree in Philosophy from University College Cork. This is his first published story. He is currently at work on his first novel.

**Zdravka Evtimova** was born in Bulgaria and lives in Brussels, Belgium. Her short stories have appeared in magazines and literary journals from all over the world. She has published three collections of short stories, the most recent of which, *Miss Daniella*, was published by Skrev Press, UK, in 2007.

**Jennifer Farmer,** a native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Jennifer was named one of the country’s newest theatre talents by *The Guardian* in 2004. Also in 2004, her play *Compact Failure*, commissioned by Clean Break, premiered to critical acclaim. Her work includes *words, words, words* (Tricycle Theatre, 2006) and *Bulletproof Soul* (Birmingham Rep, 2007; short-listed for the 2008 Brian Way Award); and plays for the Bush Theatre, Paines Plough and BBC Radio 3. *Stutter* was originally produced at the 2008 Hotbed Festival.

**Andrew C Ferguson** is a writer, performer and musician based in Fife, Scotland. His poetry pamphlet on the theme of chess, *Head to Head*, co-written with Jane McKie, is available from Knucker Press (www.knuckerpress.com). More information on forthcoming performances, and some reading samples, visit: www.myspace.com/andrewcferguson.

**Gabriel Gbadamosi** is a poet, playwright and critic. He is currently an AHRC Creative and Performing Arts Fellow at Drama at the Pinter Centre, Goldsmiths College and was a Judith E. Wilson Fellow for creative writing at Cambridge University as well as a Wingate Scholar researching performance in Africa. His plays include *Eshu’s Faust* (Cambridge), *Hotel Orpheu* (Schaubühne, Berlin) and *The Long, Hot Summer of ’76* (BBC) which won the first Richard Imison Award.

**Maria Georgakaki:** I consider photography a recording tool. The subject is almost irrelevant. Everything is a theme under the exposure. The particle (theme) isolated, gives clues for the whole; both camera and subject, exposed, create a deep momentary connection. And strangely enough, through this connection, you get clues about the momentarily exposed photographer. M.G. studied BA (Hons) in Fine Art specializing in Ceramic Sculpture at Central St Martins & an Art and Architecture MA at UEL.

**Liz Helman** is a multi-disciplinary artist living and working in London. By constantly recycling her imagery and formats, she enables her work to inhabit a space between reality and
dreams. By challenging the everyday experiences and perceptions of urban living, she uses photography, collage, installation and film to explore narrative structures that blur the boundaries between fact and fiction with that of place, memory and belonging. Other work can be seen at http://lizhelman.blogspot.com.

Robert Herbert is from Co.Down, Northern Ireland. A graduate of the University of Greenwich and Goldsmith, University of London, he is currently doing a PhD in contemporary poetry at the University of Liverpool. He has written for the Irish Music Press and been commissioned, with the Japanese poet, Noriko Onohara, to translate a Nishino Sorao manga entitled Happiness In A World Of No Directions (Maborosidou Shuppan, 2007). His poems have been published in Tower Poetry, Stop Sharpening Your Knives and Gallous.


Judith Johnson is a playwright and Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at the University of Greenwich. Her work has been performed at the Royal Court, National Theatre, Liverpool Playhouse and Arcola Theatre, amongst others. She is currently writing a new musical for the Arcola Theatre and a play about children with speech, language and communication needs. Her play Starfish, about clinical trials, is currently being toured by Y-Touring Theatre Company.

e.g. jönsson is a short fiction writer and occasional poet who graduated from the MLitt in Creative Writing at the University of Glasgow in 2008. Texts have appeared or are forthcoming in The Packington Review, Brittle Star and Litro among others. For more information see: http://www.egj.name/

Jeffar Khalidi (born in Lebanon, 1964) lived in the US for 18 years and is now based in Dubai. The winner of the Grand Prize at the Sharjah Biennial, 1997, Khalidi is regarded as one of the most significant painters working in the Middle East. Combining pop imagery with political references, religious symbolism and text, his fantasy landscapes represent an unattainable dream; an account of the longings, frustrations and anger within the Arab diaspora. Image courtesy of JM London Gallery.

Nadia Kingsley (www.nadiakingsley.co.uk) writes poems and short stories, which she performs throughout the West Midlands. She has been published in Poetry Monthly and Deficit magazines. She has had two stories recorded by www.shortstoryradio.com. She won third prize for her story After the Tone at Frome Festival. A piece of micro fiction, Hi David Gaffney! commended, can be seen on the Mostly Life website.

Valeria Kogan is a student, artist and writer who splits her time between Oxford, where she studies classics, and London. Valeria has been published on both sides of the Atlantic in various poetry publications and is currently an editor for Incorporating Writing.

John Kørner was born in Århus, Denmark in 1967. He studied at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts Copenhagen between 1992 and 1998. Kørner has had solo exhibitions at AROs Århus Kunstmuseum, Denmark (2006), Moderna Museet, Sweden (2005) and Herning Museum of Art, Denmark (2003). His work was recently included in many group exhibitions including U-Turn Copenhagen Quadriennial (2008) and the Carnegie Art Award 2008 Touring Exhibition.

Michael Langan is Programme Leader for Creative Writing at the University of Greenwich. He was a founder member of the Liverpool-based performance writing group, QueerScribes. An extract from his (unpublished) novel, The Vocabulary of Spiders, can be found in the Fall 2006 issue of Blithe House Quarterly (www.blithe.com). When he’s not teaching he is trying to write his second novel, Astonishing Paris. He doesn’t have much spare time but when he does can usually be found in the theatre, or in Italy.

Shirin Youssefian Maanian is an actress and a peace activist. Her passion for combining theatre and social issues has produced plays on breast cancer, race relations, human rights abuse,
and the treatment of women in Iran. She is External Affairs representative for the Bahá’í Community of Greece.

**Caroline May** (b.1975) studied at The University of Kent at Canterbury and The London Institute. She is currently having a two-person exhibition with Matt Lipps at Ozon, Athens. Recent museum exhibitions include Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts, London (2007), Heterotopias: The 1st Thessaloniki Biennale, Greece (2007), Crossing the Borders, Greek State Museum Thessaloniki, Greece (2006), Identities and their Topographies, Centre of Contemporary Art, Barcelona, Spain (2006). She is represented by The Apartment, Athens. www.theapartment.gr


**Bernie McGill** is the recipient of two Arts Council of Northern Ireland Awards, and is the 2008 winner of the Zoetrope All-Story Short Fiction Contest. Her work has been broadcast on BBC Radio Ulster and published in *Fortnight*, *Verbal* and *Northern Woman* magazines, in *The Belfast Telegraph* and in the anthologies *The Barefoot Nuns of Barcelona* and *My Story*. Her play, *The Weather Watchers* was produced and toured in Ireland in 2006 by Cahoots NI.

**Robert McGowan** is a fiction writer whose stories have appeared in *Blue Mesa Review*, *Connecticut Review*, *The Dos Passos Review*, *One Page Stories*, *The Savage Kick* (UK), and *South Dakota Review*, among others. He’s been a university art instructor, an art critic, a gallery director, and a library arts specialist. His work as a visual artist is in numerous collections, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Smithsonian Institution. He lives in Memphis, Tennessee, USA.

**Kath Mckay** is a poet and short story writer based in Leeds. She has published one poetry collection, *Anyone Left Standing*, published by Smith/Doorstop; and one novel, *Waiting for the Morning*, published by The Women’s Press. Recent work appears in *Rialto*, *Smiths Knoll*, *The North* and various anthologies. She has worked with Finnish and African writers, teaches at Hull University, and is completing a poetry collection and a short story collection.

**Amanda Michalopoulou** was born in Athens, Greece and has published novels, short stories and children’s books. She has received the Revmata Award for her story *Life is colourful outside* (1994) and the Diavazo Award for her highly acclaimed novel *Yandes* (1996). Dalkey Archive Press won the International Literature Prize by National Endowment for the Arts, USA, for translating her interlinked stories *I’d like* into English. Her prose has been translated in several languages.

**Katy Murr** is a reader and writer from Manchester. Previously she was a commended Foyle Young Poet of the Year. Most of all she’s interested in the inbetween. This year she’s been on the BBC Blast Youth Panel, promoting youth Arts provision. In February she was in France with a British Council fellowship, working on a project about the EU and education. You can find more of her writing at http://www.katy-murr.blogspot.com/

**Ruth O’Callaghan** holds the Hawthornden Fellowship, is a winner in International Poetry competitions, a competition adjudicator, interviewer and reviewer. She frequently reads abroad, in the UK and at festivals including the O2 Festival, Hyde Park. She hosts two poetry venues in London. Her work has been translated into German, Italian and Romanian. Her second collection *A Lope of Time* is due out in March.

**Tolu Ogunlesi** (born 1982) is the author of the poetry collection *Listen to the Geckos Singing from a Balcony* (Bewrite Books, 2004) and a novella, *Conquest and Conviviality* (Hodder Education, 2008). His work has appeared in *Wasafiri*, *Other Poetry*, *Magma*, *Pyramid*, *The Obituary Tango* (Caine Prize Anthology 2006), *Sable*, and elsewhere. He has also been broadcast on the BBC World Service. He won a Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Prize in 2007. He lives in Lagos, Nigeria.
Hiva Panahi was born in Kurdistan, Iran, in 1980. Persecuted for her political beliefs, she moved to Greece on a scholarship where she is now completing a PhD at Panteion University. She has translated numerous classical Greek texts into the Kurdish language. Her latest collection of poetry in Greek is entitled The Secret of Snow (Maistros, 2008).

Richard Parker is a research student at the University of Sussex studying 20th century American poetry and teaching, reading and writing on 19th century American literature. He is the founder and editor of Crater, a forthcoming magazine of avant-garde poetry, organiser of the London Cantos Reading Group. His poems have appeared in Glitch in the USA and are forthcoming in The Wolf.

Alessandro Pessoli (born 1963 in Italy) has had solo exhibitions at The Chisenhale and green-grassi, London; The Drawing Room and Anton Kern, New York; Studio Guenzani, Milan and Xavier Hufkens, Brussels. His work was included in the group exhibitions Italics: Italian art between tradition and revolution, 1968–2008, Palazzo Grassi, Venice (curated by Francesco Bonami) (2008) and RAW – Among the ruins, Marres, Centre for Contemporary Culture, Maastricht, Netherlands (2007). Pessoli lives and works in Milan.

Pascale Petit’s latest collection is The Treekeeper’s Tale (Seren, 2008) and a fifth, What the Water Gave Me – Poems after Frida Kahlo is due from Seren in 2009. Previous collections, The Huntress and The Zoo Father (Seren, 2005 and 2001), were shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize and were Books of the Year in the TLS. Lily Qin, who teaches translation at Minzu University of China, Beijing, kindly provided literal translations of these poems. More information: http://www.pascalepetit.co.uk

Elizabeth Pisani is an epidemiologist who has spent over a decade working on the defining epidemic of our age – HIV. She published The Wisdom of Whores: Bureaucrats, Brothels, and the Business of AIDS, (Granta, 2008). In a previous existence, Elizabeth was a foreign correspondent for Reuters, The Economist and the Bangkok-based Asia Times. She travels more or less constantly, treating as often as possible to the southwest of Ireland, where she indulges an enthusiasm for sea-kayaking.

Nina Rapi is a playwright and short story writer. Her plays & monologues include: Gentle Persuasion, SubVerse, Theatre503; Lovers, Gielgud Theatre, West End Shorts Season; the award-winning Angelstate; Edgewise, Gate Theatre (staged reading); Josie’s Restrooms, ICA; Tricky, Tart Gallery (published by Heinemann); Ithaka, Riverside studios (winner of Best play Award, Bits Theatre Festival, Pirani, India). She is currently writing Out Where? a new collection of stories, supported by an Arts Council Writing Grant. More at: www.nina-rapi.com

Amel Rebika, born in London, 1989, took up writing as a child to relieve summer holiday boredom. She is currently studying Creative Writing at the University of Greenwich, where she hoped (and still does) that the rich and decadent history of the campus would provide a bottomless well of inspiration and ideas. She is also inspired by what comes out of her mouth.

Dawn Sanders is passionate about entomology and carnivorous plants. Past articles on gardens, science and poetry include a piece in A Green Thought in a Green Shade edited by Sarah Maguire. Currently working on a radio play about Charles Darwin and Mary Treat, and their carnivorous plant experiments. Her favorite poem is Warming Her Pearls by Carol Ann Duffy for its sensual treatment of the physics of heat transfer.

Michel Sauret was born in Italy and moved to the U.S. at the age of 10. He started writing fiction by age 16 and published his first novel, Breathing God by the time he was 19 years old. Michel also completed two other books, a memoir called Child, Hold Me and a poetry collection titled A Tin Can Mind. His fiction has been featured in Best New Writing 2008, Hopewell Publications, and published in several literary journals such as Wet Ink and The Whitefish Review.

Megan Scharmann is a poet and recent graduate of the University of Greenwich. A native of the United States, she currently lives in Maryland while preparing to apply for graduate school. This is her first published work.
Valentine Schmidt is a London-based photographer represented by The Photographers’ Gallery. The building blocks used for Transposition belonged to Valentine’s father (Peter Schmidt), who left Berlin for England when he was 7. The setting of ‘Transposition’ is Birkenau. The setting of ‘First Length’ is HMP Holloway. For more information, please see www.valentineschmidt.com


Paula B Stanic grew up in East London. Her play What’s Lost won the 2008 Alfred Fagon Award (rehearsed reading, Royal Court). She was one of the 8 finalists for Channel 4’s, The Play’s The Thing, 2007. Late Night Shopping (first published in The Packingtown Review, Chicago) was also produced at The White Bear Theatre, in The Outsiders season, 2008. She is currently co-writing a play for radio with Terri Ann Brumby.

Michael Stewart has written several full-length stage plays, one of which, Karry Owky, was joint winner of the King’s Cross Award for New Writing, as well as securing work in radio and television. He was the winner of the BBC Alfred Bradley Award in 2003 and is currently under commission with Chol Theatre. His radio play Excluded was shortlisted for the Imison Award, 2008. His fiction has been published widely in anthologies and magazines, including Route, Leaf Books and Aesthetica.

Shuntaro Tanikawa, Japan’s best-known living poet, published his first book of poems in 1952. Of the fifty-odd books that followed, Kanto Gakuin University colleagues William I. Elliott and Kazuo Kawamura have translated all. To date, 15 have been published. Tanikawa’s poems have been translated into 20 languages. Elliott’s own eighth book of poems will appear in March from Level 4 Press. Kawamura, a Shelley scholar and linguist, continues his study of Russian.

Steven Taylor was born and brought up in Hyde near Manchester and now lives in Kilburn, north London as the English aspect of an Irish household. The big influences are post and pre WW2 North American, and more latterly East European and Modern Arab. The big English poets would be Basil Bunting, JH Prynne and Geoffrey Hill.

Raffaele Teo is a freelance graphic designer & artist. After attending Art School in Italy, he went on investing all his energies in Comparative Literature and Humanities studies, moving to London in the mid ’90s where he specialized in Graphic Design. He’s been working as a designer and illustrator since then for Chroma Literary Journal, Apis Books, Birkbeck college and the United Nations, among others (arteo71@hotmail.com)

Christos Tsiolkas is a writer, playwright and essayist. His published novels are Loaded (filmed as Head On), The Jesus Man, Dead Europe, and The Slap. His plays include Viewing Blue Poles and the award-winning collaborations, Who’s Afraid of the Working Class?, Fever and Non Parlo di Salò (about censorship, and the life and politics of Pier Paolo Pasolini). Christos writes on cinema and popular culture for a range of Australian magazines and literary journals.

J.E.A. Wallace is a writer from London whose first story was published in Brand Magazine’s first issue. Since then he has had stories and poems published in Volume Magazine and Irk Magazine among others. Read them at www.myspace.com/jeawallace.

Wang Xiaoni, born in 1955, was one of the ‘Misty’ poets that emerged in China in the late 1970s. Her books include Wode shixuan (My Selected Poems), 1986, and Wode zhili baozhe wo de huo (My paper wraps my fire), 1997. She took up a teaching position at Hainan University in 2005 and participated in the Yellow Mountain Poetry festival in China and the UK in 2007–8.