

Gnarled Oak

an online literary journal



Issue 1: Starting Small
Fall 2014



Gnarled Oak
Issue 1: Starting Small
Fall 2014

Gnarled Oak is an online literary journal publishing poetry, prose, artwork, and videos four times per year. This issue was originally published online from Nov-Dec 2014 and is archived at gnarledoak.org/issue-1-xs/

Editor and publisher: James Brush

Cover: still frame from the video "Belief in Unicorns" by Marie Craven, included in this issue

All copyrights are retained by the original authors and artists.

Website: gnarledoak.org
(please visit the website for the current issue,
submissions info, and past issues)

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/gnarledoak
Follow us on Twitter: [@gnarled_oak](https://twitter.com/gnarled_oak)

Contents

fleeing sparrows — Angie Werren	1
gnarled oak — Patricia Geyer	2
The Names Change Every Time I Tell the Story — Aubrie Cox	3
crows perched on wire — Erica Goss	4
Perfume — Mark Windham	5
ventilator machine — Archana Kapoor Nagpal	6
faultless hand sewn quilts — Vivienne Blake	7
luscious peach — Julie Bloss Kelsey	8
Newton's First Law of Motion — Aubrie Cox	9
eventide — Shloka Shankar	10
on the belly — Marianne Paul	11
a wild sky — Debbie Strange	12
paddling sea kayaks — Robyn Cairns	13
morning fog — Angie Werren	14
Four Haiku — Kris Lindbeck	15
Notes on the Videos	16
Editor's Note	17
Contributor Bios	20

fleeing sparrows

Angie Werren

fleeing sparrows –
perhaps all soft words
fade

gnarled oak

Patricia Geyer

gnarled oak
planted long ago...
many battles

The Names Change Every Time I Tell the Story

Aubrie Cox

I barely see the children swimming behind the
boats. Twilight ripples from their faint outlines.

Drowning doesn't look anything like I thought it
would.

cottonwood flurries
the field left to return
to prairie

crows perched on wire

Erica Goss

crows perched on wire
the sky divides into halves
the line between us

Perfume

Mark Windham

A stranger eases past
in a crowd,

her scent
every memory

of you.

ventilator machine

Archana Kapoor Nagpal

ventilator machine
a sound louder
than my heartbeat

faultless hand sewn quilts

Vivienne Blake

faultless hand sewn quilts
are impossible to find –
an uneven stitch
identifies the maker
as a fallible human

luscious peach

Julie Bloss Kelsey

luscious peach
in a bowl of blue —
one perfectly ripe
sunset

Newton's First Law of Motion

Aubrie Cox

Forty degrees and foggy. Barefoot in the parking lot. His kisses keep you warm enough long enough to see him off.

floodplains
where her family history
ends


eventide

Shloka Shankar

eventide a gull's cry so familiar

on the belly

Marianne Paul



on the belly
of the yellow perch
the sun

a wild sky

Debbie Strange

a wild sky
tethered to earth...
chain lightning

paddling sea kayaks

Robyn Cairns

paddling sea kayaks
into black ink
and prehistoric forests
we realised
how young we were

morning fog

Angie Werren



Four Haiku

Kris Lindbeck

Threesome ...
they lie in bed together
petting the cat

quarreling sparrows
the old woman says a gray dove
is their mother

Bright wind
a white cloud of ibis
touch the earth

Green trees
and silver clouds
no poems but this

Notes on the Videos

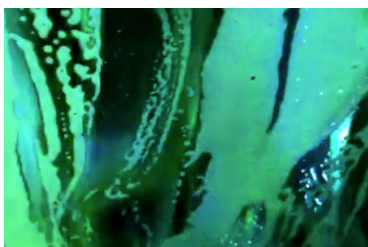
This issue of *Gnarled Oak* included the following videos. Check them out by following the links.



Belief in Unicorns

Marie Craven

Link: <http://gnarledoak.org/issue-1-xs/belief-in-unicorns/>



Six (Twenty Seconds of Haiku)

Angie Werren

Link: <http://gnarledoak.org/issue-1-xs/six/>



The Moving Sidewalk

Carolyn Guinzio

Link: <http://gnarledoak.org/issue-1-xs/the-moving-walkway/>

Editor's Note

There is very little to say here at the end of this inaugural issue of *Gnarled Oak* other than "thank you."

Thank you to everyone who submitted work and took a chance on this fledgling publication.

Thank you to everyone who read this issue, who shared it, liked it, commented, retweeted, favorited, pinned, reposted, and all those other ways of sharing work we discover in the digital world.

It has been my honor and privilege to publish the pieces contained in this issue, from work by writers and artists I already knew and admired to others whose work was new to me.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, all. I hope you're looking forward to Issue Two as much as I am.

--James Brush, Editor
December 2014

Contributor Bios

Vivienne Blake is an elderly Englishwoman living in rural Normandy, where she spends her time writing and quilting.

Robyn Cairns is a Melbourne based poet who shares her poetry and photography on twitter. Robyn enjoys writing about nature and her local industrial landscape. She has a passion for photography and being outdoors. Robyn is continuously inspired by other poets on platforms such as twitter – she can be found @robbiepoet. She is also a proud member of an online Haiku group called The Banyan Tree. She has recently had the honour of being published in *Bright Stars* tanka journal volumes 2, 3, 5 and 6 and has also been recently published in *Cattails* and *The Bamboo Hut*.

Aubrie Cox went to university to write a novel and came out writing haiku. It's worked pretty well so far. Now, she teaches at Millikin University and is an editor for the online journal *A Hundred Gourds*. Her poetry and prose can be found in publications such as *Modern Haiku*, *Frogpond*, *NANO Fiction*, and forthcoming in *WhiskeyPaper*. She regularly blogs at Yay Words! and sometimes tweets @aubriecox.

Marie Craven: 'I am a media maker and vocalist from the Gold Coast, Australia with a long artistic background including drama, experimental cinema and music. I've been engaged in online collaboration since 2007 and have been a contributor to works with artists in many different parts of the world. Generally speaking, I am drawn to dreams, fragmentation, rhythms, narrative. I work intuitively leaving space for synchronicity.' (from The Poetry Storehouse)

Patricia Geyer, an amateur photographer and poet, lives in East Brunswick, NJ, USA. Her home is surrounded by many

parks and lakes, and she walks every day to find her inspiration in Nature. She has been published in *Bright Stars*, *Moonbathing*, *Kokako*, *The Bamboo Hut*, *Undertow Tanka Review* and *Akitsu Quarterly*.

Erica Goss is the Poet Laureate of Los Gatos, CA, and the host of **Word to Word, a show about poetry**. She is the author of *Wild Place* (Finishing Line Press 2012) and *Vibrant Words: Ideas and Inspirations for Poets* (PushPen Press 2014). Her poems, reviews and articles appear widely, both on-line and in print. She won the 2011 Many Mountains Moving Poetry Contest and was nominated for the Pushcart Prize in 2010 and 2013. She writes *The Third Form*, a column about video poetry, for Connotation Press. Please visit her at: ericagoss.com; she blogs at ericagosspoet.wordpress.com.

Carolyn Guinzio is a poet, photographer and occasional filmmaker. Her books include *Spoke & Dark* (Red Hen, 2012), *Quarry* (Parlor, 2008), *West Pullman* (Bordighera, 2005) and the forthcoming *Spine* (Parlor, 2015). Find her online at <http://carolynguinzio.tumblr.com/>

Julie Bloss Kelsey writes microfiction and short-form poetry. Her poems have appeared in *tinywords*, *The Heron's Nest*, *Eye to the Telescope*, and *A Hundred Gourds*, among others. Find her on Twitter @MamaJoules.

Kris Lindbeck writes haiku etc on Twitter @krislindbeck & recently published in M. Kei's *Bright Stars*, *Skylark Tanka*, & an essay on senryu in *Simply Haiku*.

Archana Kapoor Nagpal is an internationally published author of four books – *14 Pearls of Inspiration*, *The Road to a Positive Life*, *A Haiku Per Day* and *The Fragrance of a Beautiful Life*. She often participates in short story competitions, and

her winning stories are now part of international anthologies – *New Love: Anthology of Short Stories* and *12 Facets of a Crystal*. She has seen her short stories, poems and haiku published in other anthologies as well – *A Pinch of Love, Peace and Humanity* and *Ripples of Love*. She has also been actively involved in the editing and book designing of these two anthologies.

Marianne Paul is a Canadian poet and novelist. Recently, she has been focusing on minimalist poetry – primarily haiku and tanka. You can learn more about her work at www.mariannepaul.com or on Twitter @mariannpaul.

Shloka Shankar is a freelance writer residing in India. Her work appears in two dozen anthologies including *Chronicles of Urban Nomads*, *The Dance of the Peacock*, *Emanations IV*, *The Living Haiku Anthology*, *Family Matters*, *The Traversal of Lines*, and *Eastern Voices* among others. Her poems, erasures, haiku, tanka, and haibun, have appeared in numerous print and online journals.

Debbie Strange is a widely published tanka and haiku poet, as well as an avid photographer. Her current passion is for creating tanshi (small poem) art. You are invited to see more of her work on Twitter @Debbie_Strange.

Angie Werren lives (and writes) in a tiny house in Ohio. Sometimes she takes pictures of things in the yard.

Mark Windham lives in the suburbs of Atlanta with his wife, children and dogs. He is self-employed in a much too logical and structured profession. First drafts of his mental wanderings can be found at *Awakened Words*.