

# COPPERNICKEL

number 24 / spring 2017

EDITOR/MANAGING EDITOR

Wayne Miller

EDITORS: POETRY

Brian Barker

Nicky Beer

EDITOR: FICTION & NONFICTION

Joanna Luloff

EDITOR: FICTION

Teague Bohlen

SENIOR EDITORS

Karl Chwe

Steven Dawson

Jennifer Loyd

Vin Nagle

Lyn Poats

Kyra Scrimgeour

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Joseph Carrillo

Sammi Johnson

Taylor Kirby

Carley Tacker

Tristian Thanh

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Amber Cochran

Bri Galanaugh

Asia Groves

Carolyn Jelley

Elise Lakey

Elsa Peterson

Stephanie Rowden

INTERNS

Alison Auger

Zane Johnson

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Robert Archambeau

Mark Brazaitis

Geoffrey Brock

A. Papatya Bucak

Victoria Chang

Martha Collins

Robin Ekiss

Tarfia Faizullah

V. V. Ganeshanathan

Kevin Haworth

Joy Katz

David Keplinger

Jesse Lee Kercheval

Jason Koo

Thomas Legendre

Randall Mann

Adrian Matejka

Pedro Ponce

Kevin Prufer

Frederick Reiken

James Richardson

Emily Ruskovich

Eliot Khalil Wilson

ART CONSULTANTS

Maria Elena Buszek

Adam Lerner

OFFICE MANAGER

Francine Olivas-Zarate



*Copper Nickel* is the national literary journal housed at the University of Colorado Denver. Published in March and October, it features poetry, fiction, essays, and translation folios by established and emerging writers. We welcome submissions from all writers and currently pay \$30 per printed page. Submissions are assumed to be original and unpublished. For more information, please visit [copper-nickel.org](http://copper-nickel.org). Subscriptions are available—and at discounted rates for students—at [regonline.com/coppernickelsubscriptions](http://regonline.com/coppernickelsubscriptions). *Copper Nickel* is distributed nationally through Publishers Group West (PGW) and Media Solutions, and digitally catalogued by EBSCO. We are deeply grateful for the support of the Department of English and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver.

# CONTENTS

## FEATURE : 22 Flash Fictions

**Stephanie Dickinson**

53 / Big-Headed Anna Tires of Shucking Oysters

**Joseph Aguilar**

54 / Kevin

**Ed Falco**

57 / The Burned Boy

59 / Wish

**Robert Long Foreman**

60 / Weird Pig

62 / Janice

65 / Reactor

**Ruth Joffre**

68 / In Tidy Print

**Danielle Lazarin**

71 / Back Talk

**Patricia Colleen Murphy**

72 / Tattoo

**Thomas Legendre**

74 / John McEnroe's Omelet

**Wendy Oleson**

76 / When a Child Dies (Bear It Away)

**Pedro Ponce**

77 / Mel Brooks

78 / The Dictator Designs a City

79 / Telephone

**Alicita Rodríguez**

80 / How to Know You're a Woman in a Junot Díaz Novel

81 / How to Know You're a Woman in a Kundera Novel

82 / How to Know You're a Woman in a Murakami Novel

**Thaddeus Rutkowski**

83 / Cat's Teeth

**Matthew Salesses**

84 / Dear Estranger,

85 / Dear Estranger,

86 / Dear Estranger,

**FICTION**

**T. D. Storm**

6 / Trespasses

**Bradley Bazzle**

33 / In the Presence of the Actor

**Erin Kate Ryan**

107 / Half-Lives of Sisters

**NONFICTION**

**S. Farrell Smith**

31 / Time of Death

**Aimée Baker**

116 / Wretched Women

**Dan Beachy-Quick**

132 / *from* A Quiet Book

## POETRY

**Allison Campbell**

1 / New You

**Adam Tavel**

2 / A Kindergartner's Concise History of the United States

**Cody Ernst**

3 / Desert Work

**David Dodd Lee**

22 / CVS Health Corporation

**Kerri French**

23 / The Doctor Asks Me to Describe the Pain

**Kaveh Akbar**

24 / Portrait of the Alcoholic with Doubt and Kingfisher

**Joanne Dominique Dwyer**

26 / Semi-Jubilant Conversion Song

**James Davis May**

28 / Damnation as Martin Brody

**John McCarthy**

29 / North End, 1997

**Ashley Keyser**

44 / Watching Hardcore Porn in Slow Motion

45 / Vronsky

**Ryan Sharp**

46 / Bear Skins

47 / Folding Paper

48 / The Enormous Hole

**J. Allyn Rosser**

49 / Personae Who Got Loose

**Candace Williams**

50 / Nostrand Avenue Dirge

**Yerra Sugarman**

97 / Sunday Aubade: A Faithful Remix

**Jenny Molberg**

98 / The Disembodied Woman

**Luanne Castle**

100 / What Came Between a Woman and Her Duties

**Jacob Boyd**

101 / The Substitute's History of the Holy Trumpet

**Esther Lin**

102 / I See Her Best

**Andrew Grace**

103 / *from* the Last Will and Testament of Said Gun

**Pimone Triplett**

123 / Recital for Mixed-Race Player

**Sasha West**

125 / [those were the days of]

**Alex Chertok**

127 / Picking Apples at 30

**Kevin Craft**

128 / Among the Cypresses (23 Remedies)

**Zeina Hashem Beck**

130 / And Still, the Sun

**Ed Bok Lee**

160 / Gwangju, South Korea

**Eleanor Mary Boudreau**  
162 / [Wedding Planning]  
163 / [Pantoum: What You Are Eating as Metaphor for What  
You Want Right Now]

**Alexandra Haines-Stiles**  
164 / The Salvages

**John A. Nieves**  
165 / Tremble Island

**John Loughlin**  
166 / Under the River Go the Faces of Everyone I Have Ever Loved  
167 / The News

## TRANSLATION FOLIOS

**Lorenzo Carlucci**  
13 / Five Poems, introduced & translated by Todd Pornowitz

**Denise Emmer**  
87 / Four Poems, introduced & translated by Tim Kahl

**Tatiana Shcherbina**  
151 / Four Poems, introduced & translated by J. Kates

**Bios / 169**

**Required Reading / 177**

**On the Cover /** Eleanor King, *Tape Loops* (detail)  
colored pencil on paper, 36" x 144", 2011  
courtesy of Diaz Contemporary, Toronto

(for more about King's work, visit [eleanorking.com](http://eleanorking.com))