

# NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW

SINCE 1815

Spring 2025  
VOLUME 310, NUMBER 1

## EDITORS

Rachel Morgan  
J. D. Schraffenberger  
Emily Stowe  
Grant Tracey

POETRY  
MULTI-GENRE  
ART  
FICTION

## MANAGING EDITOR

Emily Stowe

## COVER ART EDITOR

Gary Kelley

## ASSISTANT EDITORS

Adrienne Finlay

## CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Taylor Brorby, Stephanie Burt,  
Peter Cooley, Martín Espada, Perry Glasser,  
Margaret Morganroth Gullette,  
Patricia Hampl, David Hellerstein,  
Maxine Hong Kingston, Yusef Komunyakaa,  
Michael A. Martone, Mary Peterson,  
Barry Sanders, Steven Schwartz,  
Natalia Rachel Singer, Gloria Vando,  
Terry Tempest Williams

## EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Norah Case, Nick Finder, Antonia Goodwin,  
Kassady Ford, Ella Hanner, Erik Hereen,  
Tomiisin Ilesanmi, Keaira Lick, Emma Luft,  
Tony Miller, Reese Payten, Jon Smith,  
Meredith Westra, Steven Zimmer,  
Olivia Zirtzman

## EDITORIAL & BUSINESS OFFICES

1227 West 27th Street  
University of Northern Iowa  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50614-0516 USA

northamericanreview.org

## RATES

\$15.00 US per copy (\$18.00 in Canada).  
Double issues \$30.00 (\$36.00 in Canada).  
Individual subscriptions: \$44.00 per  
year/\$83 for two in the US; \$52 per year/\$99  
for two in Canada; \$55 per year/\$105  
elsewhere. Institutional rates apply.

The NAR is housed on the ancestral  
lands of the Báxoje or Bah Kho-Je  
(Iowa), oθaakiwaki·hina·ki (Sauk)  
and Meškwahki-aša·hina (Fox), Očhéthi  
Šakówinj (Sioux), Umó<sup>ho</sup> (Omaha),  
and Hočąk (Ho-Chunk), as well as those  
tribal nations who are contemporary  
caretakers of land in Iowa, including  
the Meskwaki: Sac and Fox Tribe of  
the Mississippi in Iowa.

## ART

- Cover Care for Your Cat [pastels on paper] • Gary Kelley  
17 Apple Cat [hand-colored linocut print] • Andrea Wisniewski  
26 Rainbow Bruise 16, 2022 [photographic relief: embossed silver  
gelatin photogram, fabric dye] • Klea McKenna  
39 Remedy 2, 2024 [intaglio print: oil-based ink on rag-paper]  
• Klea McKenna  
44 Fox Running [hand-colored linocut print] • Andrea Wisniewski  
52 Ojos silenciosos [oil, copper, 24-karat gold] • Michel Antonio  
71 The Awakening [digital] • Fiona Hewitt  
74 Ricochet [digital] • Fiona Hewitt  
81 Remedy 6, 2024 [intaglio print: oil-based ink on rag-paper]  
• Klea McKenna  
84 Detail of Paper Airplanes [folded chromogenic photograms]  
• Klea McKenna  
93 Adoration of the Peaches [digital] • Fiona Hewitt  
102 Holding on Gently [digital] • Fiona Hewitt  
110 Yellow Headed Blackbird Woman [colored pencil and ink on  
antique ledger paper] • James Black  
111 Out for the Day [colored pencil and ink on antique ledger  
paper] • James Black

## FICTION

- 27 Precious • Lydia Mathis  
45 Fox Tossing • Ben Charles Rhodes  
70 Balcony on the Sea • Daniela Alcívar Bellolio, translated by  
Jack Rockwell  
85 The Student • Steven Schwartz  
103 The Definition of Sonder • Pete Stevens

## NONFICTION

- 16 English • Itto Outini, coauthored by Mekiya Outini  
38 Chimeras • Lynette Vialet  
53 Isthmus Zapotec Poetry: A River Flowing to the Sea • Wendy Call  
75 Guns and Angels • John Poch  
80 The Tour • Jillian Weiss  
92 Nostalgic Objects: A Personal Index, a Tracing of Affects  
• Madeline Spivey  
112 The Weirdness of Brutalism • J. F. Martel

## POETRY

- 5 Out of Office Reply • Kelly Rowe  
6 After Miscarriage • Liza Katz Duncan  
6 [ ] Takes Me to Dinner in Our Hometown • Max Seifert  
7 The Solitudes • Matthew Gellman  
8 Milk • Lindsay D'Andrea  
8 Subsistence • Lindsay D'Andrea  
9 For a Family of Clowns • Arthur Solway  
9 From Southern Appalachia • William Rieppe Moore  
10 Veronica • Jenny Molberg  
10 How Would I Describe It? • Fay Dillof  
11 The National Cathedral • Max Seifert  
11 Midrash of the Snake • Lisa Rosinsky  
12 Bagel • Amy Miller

## POETRY CONTINUED

- 12 Bargain • Kai-Lilly Karpman  
13 Taxonomy • Alison Powell  
13 The Historical Present • Ja'net Danielo  
14 The Schlieren Plot, Modern Art Museum  
of Fort Worth • Jess Smith  
15 Jupiter Among the Corybantes  
• Jess Smith  
15 Claude Cahun Elegizes the Face  
• Simone Muench & Jackie K. White  
25 The Next Drinking Essay:  
• Raphael Dagold  
35 Wrested Back • Sandy Longhorn  
35 A Picture of Vail • Jodie Hollander  
36 Old Masters • Eleanor Wilner  
37 What Follows • Eleanor Wilner  
37 In Rome's Protestant Cemetery •  
Elisabeth Murawski  
54 The Binnizá • Macario Matus, translated  
by Wendy Call  
55 Binni Záa / Los zapotecas  
• Macario Matus  
56 Three Untitled Poems from *To Heal  
the Soul* / Ti Guianda Ti Guenda /  
Para sanar un alma • Irma Pineda,  
translated by Wendy Call  
59 Four Poems • Natalia Toledo, translated  
by Clare Sullivan  
63 Two Poems • Paula Ya López, translated  
by Wendy Call  
64 Three Poems • Claudia Guerra translated  
by Wendy Call  
66 Five Poems • Esteban Ríos Cruz, translated  
by Wendy Call  
79 Mary Magdalene, in the garden at night  
• Kristie Frederick Daugherty  
79 Apoptosis • Kristie Frederick Daugherty  
91 Any Good News • Anne Gerard  
91 How Badly I Feel • John Whalen  
91 Taxonomy of Silences • Katharine Rauk  
from *Brother My Brother* • Shann Ray  
110 My Mother Carried a Bucket  
• Gregory Fraser  
117 Crocus • Gregory Fraser

*Al Vi, ho potencia senkorpa Mistero,  
Fortego, la mondon reganta,  
Al Vi, granda fonto de l'amo kaj vero  
Kaj fonto de l'vivo konstanta,  
Al Vi, kiun ĉiu malsame prezentas,  
Sed ĉiu egale en koro Vin sentas,—  
Al Vi, kiu kreas, al Vi, kiu reĝas,  
Ni preĝas.*

L. L. Zamenhof, "Preĝo sub la Verda  
Standardo," *North American Review*,  
January 1907

The origin of the current rise of authoritarian nationalism and the erosion of liberal democracy in the United States can be traced to the global financial crisis of 2008. Or maybe the election of our first Black president. Or maybe growing income inequality. Or maybe federal deregulation. Or maybe cable news. Or maybe social media. Or maybe—or maybe you get the point. It's complicated. And not unprecedented. The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward, well, just us. Democratic backsliding is baked into the American Pie, from 1619 to slavery to Jim Crow to *Shelby County v. Holder*. (Stay tuned.) In fact, according to Zack Beauchamp, it's one of our major global exports to far-flung places like Brazil, Hungary, and India. In his book *The Reactionary Spirit* (2024) he describes a distinctly American flavor of authoritarianism seasoned with democratic spices. Today's populist demagogues always wear the mask of democracy. They don't say elections are bad. They say elections are rigged, until, of course, they win. And when they do—and they do—they claim a mandate to continue undermining the rights of the people. It's the American Way.

What to do? Tracing historical origins is a good start, necessary but not sufficient. Too often, we gaze upon phenomena of the past, hands on hips, self-satisfied, thinking our vision is 20/20 when actually it's blinkered. Instead, as Robin D. G. Kelley invites us to do in his landmark study *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination* (2002), recently reissued by Beacon Press, we should envision the horizons of the past, try to see through the eyes of our activist forebears, to ask what futures *they* were imagining as they confronted oppression and exploitation. Then, from our present vantage we can dream toward new futures, not only to combat corruption and injustice, but also—deadliest of all—cynicism and despair. In this battle we must learn to wield a very specific, very powerful weapon, often belittled if not wholly dismissed: utopian thinking—not the kind of gritty, on-the-ground action that is also required to effect social change, but the radically open, impossibly beautiful, desperately visionary