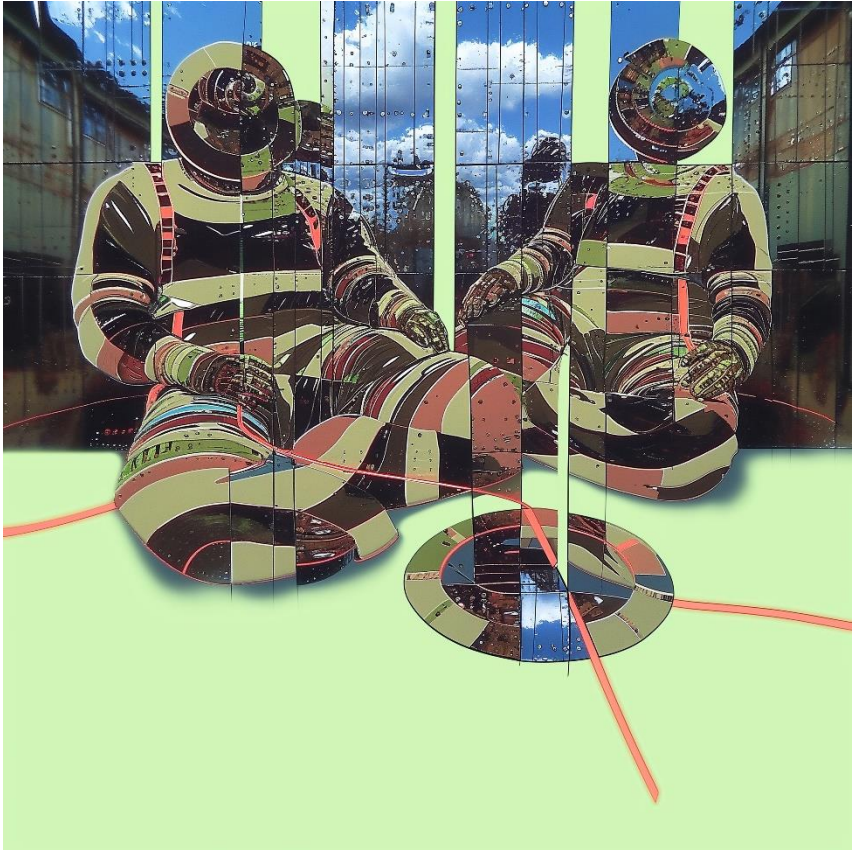


# **SUNSPOT LITERARY JOURNAL**

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**CHANGING THE WORLD  
THROUGH WORDS AND ART**

## Table of Contents

**The Melon Stand** / Jackson Mills Smith / 1

**Glimpse of Paradise** / Gerburg Garmann / 2

**Step Into My Garden** / Gerburg Garmann / 3

**Regarding Ladders** / Joannie Stangeland / 4

**Blood and Sun and Steel Again** / Dave Sims / 5

**Lastborn Son—Suckling** / Dave Sims / 6

**You from the start** / Rainer Maria Rilke / Translated from German  
by Wally Swist / 7

**Du im Voraus** / Rainer Maria Rilke / 8

**The Veil** / Aleksandra Scepanovic / 9

**Contributors** / 10

**COVER: Waiting Room** / AI Assisted / Tandem Tangents

## The Melon Stand

Jackson Mills Smith

### *The Melon Stand*

is a horsefly catch-all,  
a deerfly junction.

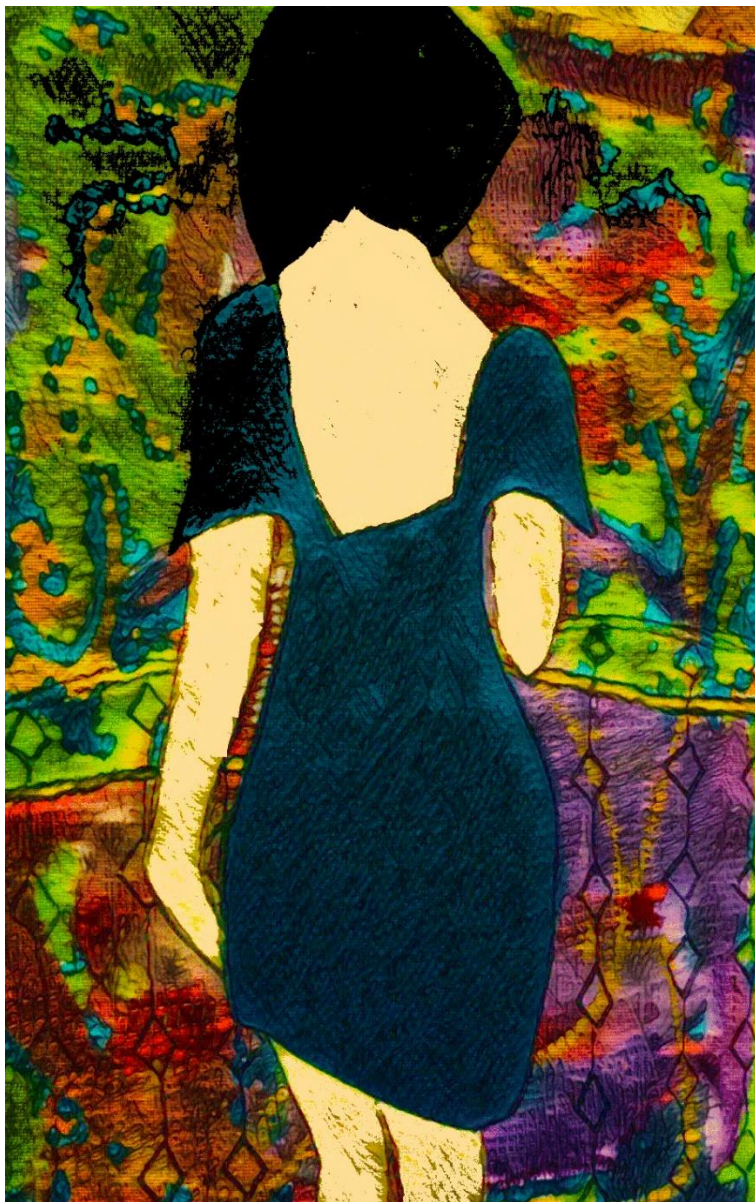
One's got to be as quick as a rabbit hound  
to drop a dollar in the Ball jar.

I prefer thieving one or two from the acres  
to take my time in choosing,  
traipsing between the bee boxes and loader buses  
after parking in the cover of chokecherry.

This way I can knuckle knock each one  
and find the sweetest to share.

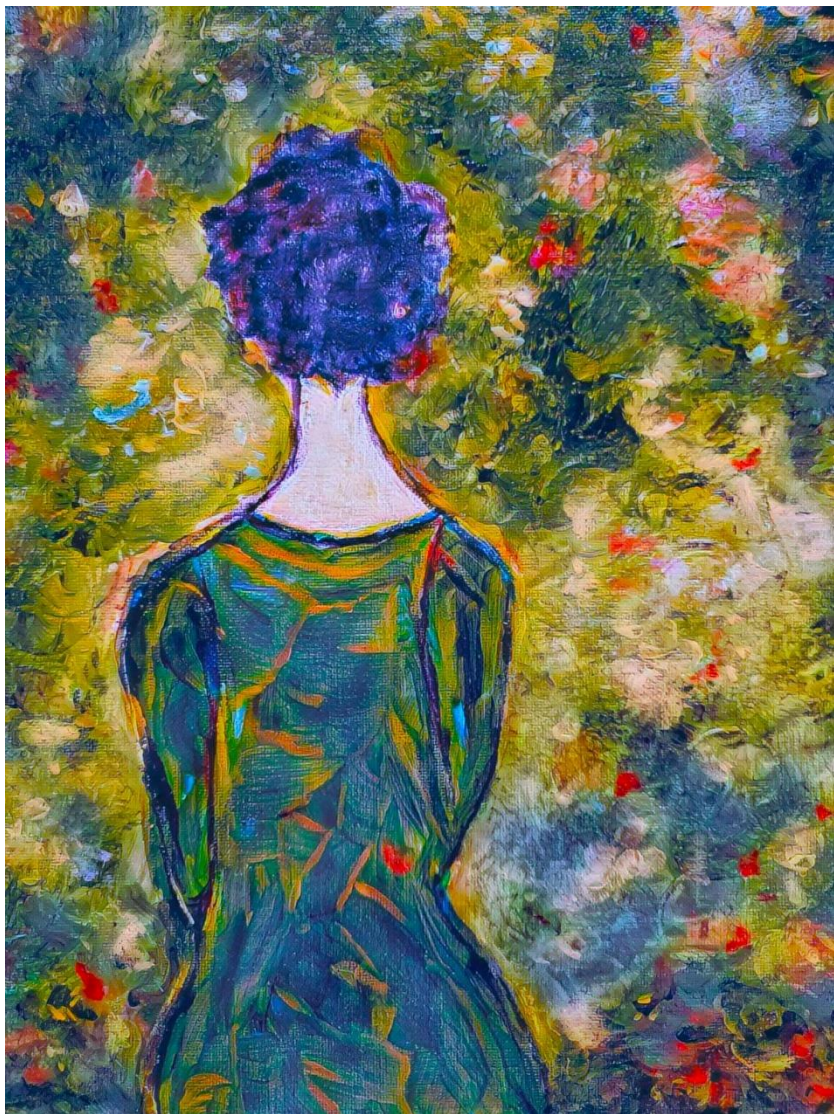
If a quad rolls up to bust me  
I tell the driver I've got a sister  
about to marry a melon man, whose family plots  
go back to the treaty lines.

Show me an act of theft that doesn't call for patience.  
Show me a wealth that's come to anyone honestly.



**Glimpse of Paradise / Gerburg Garmann**





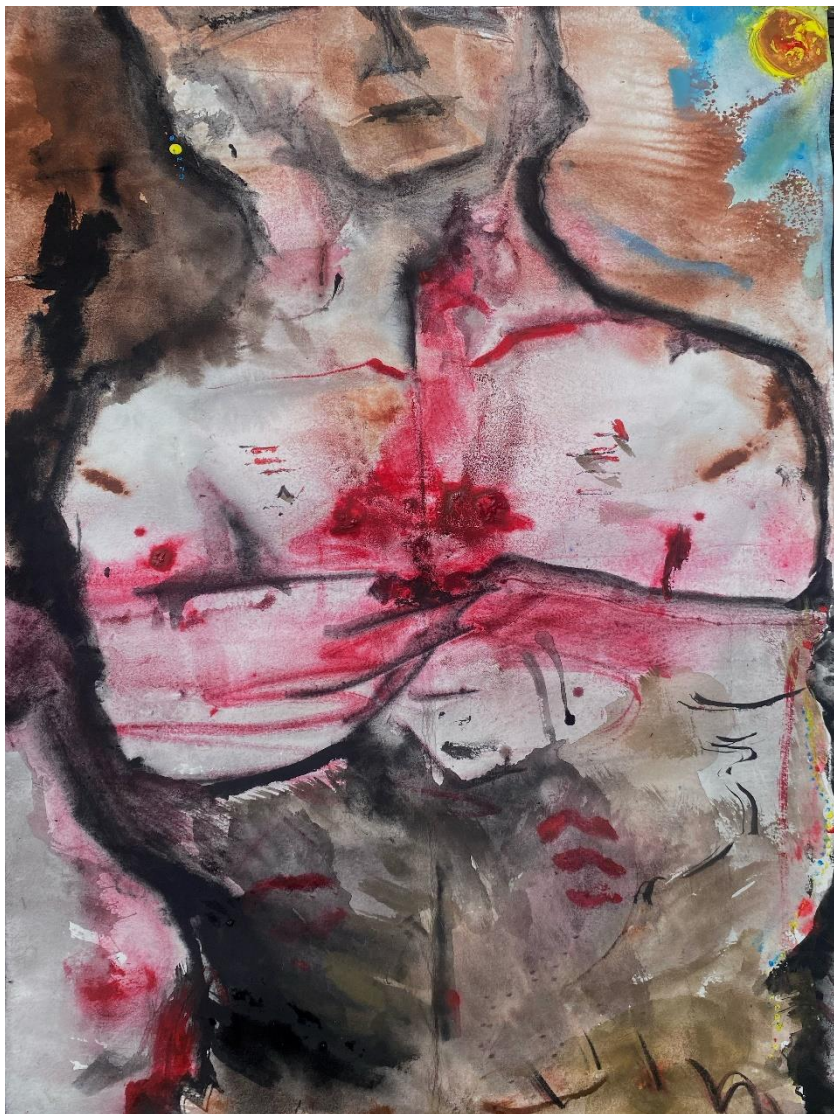
Step Into My Garden / Gerburg Garmann

## Regarding Ladders

Joannie Stangeland

That the ladder leans against the north wall  
all winter, the ladder counting on the wall.  
That I do not trust the ladder.  
That in dreams, the top rungs  
go missing, a gap to reach across.  
That weather gusts and blusters from the south,  
the ladder on the leeward side of our house  
is the vessel to harbor us  
through a marriage long enough  
that a new roof is needed while leaves clot  
the gutters, the ceaseless rain  
streaming over.

That a task, half started,  
might wait until spring. That you ask me  
to stand at the bottom, to hold  
steady the rails. That when you ascend,  
my heart will tilt inside my throat,  
that ladder in my mind extending  
what we have repaired, what we keep undone.



Blood and Sun and Steel Again / Dave Sims





**Lastborn Son — Suckling / Dave Sims**



**You from the start**

Rainer Maria Rilke

Translated from German by Wally Swist

You from the start,  
lost love, you, who never arrived,  
I don't know what sounds are precious to you.  
No longer do I try, when the moment arises,  
to recognize you. All the immense  
images within me, landscape seen in the distance,  
cities and towers and bridges and un-  
suspected turn of events  
and the mighty of those gods  
who once traversed countries:  
all rising to one meaning within me:  
you, runaway.

Oh, you are the gardens,  
oh, I saw them with such  
desire. An open window  
in the country house—and you almost stepped forward  
towards me mystified. I found alleys,—  
you had just walked them,  
and the mirrors sometimes of the merchants' shops  
were still dizzy with you and, frightened, mimicked  
my abrupt reflection.—Who knows whether the same  
bird didn't call through both of us  
yesterday, separately, in the evening?

*(Paris, winter 1913 - 14)*

**Du im Voraus**

Rainer Maria Rilke

Du im Voraus  
verlorne Geliebte, Nimmergekommene,  
nicht weiß ich, welche Töne dir lieb sind.  
Nicht mehr versuch ich, dich, wenn das Kommende wogt,  
zu erkennen. Alle die großen  
Bildern in mir, im Fernen erfahrene Landschaft,  
Städte und Türme und Brücken und un-  
vermutete Wendung der Wege  
und das Gewaltige jener von Göttern  
einst durchwachsenen Länder:  
steigt zur Bedeutung in mir  
deiner, Entgehende, an.

Ach, die Gärten bist du,  
ach, ich sah sie mit solcher  
Hoffnung. Ein offenes Fenster  
im Landhaus—, und du tratest beinahe  
mir nachdenklich heran. Gassen fand ich,—  
du warst sie gerade gegangen,  
und die Spiegel manchmal der Läden der Händler  
waren noch schwindlich von dir und gaben erschrocken  
mein zu plötzlichem Bild.—Wer weiß, ob derselbe  
Vogel nicht hinklang durch uns  
gestern, einzeln, im Abend?



**The Veil / Aleksandra Scepánovic**

## Contributors

**Gerburg Garmann**, a painter, poet, and recently retired professor of Global Languages and Cross-Cultural Studies, has scholarly publications in English, German, and French in international journals. Her artwork and poems have appeared in various magazines and anthologies around the world. She specializes in creating art for women. For more information, please visit her website [www.gerburggarmann.com](http://www.gerburggarmann.com).

René Karl Wilhelm Johann Josef Maria Rilke (4 December 1875 — 29 December 1926), better known as **Rainer Maria Rilke**, was an Austrian poet and novelist. Rilke is appreciated as one of the most lyrical German-language poets. His work is often considered mystical, and his imagery often focuses on the challenge of being in communion with the ineffable—especially in what W. H. Auden termed “the age of anxiety.” (Translator’s Biographical Note)

**Aleksandra Scepanovic**’s tumultuous journey toward sculpture began in socialist Yugoslavia in the 1980s and continued through varied career trajectories, which deposited her at archaeological sites, the 1990s Balkan conflicts, and interior design and real estate in New York City. She collaborates with a collective in her Woodstock, NY studio (@atelierwdstk\_hudsonvalley). Aleksandra celebrates the bravery of continuation, the joy of new explorations, and the thrill of a quiet life in the Hudson Valley. [www.aleksandrasculpture.com](http://www.aleksandrasculpture.com)

**Dave Sims** continues to make art and music in the old mountains of central Pennsylvania. See more at [www.tincansims.com](http://www.tincansims.com).

**Jackson Mills Smith** is a poetry MFA candidate at the University of Montana who writes about the regional folklore, history, and natural landscape of his childhood home in rural Southwestern Indiana. Smith’s work appears in *Making Waves: A West Michigan Review*, *The Quarter(ly)*, *Wild Roof Journal*, and *Write Place*.

**Joannie Stangeland** is the author of several collections, most recently *The Scene You See* (Ravenna Press). Her poems have also appeared in *The Pedestal Magazine*, *New England Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and other journals. Joannie holds an MFA from the Rainier Writing Workshop.

**Wally Swist**’s books include *Huang Po and the Dimensions of Love* (Southern Illinois University Press, 2012) and *A Bird Who Seems to Know Me: Poems Regarding Birds and Nature*, winner of the 2018 Ex Ophidia Poetry Prize. Recent essays, poems, and translations have appeared in *Asymptote* (Taiwan), *Chicago Quarterly*, *Commonweal*, *Comstock Review*, *Healing Muse*, *Illuminations*,



*La Piccioletta Barca* (U.K.), *Pensive*, *Tipton Poetry*, *Poetry London*, and *Your Impossible Voice*.

As a dynamic artist duo, **Tandem Tangents** is a collaborative team formed by **Anduriel Widmark** and **Reece Salinas**. Blending distinct yet complementary skills, they create innovative artworks that straddle traditional and digital realms. With a foundation in classical art techniques, they integrate their traditional artwork into generative models to discover new perspectives and create interesting artifacts. Together, they continuously seek to grow, understand, be kind, and expand what's possible in the world.

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