

Se **V**en (7)...po **E**ms { 7 + 0 = **7** poems } }!

B **y** Joshua Ma **R**tin } } }

**WHY I LIKE IT: Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...** *Mr. Martin appears to write like Jackson Pollock painted... 'Josh the Dropper' ...pouring and splashing words on the page with no apparent form as imagery abounds. Step back and admire his works. Here are some abstract expressions from his gallery of selected poems Fleas is pleased to be exhibiting this issue: "somehow fatter than a cartoon manatee on a carton of milk / all these carbon footprint mustache rides going around and around" "tho you had to lobster my tailbone I never blamed the otter for it" "I'd prefer to hide in a bra than die in a car" Bizarre never seemed so far—like gaping at a bell jar—here's more: "Scintillating parameter goosed through demented cornhole / you pointed your avalanche at your parachute's poolhall" "you're locking gratitude into a grapefruit ski cap" "passive vampire in / onomatopoeic stance" Poetry editing or code-breaking? Cipher or ciper? I'm not sure if Joshua is the Walrus or the Carpenter. Martin writes like he's playing a word lottery, spin the drum and whatever falls from his heady ping-pong pen strings along—what if he's holding a winning ticket? (Spacing is poet's own.) HS*

Punchy attitudes envision sacrilegious tea parties

Ouch! you broke my chain and used a topic to spell a verb  
time zones cannibalized their selfishness mostly in order to appear bloodthirsty  
somehow fatter than a cartoon manatee on a carton of milk  
all these carbon footprint mustache rides going around and around  
tantalizing demeanor to thaw as a glacier tattoo artist humming a kangaroo  
after shark sparked a lark to envy the tree of knowledge tho it has recently fallen on hard times  
official rhyme scheme a spit take

lustrous locks of perverse Swedish commander in chief scaly skin attributable  
at last light a kite  
at first steps an eviction  
I noticed over by the wishing well a series of masticated military medals vomiting  
ha! you landed next to the devil's brother's friend's circus elephant hologram  
don't spare me the unvarnished whiplash  
whatever I do I do it with the intention of hangnails forming beneath my weary thighs  
tho you had to lobster my tailbone I never blamed the otter for it  
besides cosmological glee there stood a tube of lead paint chackling  
manias abound with good reason for longing to free thyself from the shackles of 3D  
I avenged a spangled bracelet whose function seemed interchangeable  
on a Caribbean island you found interplanetary romance thriving in gothic castles  
sixteen yrs of baffled walking did not change a thing  
a conversation between me and the Duchess of toilet water led me down a road not unlike a  
turbine attached to a dam  
why? you observed while I guttural pelvis thrusting tango  
still a forest burns because we do nothing to stop it  
being mechanical never made anyone famous  
final judgments sounded more like first impressions  
mild air riddled with algebraic nincompoops mimicking trained seals sent the world endeavor  
slippin' and slidin'  
I'd prefer to hide in a bra than die in a car  
you'll have to forgive my boots because I had not realized they looked so froggy  
even in staring literary establishment we knew the different between shirts and skins  
mostly I'd say don't even papercut a promise  
tho I'll probably vary my stance as soon as it becomes popular  
or at least if I'm a pig no one will expect me to be ambitions or drop my affectations

### Reduced prevalence benefits culture shock

devices cluster mandated portfolio  
your freedom sinks beneath second opinions

a gap triggered editorial rheumatology  
while conditions under reported convolutions

to finish implementing drug abuse

sweep the occupancy under the rug  
then coordinate under the table  
while the panels permeate the firewalls

harm errors  
an instance

scenarios ensure  
spite treatments

vascular videos  
conflate mechanisms

the blame proliferates without zeal  
applicable to multidisciplinary infections

coding risks auth morbidity  
arbitrary in threshold body functions

assign yourself an audiovisual consultant  
to hasten immediate demographic shifts  
according to analytic delinquencies  
resources most likely to judge

omissions submit  
suspicious patterns

family audits  
vaccinate barriers

parameters consult  
inconsistent premise.

### Search Party Guide to Proper Hygienic Calculations

Scintillating parameter goosed through demented cornhole  
you pointed your avalanche at your parachute's poolhall  
glittering dazzled wizard stood in erectile dysfunction while sneezing  
snooty dirty graying temple of the dog eared birdcage topiary  
questions glaze staircase witness to the heatwave  
homespun cap & trade perversions abound ferris wheel driver  
totaled more than numb floored dinner rolls

munch MUNCH munching MARCH memorable MERMAID mounds  
perched on radiant scum sucking barge  
when you ergonomic a skull  
then you're nowhere closer than a ball of fire  
writhing in the wreckage of gleeful billionaire spacecraft kickers  
cackle shackle back to wall burnt tongue glistened algae ban  
soap bubble paramour  
lien against persona  
you're locking gratitude into a grapefruit ski cap  
where the meanwhile brothers grope for peaceful revolutions  
and the afterwards sisters genuflect for chaotic abundance  
spreadsheet PRINT TITLES back in glowing JELLYFISH rumors  
HADN'T couldn'T clean CAROB until WEASELS rip THRU cobras  
the garden pardoned the glass house  
Doctor and DIMPLES squirmed Koala meat greeted FASTENED  
faster FASTER fastest of all the Sultan's star crossed invitations  
signs painted w/ patterned chalky cheek residue  
havoc reaches to sands while indecisive adornment  
peace be until a PINCH  
cinched at waste of space  
drenched in aforementioned computer replacement blasphemies  
your tooth envisioned greater cultures  
your sleeping buried MARKET based societies  
now to the point being hiccupped after WATER damage  
wiser quotations were never umbilical  
twin romances quagmire sodium overload  
just here to your timed BINGO! bongo drum caravan of insects  
petrified first person point of view shattered general acquisitions

wondered variation of geothermal awakening

igloo bridge  
and you dilapidate  
passive vampire in  
onomatopoeic stance

loose-leaf jade scorpion blinds  
hiding gestures grimaces plates

for a spoonful of dynamism you uttered Arabic anagrams  
into wells deeper than typhoon tureens transplanted transparencies

ghostly demographic averages  
floating flouting finicky  
only crumbs secured to necks  
bare vertebra trollish nature

downpours of vain qualities rendering phases of ships  
briefly repositioned among circumference occasional windows

water / moving / dry ice / Blago / Bung / , / Blago / Bung / , / Bosso / Fataka  
the first wave stopped entrails from squeezing  
archive or almanac or an atlas spreading false agonizing screech

in hotplate night  
and pressing foam thumb  
handless tho dappled  
eager pleasure purpose  
tonsil to tonsil resuscitation  
capital IN DEGREE of  
citadel

### smashing VIRTUAL REALITY

To the sprained  
delight of cannibal  
CHARLIE inside a  
crackerjack box  
to brimming  
full THROTTLE  
stampede came

the mistaken  
identity CLAIRE  
made up for the  
sake of smashing  
VIRTUAL REALITY  
!

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *My work has been heavily influenced by the writers associated with movements like Dada, Surrealism, OBERIU, and L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E, especially the use of cut-up, collage, automatic writing, spontaneity, the absurd, and the illogical. A radical juxtaposition of words and phrases, a kind of collision, in order to counter the notion of art as a purely "logical" or "coherent" enterprise that can or should be viewed only through a rational point of view. I feel as though art and poetry should be a form of resistance to the standard, academic, conformist, and consumerist mindset so prevalent in our culture.*

**AUTHOR BIO:** Joshua Martin is a Philadelphia based writer and filmmaker, who currently works in a library. He is the author of the books *Pointillistic Venetian Blinds* (Alien Buddha Press, 2021) and *Vagabond fragments of a hole* (Schism Neuronics). He has had pieces previously published in *Coven*, *Spontaneous Poetics*, *Ygdrasil*, *Expat*, *Selcouth Station*, *RASPUTIN*, *Train*, *Fugitives & Futurists*, *Otoliths*, *M58*, *Punk Noir Magazine*, *Beir Bua*, and *Scud* among others.

Calendar Backdrop Blank

In GLOWING globes of  
earless tests  
stubbed toe  
PENCIL THIN  
curving Japanese  
repose  
as ThiS as  
HopeFUL(LESS)  
then  
filmed against  
blank  
backdrop.

## Enumerated mutations

the shanks of trees  
spoiled removal of face paint  
seldom achieved  
through  
madness (third bank of the river remorse/

trapped between arrows whirring moistened air  
speeds disowned  
wayward appearances  
overwhelm mutations)

the head a speck  
brain a hand  
lungs splattered  
buckets great/small/  
frozen faces  
of anguish bowing again(the here of  
the now hearing hairless time warped

misadventures  
spells evoke & down perpetual  
dirt trade)losing  
gained(ground deep  
a mud hut  
sneezing  
all  
intensive skeletal  
vagary) left hand

of right of way impulses

enumerated enigmas  
one kangaroo  
at a time  
upon a bamboo

floor  
conclusions:

a summation of the events  
of the last day of the previous  
month of the aforementioned year  
a citizen above suspicion  
& a system corrupted to its very core/

the badly misconstrued ballad of a cultural exile  
venturing out into the wilderness of indecision  
frightened of the roads found tho never understood  
giant

middle finger  
to established  
professionals& elite class iceberg disasters

into another epoch  
instances of variations  
cultured/mused/  
left for dead  
to rot  
rot  
ting