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Alison Apotheker teaches writing and literature at Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon. She has published poems in *Prairie Schooner, Alaska Quarterly Review*, and *Amicus*, among others.

Jeff Baker, son of a seamstress and a bootlegger, grew up on a farm in the Appalachians of East Tennessee. He received a BA from Tennessee Tech and an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. His poems have recently appeared in *Phoebe* and *American Letters and Commentary*.

Bridgette Bates recently completed a Fulbright Fellowship in Ljubljana, Slovenia researching contemporary Slovene poetry. Note on poems: the selected poems are loosely based on my readings of *Don Quixote* and the poems’ titles are attributed to Cervantes.

Sharon Chmielarz’s third book of poetry is *The Other Mozart*, a biography of Nannerl Mozart. She has work forthcoming in *Seattle Review, Notre Dame Review* and *Prairie Schooner*.

Ione Citrin signs her work with only one name but uses a variety of styles and mediums to soothe her wild imagination. A native of Chicago, she is a former television star and commercial voice-over artist. Now she wins awards and sells her creativity through her hands instead of her larynx. Ione is a gold medal winner in the Nielson Bainbridge - Armstrong Art Show, a Grand Winner in the Art Calendar Magazine Crabbie contest, a First Place Best of Show in the “Black History Month” art exhibition at the Second City Council, and out of 33,000 entrants was a finalist in The Artist’s Magazine yearly competition. Her studio boasts a host of other art awards, alongside the paintings and sculptures she has in progress. She works from her soul, and wants to fill the world with love and beauty. “ABSTRACTION IS THE CLEAREST ARTISTIC EXPRESSION OF MY INNER EXPERIENCES.”
Aaron Conway works as a graphic designer in Missoula, Montana. He studied ceramics and graphic design at Minnesota State University, Mankato where he earned his BFA.

Bridget Cross lives in New York City, where she makes ends meet as a copy editor and as managing editor of PEN America.

Lightsey Darst was awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Grant, a residency at the Anderson Center in Red Wing, Minnesota, and an AWP Intro Journals Award in 2003. Her recent work is published or forthcoming in North Stone Review, Poetry Motel, Permafrost, and Quarterly West. She lives in Minneapolis.

Geoffrey Forsyth is a graduate of the University of Iowa and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His fiction is published or forthcoming in Rhino, River Oak Review, Other Voices, and New Orleans Review. He lives in LaGrange Park, Illinois.

Katie Hays’ fiction and poetry has appeared in Cimarron Review, Gulf Coast, Beacon Street Review, Folio and Phoebe.

Alison Hoffmann studied neuroscience and creative writing at Brandeis University and received her MFA in poetry from the University of Arizona, where she teaches writing. Her work has received an Academy of American Poets Prize, a University of Arizona Foundation Award, and the Leslie Leeds Prize from Connecticut Review. She lives in Tucson with her husband and daughter.

Fady Joudah is a Palestinian American who grew up in the Middle East before coming to the U.S. to study medicine. He currently practices in Houston, and is a member of MSF (Doctors Without Borders). He is also a student at Warren Wilson’s MFA creative writing program. His work has appeared in Hayden’s Ferry Review and is forthcoming in Passages North.
Nate LeBoutillier hails from the southwest Minnesotan plainstowns of Storden (pop. 274) and Westbrook (pop. 755). He is finishing his MFA in creative writing at Minnesota State University, Mankato, where he teaches as well. His favorite pair of shoes are currently these blue and silver Converse Weapons he picked up this past summer. He writes poetry and screenplays in addition to fiction, and plays guitar and croons for the Mankato punk-blues band, A Mean Ten Pounds.

J. T. Ledbetter is professor of English at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. His poems have been published in *Poetry, Sewanee Review, New York Quarterly, Prairie Schooner, Laurel Review, Puerto Del Sol*, and others. His creative non-fiction and short stories have appeared in *Big Muddy, Under the Sun, Crosscurrents, Satire, Pacific Review*, and others.

Stephanie Lenox lives in Moscow where she is completing her MFA at the University of Idaho. She has recent or forthcoming work in *Crab Creek Review, Atlanta Review, Rattle, and Main Street Rag*.

Mitchell Marco was born in Atlantic City in 1977. He moved to New York City in 1994 and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in 1999. By that time, he had been included in several group exhibitions in and around New York City. Mitchell had his first solo show of paintings and drawings in 2000, at Wallspace Gallery in New York City.

His work was shown in “Thought Bubble”, a group exhibition at Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY in fall of 2002. He next curated a group exhibition of drawings by emerging artists entitled “Sleight of Hand” at Salena Gallery on Long Island University’s Brooklyn campus. In 2003, he was the recipient of the Alexander Rutsch Award for Works on Paper. In connection with this award, he exhibited portraits of political figures in a solo exhibition at Pelham Art Center in Pelham, NY.

His paintings tell stories. The mental states of the characters are displayed hyperbolically through humor and melodrama. Images, which would otherwise be readily understood, are amplified and enlarged in order to bring their subjects into question.
In this way, he can explore human psychology and encourage viewers to examine their interpretations of gesture and appearance in interpersonal interactions. Mitchell continues to live and work in Manhattan.

Nadine Meyer is a PhD candidate at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where she is poetry editor of Center. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, and her poems have recently appeared or are forthcoming in Gulf Coast, Southern Poetry Review, Margie, Notre Dame Review and Quarterly West.

Elisabeth Murawski is the author of Moon and Mercury (Washington Writers Publishing House, 1990) and a chapbook, Troubled by an Angel (Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 1997). Her poetry has appeared in Yale Review, Virginia Quarterly Review, Field, Shenandoah, Southern Humanities Review, Chelsea, and others. She has received four grants from the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation and a partial fellowship from the Vermont Studio Center.


Seth Taylor lives in Southern California with his wife and two-year-old daughter, where he teaches English at SDSU. His fiction has been published in Black Warrior Review, Carolina Quarterly, and the Indiana Review, among others. He is currently circulating the rumor that he's completing his first short story collection.
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