

A watercolor illustration of a hand holding a pen, rendered in shades of orange, brown, and grey. The hand is positioned in the lower-left quadrant, with the pen held between the fingers. The background is a mix of grey and white washes, with a pinkish-red shape on the right side. The overall style is expressive and artistic.

# *Fine lines*

Winter 2019

VOLUME 28 ISSUE 4

EDITED BY

David Martin

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Volume 28 Issue 4

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~ Winter 2019 ~

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## CONTENTS

|   |      |
|---|------|
| ABOUT FINE LINES. . . . .                 | xiv  |
| DEDICATION. . . . .                       | xvii |
| The Way of Memory                         |      |
| <i>Lucy Adkins</i> . . . . .              | 1    |
| Surrender from Behind the Gate            |      |
| <i>Tracy Ahrens</i> . . . . .             | 2    |
| Yurik Is Waiting                          |      |
| <i>Photo by David Martin</i> . . . . .    | 7    |
| The Atheist: Number One                   |      |
| <i>Reina de Alegría</i> . . . . .         | 9    |
| Mom's Home Cooked Meals                   |      |
| <i>Duane Anderson</i> . . . . .           | 19   |
| Autumn's Chills Bring Warmth              |      |
| <i>Pranavi Athota</i> . . . . .           | 20   |
| Painting                                  |      |
| <i>Catalina Barajas</i> . . . . .         | 21   |
| Removed                                   |      |
| <i>Gary Beck</i> . . . . .                | 22   |
| Dumb...                                   |      |
| <i>Joseph Benson</i> . . . . .            | 23   |
| Hell on Wheels                            |      |
| <i>Mary Bernier</i> . . . . .             | 24   |
| Community Outreach                        |      |
| <i>Sheila Boerner</i> . . . . .           | 26   |
| The World of Long Shadows                 |      |
| <i>Janet Echellathrea Bonet</i> . . . . . | 28   |

FINE LINES WINTER 2019

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Four Observations                                   |     |
| <i>Kim Justus</i> . . . . .                         | 161 |
| Why Teaching?                                       |     |
| <i>Sharlene Morris Kline</i> . . . . .              | 162 |
| Not Without Her                                     |     |
| <i>Maddie Knowles</i> . . . . .                     | 169 |
| The Embodiment of Time                              |     |
| <i>Elizabeth Kopetzky</i> . . . . .                 | 171 |
| Mamma's Gone  |     |
| <i>Judy Leal</i> . . . . .                          | 173 |
| Christmas –2014                                     |     |
| <i>Judy Leal</i> . . . . .                          | 176 |
| Shopping for Love                                   |     |
| <i>Loren Logsdon</i> . . . . .                      | 177 |
| I Am From   |     |
| <i>Brenda Lopez.</i> . . . . .                      | 183 |
| Ave Maria   |     |
| <i>Deshae E. Lott</i> . . . . .                     | 184 |
| MAIL . . . . .                                      | 186 |
| Cascade   |     |
| <i>pencil drawing by Nicole Ellsworth</i> . . . . . | 188 |
| WHERE WRITERS GROW! . . . . .                       | 189 |
| A Personal Trinity                                  |     |
| <i>David Martin.</i> . . . . .                      | 191 |
| Where Only She Was Blind                            |     |
| <i>Isabel Martinez.</i> . . . . .                   | 193 |
| Christmas 2017                                      |     |
| <i>Vince McAndrew.</i> . . . . .                    | 194 |

# Ave Maria

*DESHAE E. LOTT*

palms touching, eyes closed, head enswathed:  
her fluid porcelain lines and curves  
an elegant, understated testament  
to the power of prayer,  
steadfast love, and faith

eleven inches of pristine glazed white clay  
my nurse did not heed,  
and I mistook as negatory  
until you gathered shattered parts and glue  
reforming your mother's Madonna  
from puzzle pieces  
I might have thrown away

the gaping hole at the Virgin's heart,  
the new jagged lines across her chest,  
and the split rosary strand  
you re-draped around her neck  
all the more vivified, for you,  
infrangible ideals and memories  
that could not be replaced

weathered yet still standing  
now six years on the corner shelf,  
the figurine has grown on me:  
a cherished and comforting reminder of  
my kind mother-in-law  
who bore and raised a son who steadfastly  
perceives beauty despite brokenness,  
protects the vulnerable,

perseveres through what's formidable,  
grieving and forgiving  
and forgiving and forgiving  
and loving  
through each unanticipated episode where  
the help hurts,  
the partner deteriorates,  
the plot twists

this icon of love and forbearance  
opens and lifts me up  
with its legacies of gentle strength —  
the mother of Jesus,  
the mother of you —  
and a living embodiment:  
you, you, you

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*"There are only two mistakes  
one can make along the road to truth;  
not going all the way,  
and not starting."*

BUDDHA

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