

# Editor Biography

When **M a r k A r i** unlocked his mother's womb, he fell to soft vinyl where he lived under another name and the kitchen table. Women with round faces bent down to pinch his cheeks. Grandpa made Egyptian poses on the landing at the top of the stairs, nodding and winking and making a great show of brushing back invisible hair with his fingers. Mother opened her mouth and sighed: ah-ah-ah-ah.

By the time the leaves in the trees were dry and beautiful—orange and cream and chocolate—he planted his feet, and the world got littler. He did not notice. He did not. Then he did. And he could read French and Spanish but spoke only a stutter of English. So he made shapes with his lips that stenciled words on the air. This has made all the difference.

## Author Biographies

**Lis Anna's** short fiction, films, screenplays, and novels have all been nominated and won awards. She is a five time WorldFest winner, a Wurlitzer Grant recipient, a New Century Writers winner, Second Place Winner of the Thomas Wolfe Fiction Award, First Place winner of the 11th Annual Poet Hunt Award, a four time Accolade Film Competition winner, and a finalist in the Nicholl Fellowships, the Doris Betts Fiction Award, Chesterfield Film Project and the William Faulkner Competition. Her fiction has been published in *Word Riot*, *The Blotter*, *Petigru Review*, *Hot Metal Press*, *The Smoking Poet*, *Eclectic Flash*, *Paper Skin Glass Bones*, and *The MacGuffin Literary Review*. [www.lisannafilms.com](http://www.lisannafilms.com)

**Jeff Baker** spent his infancy in Bogotá, Colombia, his formative years in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Sitka, Arkansas, and his (supposed) adulthood in various locales around the country. He currently lives in Seattle. His work has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Oxford American*, *Anatomy*, *Booth*, and is forthcoming in the *Coffee House Flash Fiction* anthology and *The Pedestal Magazine*. He can be reached at [anejdb@vmmc.org](mailto:anejdb@vmmc.org)

**Alison Bergblom Johnson** has been a resident at the Vermont Studio Center in creative nonfiction and at the Arts Retreat at New York Mills Regional Cultural Center on a fellowship supported by the Jerome Foundation. Her work has been published in *Burly Bird* and by Spout Press in an anthology of flash fiction. She has taught workshops on the topic of writing about mental illness to people who have experienced mental illness.

**Jewel Beth Davis** is a writer and theater artist who lives in Rollinsford, NH. She is an Artist In Education for the NH State Council on the Arts. She has performed, directed and choreographed professionally throughout the U.S. and British Isles. Jewel earned an MFA in Writing at Vermont College and an MA in Theater Movement from Wesleyan University. She also teaches writing and theater at NHTI-Concord. Since 2006, her creative nonfiction and fiction have been published in many literary magazines like *Compass Rose*, *SN Review*, *Moondance Literary Magazine*, *Cezanne's Carrot*, *Bent Pin Literary Journal*, *RE: Ports Magazine*, *READ THIS: MSU's Literary and Art Publication*, *Midway*, *The Sylvan Echo*, *Poetica Magazine*, *Lilith*, *Scribblers on the Roof*, *Spirits Literary Magazine of IU*, *American Diversity Report*, *Damselfly Press*, *The Smoking Poet* and *Diverse Voices Quarterly*, which just nominated her for Dzanc's *Best of the Web* Anthology.

**Jane Hertenstein:** Autofiction is the word the French use for a form somewhere between truth and a kind of distilled truth. "Google Earth" is a distilled memoir, forged from my fuzzy memory and itinerate longing. My work has appeared or is forthcoming in: *Hunger Mountain*, *Rosebud*, *Word Riot*, *Flashquake*, *Steam Ticket*, *Frostwriting*, the *Write Room*, *Cantara-ville*, and *The Tonopah Review*.

Currently I am schlepping two page-turning manuscripts.  
I can be found on Google Earth in Chicago.

**Alysha Hoffa** is new to the scene and has been published in *Sliver of Stone* and *The Broken Plate*. She is finishing up her undergraduate studies at Ball State University while picking up after her cats and boyfriend. In her spare time she dabbles in web design, makes handmade cards, and reads, reads, reads.

**Kate Kaiser** is the proud single mother of Rhapsody and Bucky. When they are not sucking her life force (as they should be), Kate is messing around with words, trying to find the sounds in poem, prose and song that suit her. Fitting language is like finding a perfectly fitted dress, it's not too big, it's not small and the color illuminates. Kate has written a small book called *Some Words* and a medium sized book called *Letters To My Mother But Really For My Father* (which she is making into a one woman show). Kate has performed at Art House Productions for the last eight years where she did her show *Intimacy = In-ta-messy*. In 2010 Kate was also given the honor of being listed as *Wierdo #12* in *Jersey City Magazine*. (Wierdo being those people that make Jersey City an interesting place.) [www.KateofHoboken.com](http://www.KateofHoboken.com)

**Geri Lipschultz** is currently a doctoral candidate at Ohio University, having originally received her MFA in Fiction from Iowa. She's published work in the *New York Times*, *College English*, *Kalliope*, *Black Warrior Review*, and others. Her most recent publications may be found online in *Cezanne's Carrot*, *Kartika Review*, and *Umbrella Journal*. She was awarded a CAPS grant from New York State for her fiction, and she performed in her one-woman show produced by Woodie King, Jr. in NYC. She also produced several shows that featured a gathering of women's artistic responses to 9/11 entitled "Rising Above the Shadow."

**Chris McCann** Chris McCann currently lives and writes in Minneapolis. Both could change.

**Margarita Meklina** is a bilingual writer originally from St. Petersburg, Russia. She immigrated as a refugee to the United States in 1994 and has been living in San Francisco for the past 17 years. Her English short stories and essays under the names "Margaret Meklin" and "Margarita Meklina" have appeared in U.S., Canadian and New Zealand periodicals, including *Mad Hatters' Review*, *The Context*, *Landfall*, and *Words Without Borders*. In Russia she received the 2003 Andrei Bely Prize for her short story collection *Battle at St. Petersburg* and the 2009 Russian Prize, awarded by the Yeltsin Center Foundation, for her manuscript *My Criminal Connection to Art*. As Russia's first independent literary prize, The Andrei Bely Prize enjoys a special reputation for honoring dissident and nonconformist writers and poets.

**Sanjukta Shams** is a mother of two girls, wife, children's activist, and writer of fiction and memoir. She was born and lived in Bangladesh until she was 10, when she moved with her family to Memphis, Tennessee. She now resides in Dallas, Texas. Much of her creativity stems from her childhood in Bangladesh. She has a masters degree in women in Islam from Florida State University and plans to complete a memoir within the next two years.

**Leslie Tucker**, an escapee from the Detroit area, now lives on the side of a South Carolina mountain and refuses to divulge its exact location. She is an avid hiker and zip liner, a dedicated yogi, and recently achieved Life Master status in ACBL sanctioned bridge. She has degrees in music and business, and retired from her career as a classical piano instructor and pianist, in 2005. She is writing a collection of memoiric essays and prefers not to divulge more biographical detail and spoil her story.

## Artist Biographies

Born in 1973 in the South of France, **Mathieu Asselin** spent his childhood in Venezuela. At the age of 16 he started working with acknowledged Venezuelan director Alfredo Anzola. The camera became his passion. In his early 20s, Mathieu moved to Europe to begin his career as a photographer. He joined French photo agency L'Oeil du Sud, and worked on a project in Spain covering one of the biggest European drug markets. His pictures have been published in international publications such as *Paris Match*, *Le Monde* (France), *El País*, *Altair*, *Razor Magazine*, *Gente Italy*, *National Geographic Adventure*, among others.

In 2005 Mathieu moved to New York City. He experiments a lot to perfect his lightening techniques and works mostly on portrait photography. In the last several years he established himself as a commercial photographer working with Universities, architects and advertising agencies.

Mathieu Asselin's personal work focuses on documentary portraiture. What keeps his feet on documentary ground, is his attraction to the "special status and the moral superiority" that documentary photography offers him.

But documentary photography, as he says, has strong creative restrictions, which he breaks through with his lighting techniques.

"If documentary is considered as a form of fiction, it is there, where my reality finds shelter."

Mathieu Asselin appears in several collective exhibitions.

**Robbie Knopf** graduated from the University of North Florida in Spring 2011 with a BFA in photography. His interest in photography first sparked with an interest in street art. Being captivated by these works found on the sides of buildings and subway cars, he started noticing just how beautiful these abandoned structures that had been turned into canvases were on their own. Thus he soon began photographing these rustic surfaces and transforming the mundane into the extraordinary by way of his camera. Knopf soon applied the same principles he used in his street photography like he isolated street scenes, Knopf has evolved a style of visual fragmentation all his own. You can see more of his work at [www.robbielknopfphoto.com](http://www.robbielknopfphoto.com) to more figurative works as well. Through isolating others thoughts and emotions, like the isolated street scenes, Knopf has evolved a style of visual fragmentation all his own. You can see more of his work at [www.robbielknopfphoto.com](http://www.robbielknopfphoto.com)

**Justin Toole** graduated from the University of North Florida in Spring 2011 with a BA in English. His first inspirations as a writer came from musical storytellers such as Leonard Cohen, Andrew Schwab, and more recently Alex Turner. He became interested in experimental writing styles while taking a workshop on image and text taught by Professor Mark Ari at UNF. It is here that he wrote his first book entitled *I Think We're under the Illusion that We're Doomed*. Justin continues to live in Jacksonville, FL where he hopes to develop a career in writing.

## Robbie Knopf & Justin Toole, Artist Statement

The pages included in this issue are part of a larger work; a book entitled *I Think We're under the Illusion that We're Doomed*. This book was created by two University of North Florida students, Justin Toole (the Writer) and Robbie Knopf (the Artist), during their senior years. While these pages are parts of larger whole, we feel as though the single pages themselves, and even the selection and arrangement that they are presented in this journal, are capable of standing on their own, separate from the bigger piece.

The text of a page is not dependant upon the pages around it but it is not disconnected from them either. We wanted to create a narrative that did not necessarily have a start or a finish; with little to no particular linear fashion. Instead the reader could open the book from any point and finish on any page. There is not a definitive story, narrative, or lesson but rather an emphasis on the diversity of a singular personality and the perception of a person's experiences. So for this book we sought to combine narrative, dialogue, poetry, lyrics, and stream of consciousness into a singular piece which would allow the text to escape traditional settings and flow.

While we feel as though the pages can stand independent from one another, we do not feel as though the text could be separated from the images, or vice versa. In fact, often times the images evolve out of the text themselves, occasionally the other way around, and the two serve to complete a single thought or idea. Like the text, we did not want to limit ourselves on the types of outlets that the images could be presented in. The pages that are presented here demonstrate three types of mediums: drawings, stencils, and photographs.

**Alexis Wilson**, born and raised in Plantation, FL. 21 years old, studied creative writing at FSU for two years before transferring to UNF to pursue her interest in both art and writing. Hopes to graduate in the fall of 2011. Enjoys reading and writing non-fiction, short stories, and essays. Her art combines elements of story and mixed media. "SLOTS" is a print on archival paper, "SPACEY" is ink on transfer paper, and "SPACESHIP" is a print on archival paper.