



Aster(ix) Journal

presents

The Poetry Issue

Summer 2019



Edited and Curated by
Amy Sara Carroll,
Saretta Morgan, &
Marta Lucía Vargas

ASTER(IX): The Poetry Issue. Copyright © 2020 by Aster(ix) Journal.

All rights reserved.

See page TK for individual copyright information/acknowledgments.

No part of this work may be reproduced, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without express written permission of the publisher, with the exception of educational institutions.

Published via Blue Sketch Press, Pittsburgh.
www.bluesketchpress.com

The Poetry Issue
An Aster(ix) Anthology / Aster(ix) Journal
Edited by Amy Sara Carroll, Saretta Morgan, & Marta Lucía Vargas—1st ed.
ISBN (print) 978-1-942547-12-9 (trade paperback)
1-942547-12-9 (ISBN-10)

Cover art by Youmna Chlala
Cover Design by Little Owl Creative.
Copy-Edited by Joseph N. Welch III.

First Edition: February 2020

Printed in the United States of America
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

A Conversation with Poets	13
bowerbird Aldrin Valdez	29
Sequence from Botanic América First No Se Fue Nada: Somos La Luz Christina Olivares	30
Us Versus Us Redacted from history Raquel Gutiérrez	42
Drive Safe Jamie Gray Gilette	46
From the series <i>Remains</i> 1) Accessory of a siren/ 2) In the afterlife the collagen went rogue Elisabeth Frost and Dianne Kornberg	48
excerpt from Heliotrope Lindsay Choi	52
Circus tent doomed at new age At the Radnóti Kimberly Alidio	58

Locust Formation	63
Vidhu Aggarwal	
Contributors	69
Acknowledgements	73

circus tent domed in
new age

Kimberly Alidio

over Peking duck
a quick head jerk
can't eavesdrop
lack of tryhard

fascinates
scarification
a planeload
in from LA

certain harm done
whispers constant
processed capital
try make a sound

struggle under 100-lb
plate glass
bloodletter hilt is
a standing human

bathe in activated charcoal
our Olmec dragon

canceled Ansel
down on tasteful jade sun

brother seeks refund
for DNA results
100% circling one
pearl of the orient

dad calls a tall guy
My Bigoted Friend
his statement
signature jewelry

captive mountains
in three rings
sympathy
to crude truth

tweezed-off eyebrows
blank expression
of the tweezers'
gold alloy

godface
shrug
duh lack of
precise tool

at the Radnóti

Kimberly Alidio

I wanted to
lay my stomach
flat

against the
concrete floor
press

my cheek against
tercets
staggered and

descending
cry on glass a pool
that can't

form in the dirt
below
I desired

the poet's
re-interred force

keening

beauty
salvage our bodily
ground

account for
not those who died
for my

freedom
but at my
expense

My sovereignty steps
onto
the dead

breathing
destroys
in a very plain way

Transfusion via
our mouths
Carolee

Schneemann's Fuses
turned me on
even a penis

looks good in

INHERITANCE

heat maps
Snow doesn't

fall directly but
circles over
your head

imperceptibly
spirals my fingers
inside you

Will you fist me
if I beg in
a whisper

or without sound
subconsciously the way
you said I love you

a dozen times
before you said
it

A doorway unburied
fallen open
to the words