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Notes on Contributors

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Notes on Contributors

Christina Burrell - I have always enjoyed capturing candid shots of people interacting with one another. It wasn't until my studies at Grand Valley that I begin to pay attention to the beauty and uniqueness of landscapes despite my prior perceptions of landscape photographs as being overrated and banal. This particular photograph attends to the interaction not between people and one another but between people and their environment. These interactions create a new kind of landscape - a landscape in which there is a clear connection between the two. It is my hope that through my explorations of people and the environment that others will see the beauty and uniqueness within my photographs.

Joshua Campeau is a sophomore at Grand Valley with a creative writing major who's trying to expand his writing horizons. He is also the current President of Grand Valley's Writers' Club which meets weekly on campus. It's a great place to share your work, get good feedback, and the members are some of the funnest people you'll meet.

Garrett Dennert is a senior on his way out of Grand Valley and into the writing world. Where he's going or getting there, he's not sure, but knows one day he'll get there. At GVSU, Dennert studied Creative Writing and English. And when he's not reading or writing, Dennert enjoys exploring uncharted territory (if you can call it that) and discovering interesting people along the way (they're there, you just have to search).

Patrick Dove - I do not set out to produce art about any particular subject. I am never without a camera in hand so I am constantly shooting what is before me. Sometimes the images I create are left in the computer and other times they are developed into more in-depth ideas and detailed images. Shooting a subject matter that I am enthusiastic about, like skateboarding, adds my passion into the ideas and images. Through photo manipulation I am able to expand the viewer's thoughts on the original image(s). I am the conduit between the subject and the viewer's mind/imagination. None of my art was intentional; it all developed and evolved over time. If you have created an image, and that is how you wanted it to be, hopefully it will speak for itself. Whatever it says to the viewer is the right message because there is never a wrong one. Each person takes something a little different from the same picture and I am happy with that; it means I did my job.

Nikki Fisher loves writing because you can see something that's not there, take a road to the impossible, and illuminate a human mind all with one image. Her favourite pastimes include indulging in abstract ideas, wishing she were more practical with them, neurotically overanalyzing, and having one of those great, late night conversations that leave you feeling like the world is yours.

Danielle Fritz is a 4th year Illustration major who has a dual love for digital collage and oil painting. She enjoys color guard, dance, dinosaurs and Disney world, among many other things. Her hometown is from St. Clair Shores. Once she graduates, she plans on traveling the world and doing what she loves.... and get a job!

Lily Greig - I never went to grade school. I started community college at 17. I decided to study art, which led from making ceramics to making quilts. I collect teeth. I sell vintage clothing for a living. My business is named after my standard poodle.

Anna Gustafson is a working girl in Grand Rapids, MI. She has a degree in Film and Video Production from Grand Valley, and spends most of her days managing an AV system in the CHS building. Nights and weekends are quickly spent on various creative pursuits and vices. She's sarcastic, emotional, very tall, and a slave to fountain soda.

Emily Haapala - Have you ever stood on your head to get a good look at something or maybe just to view it in a new light? That has always been my philosophy as an artist, to view my world from a different angle and see what comes out. My camera has become my kaleidoscope. Just as a child would spend hours on the floor staring at the magnificent colors and shapes showing through that toy, I have grown to do the same by capturing beauty through my lens. This series focused on nightmares and how a person feels when they are literally facing their fears.

Amy Johnson is a fourth year student at Grand Valley State University. She is studying creative writing, focusing in poetry, fiction, and non-fiction.

Rachel Kauff spends her time walking dirt roads, poking at bugs, and chasing deer down the sides of the ravines. When she is finally released from the loving arms of the university, she has no idea where she will be or what she will be doing, but she will surely continue to spend her time drawing, studying environmental thinking, and hoarding small objects. She hopes that these efforts will help herself and others come to a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Kelly Kensler is an English Literature major hailing from Alpena, Michigan. Her writing engages nature, the human psyche, and always the intensity of sensory experience. Her forte is poetry but she also toils in lyric essay and fiction. She loves post-modern literature, low-budget movies and making ugly things beautiful. Kelly currently resides in Grand Rapids with her lovely boyfriend and two coddled cats.

Michelle Kunze is a non traditional student pursuing a BFA with an emphasis in Graphic Design and a Bachelors in Liberal Studies. She is a multi-faceted artist using more than one medium. While currently working as a freelance artist designing logos and invitations, she is in the process of developing a website to exhibit her fabric designs and illustrations. Michelle uses many of her own photographs for inspiration and compositions. She currently lives in Montague, Michigan with her husband and four children.

Emily Loftis is a recent graduate from Grand Valley who spends all her time being poor and making travel plans. She picks up entirely too many things from the dirt and aspires to have her own stingray which she'll keep in the bathtub.

Elizabeth Lowe started college in 2008 and is obtaining her BFA in Metalsmithing and Jewelry. She has been taking art classes since middle school and always planned to attend art school. She was awarded the Ox-bow Art Fellowship and will spend her summer embracing their philosophy. Her future plans include graduating from GVSU in December 2012 and continuing on to graduate school to become a professor.

Meghan McAfee is excited to have her poem, "Bloom," represented in the 2012 issue of fishladder. Since graduating from the Writing Department, last April, Meghan has become the Managing Content Editor for The Awesome Mitten.

Lauren Menapace: is completing her BFA degree in Illustration and minor in Writing this semester. The future is uncertain, at present. Tentative plans include owning as many pets as possible, starting an Etsy account, freelancing, sending resumes to book publishers and magazines, AND underwater base-jumping. She would especially like to acknowledge her best friend and roommate Mili Thibodeau (also published in Fishladder) and thank her for her undying love, encouragement, and positive personality throughout the past 5 years. To all aspiring creative people: Always do what you want. Do what you love. And you'll be happy.

Kristina Pepelko - proper noun 1. a GVSU senior majoring in English and Creative Writing 2. animal advocate and environmentalist 3. lover of macaroni and cheese, sunflowers, trains, and magazines 4. Rachel Carson wannabe

Paige Pierog simply cannot be defined in a few short sentences. She is a coffee enthusiast who prefers the beverage taken directly into the bloodstream. Her room is adorned with posters of The Cure, Rene Magritte, Joy Division, Audrey Hepburn, and Flight of the Conchords. Her taste in music meanders across genres and sub-genres that should never cross (but the result would probably be Eddie Vedder crooning with Andy McMahon to a Kate Nash song). Her favorite book is 'The Catcher in the Rye' though she appreciates a wide variety of literature. She has to watch her favorite movie, Donnie Darko, right before Halloween (sans rabbit suit) no matter what. As her freshman year at Grand Valley comes to a close, Paige has decided to pursue a degree in journalism. Paige is incredibly grateful for her loving parents, sister Katie, and best friends Ana, Rachel, Kris, and Sarah for their continuous support and inspiration.

Michael Rajnicek - I am a senior at Grand Valley State University with an emphasis in illustration. My current preferred methods of working are intaglio printing and pen and ink illustration. I find line to be an attractive design element as it allows overlapping and ambiguous forms to come forth, as evident in this piece. This particular building is the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and is an important concluding landmark of a famous Catholic pilgrimage route through Spain.

Maria Schultz is a 24 year-old Grand Rapids native. She is a Senior at Grand Valley and will be graduating with her BFA in Illustration in April. A military spouse, she strives to make work that keeps her connected to her husband through memories, even when he is not present.

Jennifer Stamate is a senior, studying Creative writing with an emphasis on poetry and fiction. She has always enjoyed writing as it is a form of expression and also a escape into the depths of the imagination.

She feels that writing is a way to connect to others through emotions, ideas, and more. Other than writing, Jennifer also has a strong interest in language, which has prompted a goal to someday write stories and poems completely in Spanish. She hopes to study abroad this upcoming fall in Spain where there is a program that focuses on Creative Writing

Shawnkeisha Stoudamire - This Detroit native has always been a writer, but did not think to study it until after completing an engineering program. Yes, she is a certified machinist, but writing is what makes her happy. Ignoring guaranteed money, she came to Grand Valley to pursue her one true love. Please show ya love for Ms. Shawnkeisha Stoudamire.

Matthew M. Sullivan - In the year 1987 CE, doctors surgically removed the vernix-slathered child from his mother's womb. Within two years he was fluent in all the world's languages, could run the mile in under four minutes, and had an intelligence quotient equivalent to that of Albert Einstein and Noam Chomsky combined. By 1996, however, after years of alcohol abuse and smoking cigarettes and huffing whatever chemicals he could find in his home or at his elementary school, his brain shrank to normal size, his athletic prowess dwindled, and he lost the sense of smell in his left nostril. Today, rather than pursuing a fruitful career, he writes fiction, nonfiction, and whatever-he-feels-like while working in retail to pay off his overwhelming student-loan debt, and takes frequent naps between watching obscure independent films on an internet-based streaming service and reading books about cosmology or the paradoxical human condition.

Jared Talcott - Evidence from my Senior Thesis, *No Privacy*. This negative was found within an envelope of damaged negatives at a darkroom lab that contained images of submission and rape. It is believed this image is one of the rapist's potential victims.

Erin Terbrack is a Writing Major at GVSU whose home is quaintly located on a spot of land in the Thumb of Michigan. When she isn't busy as a creative writing student, she enjoys expanding her knowledge of the internet and gaming culture, which is a very eloquent way of saying that Erin couldn't live without her computer (or at least she would complain a lot).

Mili Thibodeau is currently a senior in the Art & Design program with an emphasis in Printmaking. Her process-based work explores the layers of information our brain observes that both manipulate our perception and influence our interactions. The notion that these layers of information are both real and imagined is especially important because there is no means of detaching the real perspective from the imagined.

Sara Warren, 28, is a Creative Writing major from downtown Holland, Michigan. Experienced in the dark arts of reclusion, addiction, perversion, alienation, condescension, and debilitation, she may just break your heart if you let her in. Sara prefers to walk barefoot, and if the weather permits, she sleeps with the windows open and the wind in her hair. Coca-Cola, Lake Michigan, and heat lightning flow through her veins. "Lab Partners, High School Honors Chemistry" was inspired by Sean Prentiss's "The Loneliest of Electrons" and "The Property of Inequality."

Sara Weimar - Heels come with a heavy load of cultural baggage; a slew of associations and contexts that range from sophistication to strip clubs. I am interested in exploring the richness imbedded in these objects, specifically, in how they comment on the larger concept of femininity in general. I feel that the use of cast metal both contrasts and compliments differing ideas of what it means to be feminine, and the investigation of these many facets is what I am working through in all of my work.

Andrew Wernette is a junior at Grand Valley, and he is majoring in Ad/PR and Writing. A huge fan of theatre, he loves dramatic writing above all else. His short piece, "The Use of Deadly Force", was previously performed by the student theatre group STAGE. He has had multiple works produced on campus, and earlier this year he took a 10-minute play to the regional level of the American College Theatre Festival. In the future, Andrew hopes to move out to Chicago and find a small stage willing to produce all his silly ideas.