

*21st
Century
Flow*

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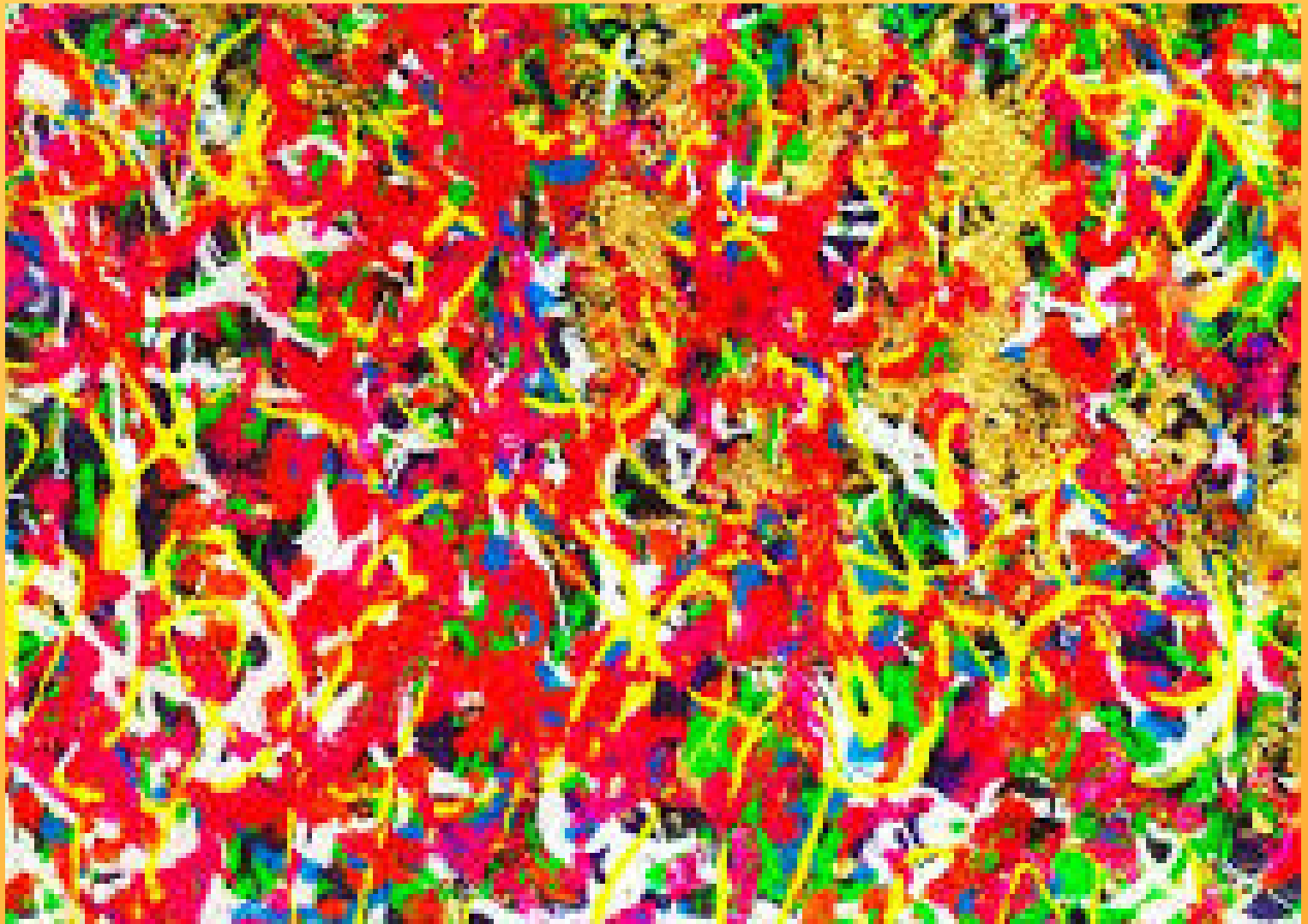


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SUBMISSIONS POLICY

WELCOME to the first issue of 21st Century Flow.

We are a poetry and art magazine that will be published periodically.

The poetry and art we publish will be POV from the heart and reflect the language of today, free expression in a somewhat modern setting.

“Painting is poetry that is seen rather than felt, and poetry is painting that is felt rather than seen.” Leonardo da Vinci

Our first issue features a variety of poets and artists from The United States and Asia. I hope that you enjoy their work.

Regards and Happy Reading,

Raj Dronamraju
Editor

VAGABOND TRILOGY by Raj Dronamraju

I'll make up these deaths to you
Periods of death where we lay face down
And showed our corpse skin to the world
Like an armadillo rolling up in a ball for defense
I will make it up to you how we ate instant noodles and collected bottles and cans and took long
walks by the river because it was both interesting and free
I will make it up to you that the only thing we bought new was time which we promptly wasted
taking for granted it would always replenish itself
You cried on the elevator because you thought I had mental illness
You cried on the elevator because you thought I had lost it
I'll make a homeless cuddle, a temporary supplication to the forces that dispossess modest
complacency

I will give you the road not well maintained
Filled with holes and debris
Closer to hell's intentions with each mileage marker
I will give you whatever meager prey I ran down on 48 year old legs
I will become persona non grata to those living by the totalitarian blueprint
I will give you feelings of superiority
And a stretched out empowerment serenade
Better people ask for privacy
And space out on fantasies of things they will never get
I will build you a fort and we'll take turns on watch
Here come the absconders of mortality
They expect you and me to get jobs
They expect you and me to hold jobs
I will make up for what we never have with joviality, dance parties, and skin products

Raj Dronamraju is the editor of 21st Century Flow. He is the author of three volumes of poetry THE RETURN OF THE MAGNIFICENT NINNY, SOLIDARITY WITH THE FLESH-EATING MOSAIC, and TRAVELS WITH THE ANTI-JOHNNY APPLESEED which can be found her <https://raj-books.post-egoism.media/> along with several novels he has written. He is an American living in Malaysia where he teaches English and tries to enjoy life.

TAKE IT FROM THE NUTS by Gerlie M. Uy

Cracking, unhusking, peeling,
all before tasting these bare nuts,
there must be a ritual we should know.
We are accustomed to peeled,
straight-to-the-mouth nuts;
we are ignorant of the beginning of nuts,
as in all things at first.
To know more of our nut,
we start as to how it is cracked:
hammered, stoned or pressed between thumbs?
Unhusking it, by accepting what's hard
has the sweetest reward.
Peeling it, by embracing the untold inside.
Relationships are like that:
You cracked it, you bought it.
You don't abandon easily
because it is hard to crack.
You don't leave easily
because you can't stand its bareness.
You do stay because in time you'll know
the way of cracking, unhusking, peeling it.
Yes, you may always go back to the store
to change the unpeeled to peeled. But.
But you will not be the same person anymore.
You are peeled, either as the stronger or weaker
version of your self.
And you will live your days learning
what nuts always tell you:
Love is not about how many you tasted,
it is about finding that one nut
and cracking,
and unhusking,
and peeling it.
And lovingly
devouring it.

Gerlie M. Uy is a Filipino writer who burned her poems in high school after learning the fundamentals of poetry in college, only to forget the rules later but kept on creating poems no matter what. So her Rule No. 1 is Keep creating, and Rule No. 2, No burning. Find her at footandfire.blogspot.com

DONUT KING by Margaret G. Still:

2018 – Oil Paint on Paper – 11 x 12

Donut King is a doughnut chain in the United States. Their logo is a doughnut with a crown, seen in the lower right of this painting. This Donut King is in Memphis, Tennessee, Near Airways & Lamar.



Margaret G. Still received her B.A. (1973) and M.F.A. (1976) in Painting from U.C.L.A., studying with William Brice, Richard Diebenkorn, Gordon Nunes, Elliot Elgart, and others. She grew up in Manila, Philippines, and has lived in Los Angeles, New York City, and Memphis. She made Saugerties her home in 2011, and has exhibited in the last two years in group shows at Emerge Gallery in Saugerties, at Greenkill in Kingston, and at the Arts Society of Kingston member and juried shows. She had a solo show at Green in Saugerties in 2018, and is currently showing new work at Green.

FACEBOOK: Margaret G Still Art

GREEN GALLERY: Click "Gallery" on <https://www.modcatskills.com/>

MEDIOCRITY by Gisele

My dream was marred

By the constant thought

Of your dishonestly,

I wholeheartedly Poured out my
feelings, Disclosing the layers of my
soul,

Thinking they will be safe in your
hands, Even though they told me

You were not here to stay,

You wore a mask,

Clothed your demons so well,

I was deceived,

I now go about

In frayed heart

Entangled with your promises

Slowly,

Sinking in my pain,

Cureless,

Helplessly miserable,

“How?

How do I get myself out?”

Gisele is a third-year journalism student whose passion for poetry started growing when she was 18. She likes to explore different styles of writing, from classics to modern and has come to realize that despite the differences, they convey their own unique values. Apart from that, she enjoys taking photographs and hopes to grow as a poet-photographer someday.

AFTER THREE DECADES by Jez Brul

I stood
at the century old gate
of my high school Alma mater
on Sunday morn last summer.
Excited as if I had a date.

I saw
people passing by;
The old folks recalled me,
Yes, they recalled me with glee.
And I humbly knew why.

I gazed
at the benches made of stone
beside the Marcos building
where we used to sit and sing
as if the place was our own.

I smiled
as I set my eyes at the hall
where we performed comic plays
that brought laughters in many ways
to the audience, big and small.

I recalled
the honors we received,
the medals -silver and gold;
the warm applause of young and old
that made our parents truly believed.

I pondered
these things in my brain,
the changes from places,
to people's faces;
Only mem'ries remain.

*Jez Brul is from the Philippines and lived a farm life most of
her childhood years.*

*She is a full time mom who is dedicated in the pursuit of
upholding a strong family for a strong country.*

WINDOWS by Lynn Davis

2017- Acrylic on Canvas - 20 x 16

Lynn Davis' s painting style incorporates space and bold colors, and features clear changes in speed and detail that suggest a pathway to hope and freedom. Lynn's use of a vivid palette indicates promise with a perspective on boundaries, doorways and possibilities.



Lynn D. Davis is an abstract painter, photographer, aromatherapist and entrepreneur living in Brooklyn, New York.

Website: www.lynndavis.studio

Instagram is: @lynndavisart

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

21st Century Flow is always looking for submissions. We are interested in poetry (and art) with a strong POV from the heart and written in modern language. As we are based in Malaysia and governed by Malaysian law regarding sensitive material, we are not looking for poetry with any four letter words nor controversial political opinions.

All poetry submissions must be included in the body of an e-mail. Attachments will be deleted.

E-mail for submissions: raj_dronamraju@yahoo.com

While we do not pay for submissions as we are a free publication, if your poetry or art is selected, you can include one or more links for self-promotion which will be part of your bio.