CALL AND RESPONSE

IMAGES ANSWER LANGUAGE

HAMILTONIAN GALLERY
1353 U St. NW
Washington DC 20009

1.2010

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3
MEET THE CALLERS 3
MEET THE RESPONDERS 3
PIECE 1 3
PIECE 2 3
PIECE 3 3
PIECE 4 3
PIECE 5 3
PIECE 6 3
PIECE 7 3
PIECE 8 3
PIECE 9 3
PIECE 10 3
PIECE 11 3
PIECE 12 3
PIECE 13 3
PIECE 14 3

PIECE 15 3
PIECE 16 3
SOME OTHER INFO 3

INTRODUCTION

CURATORS: WILLIAM BERT, KIRA WISNIEWSKI

In music, a call and response is a succession of two distinct phrases played by different musicians, where the second phrase is a commentary on or response to the first. We envision taking two art forms to create a new twist on this traditional understanding of the phrase by creating collaborations between writers and visual artists. The writer will provide the call. The visual artist will provide the response. The result will be paired works that resonate with each other.

Who are the writers? An engaging mix of emerging and established writers with diverse bodies of work from Washington, D.C., and beyond. We have poets, personal essayists and memoirists, and writers of short fiction. Their work has ap-

tional publications and several of them have published books.

Who are the artists? A diverse mix of emerging and established artists from Washington, D.C., and beyond. We have photographers, painters, mixed medium artists, a welder, a fashion designer and a filmmaker (sounds like a set-up for joke, right?) We're also excited to announce that the gallery hosting our show has made some of its fellows available to participate. They offer several different aesthetics that we're pretty stoked about.

MEET THE CALLERS

WILLIAM JOHN BERT's work has appeared in Colorado Review, pacificREVIEW, Sonora Review, and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. In 2007, he graduated from the University of Arizona's Creative Writing Program, where he was co-Fiction Editor of the Sonora Review. He was a founding board member and now serves on the Lead Volunteer Team of Capitol Letters Writing Center in Washington, DC.

DAN BRADY is the poetry editor of Barrelhouse and the former editor of American Poet, the Journal of the Academy of American Poets. He is also the editor and founder of Growler (www.growlerpoetry.org), a website devoted to reviewing debut collections of poetry. His work has recently appeared or is forthcoming in Beltway Quarterly, Specs, and Circumference. He holds an MA in Arts Management from George Mason University and works in Washington, D.C .as an arts administrato

SEAN CARMAN writes regularly for the McSweeney's website and the Huffington Post. He has contributed to three McSweeney's humor anthologies, and he wrote the fake introduction to Stumbling and Raging: More Politically-Inspired Fiction, an anthology of politically-oriented fiction edited by Stephen Elliott. He has also written for the Comedy Central website and has contributed stories and articles to Bridge, Hobart, The Exquisite Corpse, and ReadyMade, among other publications. In 2009 he was awarded a residency at the Norton Island Writers' Colony. He lives in Washington, DC, and works as an environmental lawyer.

WADE FLETCHER lives in Falls Church, VA with his wife and their wonderful new son. He teaches composition, literature, and poetry at two of the George universities: Mason and Washington, and also serves as assistant manager for Fall for the Book, a yearly literary arts festival. He completed his MFA in poetry in 2008 at GMU, where he held the Heritage Writer Fellowship. A former poetry editor for Phoebe, he now co-coordinates Cheryl's Gone, a monthly multi-genre reading and performance series in Washington D.C. His chapbook, Snitch Culture, was published with dusie press in 2007, and recent poems have appeared in Barrelhouse and Versal.

MATT GAJEWSKI was born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1984. In 2002, he moved to Miami, Florida, where he earned a degree in music engineering from the University of Miami. In college, Matt created a radio program called Pure Imagination which featured his darkly comic short stories and improvised narratives set to music by Miami-based composers. Pure Imagination has aired on Miami's 90.5 WVUM-FM since 2005, and selected stories from its third and fourth seasons were recently compiled into an illustrated book with drawings by artist Zach Danesh.

JEN GIRDISH is a recently-minted MFA from Lesley University, where she worked with Post Road Magazine. A resident of Washington, DC, she is the coordinating the upcoming Capitol Letters Writing Center student publication project. Her nonfiction has appeared in The Washington Post, The AV Club, the Washington City Paper, and Venus Magazine.

CALVIN GODFREY descended to earth in a meteorite. Young Godfrey crawled mysteriously from the depths, and was adopted by a doctor and politically savvy nurse in a hamlet known as Los Feliz. In fall of 2001, he enrolled at Cornell University. He spent his junior year at Trinity College

in Dublin, Ireland studying pasta, beer, and the theater. He graduated from Cornell in 2005 with distinction in all subjects. Somehow, he ended up in Daytona Beach, Florida. He learned how to shoot guns and write daily news stories. By the spring of 2006, he had moved to the Magic City. He took up work as a staff writer for a weekly publication known as the Miami New Times. During his time there, he saw many strange and terrible things. The weight of this weirdness drove him back to the frigid north, where he can now be found patrolling Central Park—communing with the birds and squirrels there as an Urban Park Ranger.

ELEANOR GRAVES writes poems that play with the tension between words and image: words tell us what we can't see; images show us what we can't put into words. How do they work together without cancelling each other out? Professionally and as a volunteer, Eleanor has been teaching poetry, literature, and composition to people of all ages since coming to the Washington, DC, area in 2003. She received an MFA in poetry from George Mason University in 2006. She is a recipient of the Mary Rinehart Award in Poetry as well as the GMU Thesis Fellowship the same year. Her poems have appeared in Phoebe, Practice, and Hayden's Ferry Review. Eleanor also

teaches yoga in the workplace at various businesses, non-profits, and government agencies in Washington DC.

JOE HALL is the founder of the Washington, DC, area reading series Cheryl's Gone. In 2010, his first book of poems, Pigafetta Is My Wife, will be put out by Black Ocean Press. Individual poems have appeared in Versal, Phoebe, Hayden's Ferry Review, Cimarron Review, and others. His words have also seen gallery action through the filter of Alyssa Pheobus' (tremendous) prints.

CHRISTIAN HOWARD was born in Buffalo, NY. Growing up he spent much of his childhood writing form letters to companies soliciting free merchandise. To date he has received crates of soft drinks; a trip to the Bahamas; free clothing; a signed letter from Socks, Bill Clinton's cat, and coupons for everything from free cases of wine to a one month supply of Snapple. A graduate of the University of Miami, he is currently a student in the MFA in Creative Writing program at Cornell University. Christian is working on a collection of short stories incorporating themes of race, migration, and transmutation among other things.

MATTHEW KLAM is the author of the short story collection Sam The Cat, a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book of the Year, a New York Times Notable Book, and an Esquire Best Book of the Year. A correspondent for GQ Magazine and a contributing writer to The New York Times Magazine, Klam is a recipient of a Guggenheim fellowship, a Whiting Writers' Award, a National Endowment of the Arts grant, and a PEN/Robert Bingham Award. He is working on a new book of fiction and a story for GQ on the Jewish Haredi in Israel.

GERALD MAA has translations appearing or forthcoming in Poetry Northwest, Circumference, and Chinese Writers on Writing, as well as an essay forthcoming in Studies in Romanticism. He has earned a translation grant from the International Center for Writing and Translation, a Florence Tan Moeson fellowship from the Library of Congress, and work study scholarships from the Bread Loaf Conference. He lives in Washington, DC, and teaches at the University of Maryland.

MARK POLANZAK's fiction has appeared in Pindeldyboz, Adirondack Review, Third Coast, and The American Scholar. He has written for and edited several magazines in Boston. He recently completed his first novel. Mark lives in Cambridge,

Massachusetts, and is interested in sports and death.

MIKE SCALISE lives in Washington, DC, and his ssays and articles have appeared in Ninth Letter, Post Road magazine, Hot Metal Bridge, The Rumpus, PopMatters, and many others. His work has received grants, awards, and scholarships from George Mason University as well as both the Bread Loaf and Southampton Writers' Conferences. He's currently the Philip Roth Writer-in-Residence at Bucknell University.

DANIKA STEGEMAN graduated from George Mason University's Creative Writing MFA program in May 2009 and co-edits the journal Rooms Outlast Us. She currently lives and works in Bethesda, MD. Her work has appeared in Denver Quarterly, Cimarron Review, and Juked.

CASEY WILEY is the 2009 Emerging Writer Fellow at Penn State Altoona and a 2009 Creative Nonfiction MFA graduate of George Mason University. His nonfiction and fiction has been published, or is forthcoming, in Pindledyboz, Emerson Review, Word Riot, Fringe, and was selected for a Finalist for Glimmertrain's Short Story Award for New Writers. Prior to posing as a writer, Casey interned a year with the Miami Dolphins

doing myriad tasks, most notably washing the head coach's SUV. He is working on a book about Social Humor, laughter and why he's not very funny.

MEET THE RESPONDERS

JON BOBBY BENJAMIN iis a Hamiltonian Artists Fellow, and presents the following Artists' Statement: The ghosts of an industrial past linger in our present, leaving a permanent footprint, an afterimage that can never fully be razed or removed. My recent work focuses on these architectural remnants - defunct houses and barns, weathered structures, and disintegrating object-artifacts. It draws on the urban landscape of Philadelphia and Washington, DC, as well as on the scenery of my hometown, a small working-class coastal city in Massachusetts. I present massive, impersonal decaying structures lifted from these locales as delicate and intimate spaces by recreating them on a minute scale.

RACHEL CROUCH is a Chicago native produces work in varied media using color, texture, movement, and flow. Her pieces are about the impossible and the discovery of promise.

Music, life, limits, and change are just a few of the themes prevalent in Crouch's work. Recently, she and her twin sister painted a live mural in eight minutes at the 24th Annual Mayors Arts Awards in Washington, DC.

ANTHONY DIHLE / DIRTY PICTURES was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Frederick, MD, Anthony earned his BFA in Graphic Design from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2004. His formal design training is paired with traditional illustration and printmaking, and is heavily influenced by the schizophrenic Providence / DC art and music scene. He is a strong believer in the process of making being as crucial (and satisfying) if not more so than the result of the final piece. Anthony has a DIY methodology and prints his posters in his living room on a former air hockey table using a variety of production methods including silkscreen, letterpress, linocut, xerography, and gyotaku.

LEAH FRANKEL is a Hamiltonian Artists Fellow, and presents the following Artists' Statement: My work deals with the organization that man has projected onto nature, such as the theoretical study of mathematics and the physical manipulation of natural material into man-made forms and ideas. I

make delicate arrangements of natural materials to create seemingly arbitrary but logical structures. I also observe natural phenomena and make studies which invite natural effects to take their course. I choose to collaborate with the earth. Most importantly, I am interested in what will remain and what the natural systems of the earth will destroy.

GIORGIA LUISA HORRELL is a collagist and illustrator currently living in Washington, DC. She was born in 1984 in Los Angeles, California – where she lived before moving to San Francisco for school. She received her BFA in Visual Arts at the University of San Francisco in 2006. Her works are a development of her captivation and childlike fascination with her surrounding environments. She has shown in several group shows in San Francisco and fairs in Los Angeles.

ALISON HANOLD is a documentary filmmaker and the Associate Director of the Center for Social Media in Washington, DC. She is also the VP of Membership for Women in Film and Video DC and is pursuing a masters in Arts Management from American University.

MICHAEL DAX IACOVONE is a Hamiltonian Artists Fellow, and presents the following Artists' Statement:

*I am interested in urban landscapes.

* I am interested in formulas.

* I am interested in rules.

* I am interested in mapping.

* I am interested in experiencing spaces.

* I am interested in experiencing familiar spaces through unconventional means.

* I am interested in demystifying the role of the artist by revealing the processes.

* I am interested in redefining documentary photography, by bridging it with fine art photography.

MAGNOLIA LAURIE is a Hamiltonian Artists Fellow, and presents the following Artists' Statement: In my paintings, vast, often desolate, spaces are depicted. Referencing the arctic or the desert, they are invented environments posing the question: where do we go from here? Structures appear within the landscape, some proposing a possible system of communication, others referring to a vulnerable and perhaps futile attempt to create shelter. The structures and systems created are illogical; they are delicate and makeshift in a way that may not

endure their own weight, let alone the impending disruptions. Yet, they are made, and to me they reference the sustained need to try, to build, to create, even in the face of complete futility. My paintings are of invented architecture and imagined ruins, they represent the instinctive, sometimes manic, and desperate act of building, and within them I am thinking about the cyclical rise and fall of civilizations.

IAN MACLEAN DAVIS holds his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Mount Royal School of Art at the Maryland Institute, College of Art. His works have been exhibited in Washington DC, Los Angeles, CA & Baltimore, MD. His artwork is collected internationally. He is currently represented by Hamiltonian Gallery, Washington, DC.

MALCOLM MAJER is a practicing furniture designer/maker with a studio in Baltimore, MD. He received a B.F.A. from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2005. His work has been exhibited in Baltimore, Brooklyn, Providence and Richmond. He is most interested in exploring problems of structure in metal and wood, using the inherent qualities of each material to

create a composition that subtly demonstrates the distribution of forces.

KATHERINE MANN is a Hamiltonian Artists Fellow, and presents the following Artists' Statement: My paintings depict ever-changing fantasy worlds where blood cells, rainforests, and coral reefs collide and intertwine. Each piece functions as a man-sized porthole into a landscape alive with minute details, patterns and interlocking systems. This is achieved through the conglomeration of tiny minutia piled and cobbled together to create the larger, overarching relationships that define the whole painting—usually organic forms that grow and breath but also become overwhelmed with their own excess. I work with ambiguous shapes that could function as elements in radically different environments in the real world—a scabby circular shape could be a marsh object covered with barnacles, a white blood cell, or a cratered moon. Thus the real environments of reefs, rainforests, outer space and microbiology are smashed into one incongruous whole.

BRYAN ROJSUONTIKUL is a Hamiltonian Artists Fellow, and was born in Washington, DC, and grew up in the central and northern Virginia area. He has a Bachelor of Fine Arts

degree from George Mason University where he studied Art and Visual Technology with a concentration in Sculpture. He is primarily known for his duct tape works and installations that show influences of Minimalism, Abstract Expressionism, The Washington Color School, and Hard Edge Painting where he creates psychological color fields considered Hard Edge Sculpting.

AMANDA SHEPHERD was born in 1982, in the small town of Lyons, Kansas. Eventually she made her escape to “The Little Apple,” where she graduated with a B.F.A. in Graphic Design from Kansas State University. After spending five years working in Kansas City, Missouri, and Baltimore, Maryland, she decided to abandon her career in advertising. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York, and attends the Fashion Institute of Technology in the “Big Apple.” In order to support herself she plans to pursue a career in costume design. She would rather be in her studio, experimenting with sewing, pattern making, wet felting, silk screening, fabric and dye to create beautiful things for her own personal gratification.

TATIANA SUAREZ was born in 1983 and is a Miami native coming from a multicultural and artistic background that has offered her a great amount of creative inspiration. Her paintings combine a sense of fairness and beauty with overtones of sexual provocation and charm. Her ongoing maturation as an artist has led her to develop a shifting yet memorable style that continues to fuel a drive towards personal gratification between her and her work.

LAM VUONG was born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, to Vietnamese refugees. His photography, watercolors, and installations deal with the nuances of loneliness and confusion in dating and Asian American culture. Heading towards California, he started his MFA at CalArts this fall. .

BEN SAVAGE GARDEN Once upon a time, in a crescent center along the coral sea, Little Baby Ivy (LBI) and Little Baby Connie (LBC) exchanged some words about a popular female rap group. LBC noticed LBI's dazzling heart earrings and peacock good looks, and thought, "She could be my best friend. For life. They traveled together to lands of children with tattooed eyeliner and metallic teeth, painting rainbows and flamingos wherever they could. So you can imagine what

happened when those minds drifted to Argentina, and found the perfect third mind for their compound molecule. Little Baby Andres (LBA) was a furry critter with a wild soul, and a desire to nibble on candies–any kind, really. When LBA, LBI and LBC were together, it was like the best ketchup, and the best mustard, and the finest ground beef all happened to gravitate to the center of the earth, and, because of the flavor pressure, they'd all burst into delicious little nuggets; delectable palate pleasers raining from the sky one by one into every person's and animal's mouth. These three artists, based out of New York and Philadelphia, have combined their passion for photography, video, silkscreening, and drawing to form Ben Savage Garden. Individually, their work has been featured in publications, installations, and shows around Miami, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York.

2.19

CALL: JOE HALL
RESPONSE: SOMEONE

If this is weeping, it isn't; it is
The gated mouth of a flooded subway
It is bees iced in their hives, a crocus'
Spears shaking from soil; goodnight
Goodnight, I love you, I love you too, Ok
Sleep well; it's the man who draws maps
Of non-existent continents, naming cities
After corrupt and dead popes or linebackers
From the twilight of his second favorite football team
It is a web page of clumsy pornography
Waiting, hopefully, for its very first hit
Svmer is icumen in, sing cuccu, I miss you

Goddammit, you’re like an actor with a gorilla
Head and an elephant head and all the animal heads
There’s no need to go to the zoo and I’m
Already walking on all fours, to give it
A name, to give it anything; I know
This isn’t weeping, but it has the same rhythm

SMELLING MR. ROGERS

CALL: MIKE SCALISE
RESPONSE: SOMEONE

Mister Rogers stepped out of the passenger side door of a white sedan that had pulled up in front of the building where I stood. I was smoking a cigarette at the top of a concrete stairwell, staring down below at a struggling bird that had broken its wing. It was my third day as an intern at Pittsburgh magazine, which shared a building with the studio that filmed Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. As I took a drag on my cigarette and looked down at the bird—which flopped on its side in circles like a half-lit firecracker—I thought, "someone should really do something about that." Then I heard a car door slam, and saw Mister Rogers walking toward me. He wore a bow tie, not a long tie, and there was no cardigan. Just a long, fleshy

flap that drew a droopy line from his chin to his collar. "Hello," he said as he came up the stairs, and I quickly blew out smoke and flicked away my cigarette. I might have said hello back.

"What are you looking at?" he asked as he approached.

"That bird down there," I said, pointing down. "It's injured."

Then he curled his arm over the railing and leaned forward, slowly, to see what I saw.

"Well, there's not much we can do about that," he said, and he was so close to me I would have been able to smell him, if he'd smelled like anything at all.