

**Punk Rock Song**

We travelled through cities like boarded-up clouds.  
We needed to crash and shutter our eyelids.

Camped on the sidewalk, sponging for change,  
ravenous for what we couldn't expect, we bounced

from street to alley, outskirt to park, through  
bakery dumpsters and corner diners, among

drug dealers, street tricksters, police stares,  
and this was better than the finality out there.

We found a squat, pals to chug beer with,  
and through odd jobs and laughter, shared dreams:

dance parties beneath girders, living our way  
through questions, quarters winking from gutters,

scrounging toward some "better way," holding your hand  
in another grunge bar—and the bartender's doggish face

that night we swiped his tips. As we slipped off, freedom  
in some jam-band's freak-out eked out of a tiki bar,

edged through the cars, and echoed to us through  
pure joy sung, we were rushing the wrong way.

# 15th Annual Erskine J. Poetry Prize

## *First Prize*

Punk Rock Song—**G.H. Mosson** (page 77)

## *Second Prize*

I Will Give You This:—**Paige Lewis** (page 93)

## *Third Prize*

Kigali Memorial—**Carlos Andrés Gómez** (page 78)

## *Finalists*

Road Metal—**Timothy McBride** (page 87)

## *Prize Judge*

**Stephen Reichert**

G.H. MOSSON is the author of two books of poetry, *Season of Flowers and Dust* (Goose River, 2007) and *Questions of Fire* (Plain View, 2009). His poetry has been nominated three times for the Pushcart Prize. Mosson reviews poetry for *The Broadkill Review* and lives in Maryland.

ALICIA MOUNTAIN received her MFA at the University of Montana. Her work has been published in *LIT*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Spillway*, *The Journal*, *Witness* and *Zone 3*. She won a 2014 Academy of American Poets College Prize and was a 2015 Idyllwild Fellow. Her first full length manuscript was a semi-finalist for the 2015 St. Lawrence Book Award.

LYNN PATTISON is the author of three collections: *tesla's daughter* (March Street, 2005); *Walking Back the Cat* (Bright Hill, 2005) and *Light That Sounds Like Breaking* (Mayapple, 2006). Her work has appeared in several anthologies, the most recent being *The Cento: A Collection of Collage Poems* (Red Hen, 2011). Pattison was awarded an Irving S. Gilmore Emerging Artist Grant through the local branch of the Michigan Arts Council and a writing residency at the Ragdale Foundation.

ANITA PINZI was born in Florence, Italy. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the City University of New York. She has extensively researched Italian migration literature, writing her dissertation on contemporary Albanian-Italian literature. Among her publications are an interview with poet Gëzim Hajdari, "An Ode to Exile," the essay "Corpi-Cerniera," and the book chapter "The Translingual Poetic Subject." She resides in the British Virgin Islands, where she is an instructor at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College.

STANLEY PLUMLY [insert rest of bio]

The poems that appear here are from *Against Sunset* which will appear from W.W. Norton this fall.

AARON POOCHIGIAN earned a PhD in classics from the University of Minnesota and is completing an MFA in poetry at Columbia University. His book of translations from Sappho, *Stung With Love*, was published by Penguin Classics in 2009. For his work in translation, he was awarded a 2010-2011 grant by the National Endowment for the Arts. His first book of poetry, *The Cosmic Purr* (Able Muse), was published in 2012, and several of the poems in it collectively won the New England Poetry Club's Daniel Varoujan Prize.

# Smartish Pace

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*Baltimore, Maryland*

# Smartish Pace

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*At the trial, before Erskine J., at the last Summer Assizes for the county of Worcester, it appeared that the plaintiff, having fettered the fore feet of an ass belonging to him, turned it into a public highway, and at the time in question the ass was grazing on the off side of the road about eight yards wide, when the defendant's wagon . . . coming . . . at what the witness termed a smartish pace, ran against the ass, knocked it down, and the wheels passing over it, it died soon after . . .*  
Davies v. Mann, England, Exchequer, 1842.

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