

cherry tree

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CHRISTIAN GULLETTE

Beehive State

Hives emblazoned on temple doors
and traffic signs,

this 45th state full
of dinosaur bones.

*

Scientists can't find
the bee graves either

hidden in these mountains.

There's a ski lift where
a pioneer party died young

*

like my brother. We plant flowers
in the median strip

near the spot he rolled
his Jeep

while the 7-Eleven cashier watched
through bullet-proof glass.



*

I've dispatched countless echoes
into this desert.

I would only recover a meager piece
of him, small as pollen

*

which is what they always find

in mummy stomachs,
Ice Age flowers.



Salt Lake / Swan Lake

It's the lake's spell.

A temple divined from sand.

A desert hell,
shell of a city.

I could have visited a dead body of water
much closer

but something about this lake
isn't finished dying.

I'm lying to myself. Ballet is an excuse
to travel here,

as if returning might bring him back to life.

Each time,

the ballet is the same—

This Prince has

never had to make a choice.

But that's not who he is.

Voiceless,



he's an unkept promise.

A ballet is always an unkept promise

and a lake unchanged.

From the plane,

I can already picture the steps.

Prepping for landing,

my sleep cut short,

a plane's short leaps

on the runway.

to the Floating World (Two Sylvias Press, 2013), *Unexplained Fevers* (New Binary Press, 2013), *The Robot Scientist's Daughter* (Mayapple Press, 2015), and *Field Guide to the End of the World* (Moon City Press, 2016). She's also the author of *PR for Poets* (Two Sylvias Press, 2018). Her website is www.webbish6.com. Twitter and Instagram: @webbish6.

David Groff's book *Clay* (Trio House Press, 2013) was chosen by Michael Waters for the Louise Bogan Award. His collection *Theory of Devolution* (University of Illinois Press, 2002) was selected by Mark Doty for the National Poetry Series. An independent book editor, he teaches poetry, nonfiction, and publishing in the MFA program at The City College of New York.

Christian Gullette is a 2019 National Poetry Series finalist and his poems have appeared or are forthcoming in the *Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*, *Pleiades*, *Smartish Pace*, *Western Humanities Review*, *Meridian*, and other journals. He also serves as the editor-in-chief of *The Cortland Review*. He is currently a Lecturer at the University of California, Berkeley.

Steve Henn wrote *Indiana Noble Sad Man of the Year* (Wolfson, 2017), *And God Said: let there be Evolution!* (NYQ Books, 2012), and *Unacknowledged Legislations* (NYQ Books, 2010). He's a 2018 *Rattle* contest finalist and a 2018 and 2019 Divedapper Poetry Carnival showcase reader. He resides ambivalently in Indiana.