





Staff Letter

Another year, another magazine. A lot has changed here at *Signatures* since 2010. We have a brand new staff, a new website, and a fresh new direction.

This year, we looked to the stars for help. Unfortunately, science told us they were misaligned and unreliable. Everybody's astrological signs had apparently changed, and there was confusion amongst the masses.

But we had faith! We studied the signs and discovered something we weren't expecting. People's personalities tend to resemble their native signs, unlike what some skeptics argue.

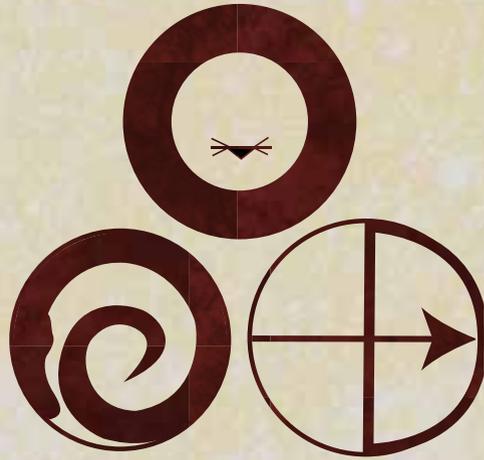
Knowing this, we went a step further. We learned that each sign had certain characteristics that it shared with others. Unsurprisingly, each of the signs that have similar traits share one of the four elements: fire, earth, air, or water.

Our magazine is separated into four sections, portraying the overarching characteristics of each element. The directory wheel on the first page will guide you to each element and the signs contained within. Each author's submission is placed underneath their own sign. Whether it represents them or not is up to your own judgment.

Every year, the *Signatures* staff strives to showcase RIT's talent to the best of our ability. We hope you feel we have achieved our goal. So, enjoy the 2011 edition of *Signatures* magazine!

-Sig

You can also visit us at <http://www.rit.edu/sg/signatures/> to view our web magazine featuring additional poetry and art by RIT students, or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



FIRE

The fire element contains Aries, Leo, and Sagittarius. Individuals who fall in this group have an innate drive to succeed and be independent. They are very expressive and confident in their abilities. These people are aggressive in obtaining their wants and desires; they will remain focused until their goal is achieved.

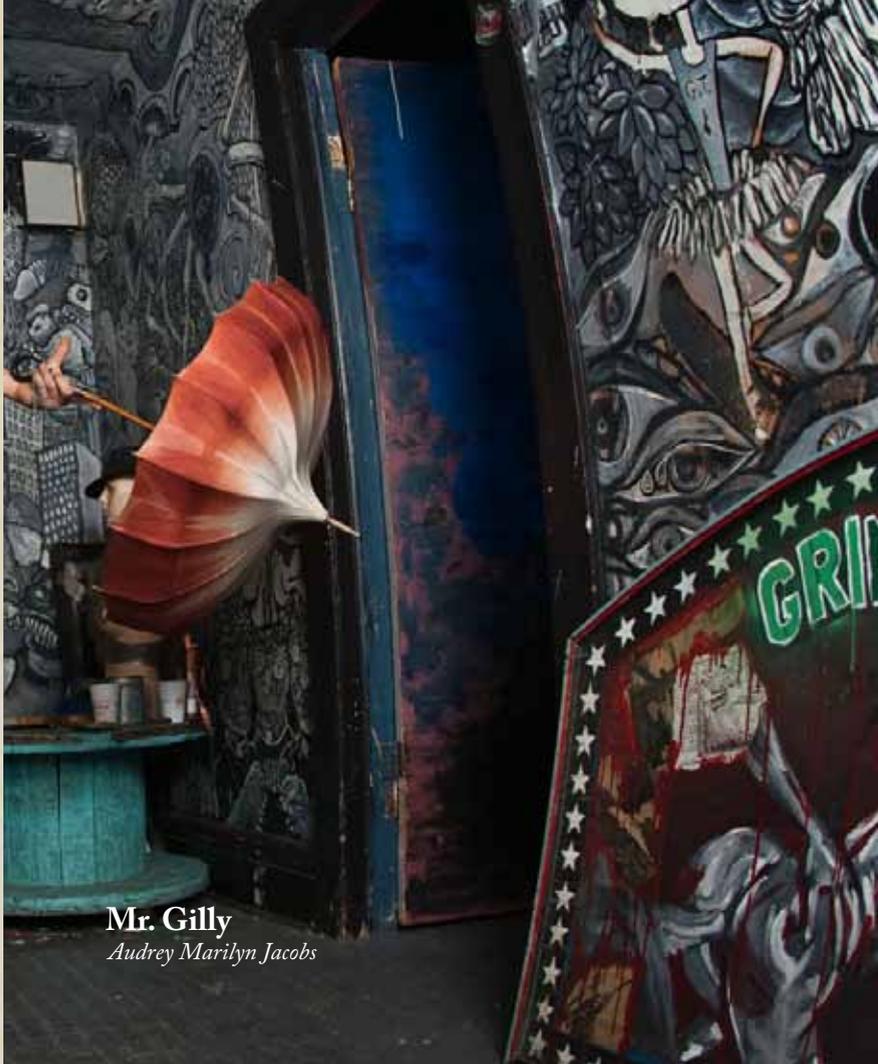


Untitled

Audrey Marilyn Jacobs







Mr. Gilly
Audrey Marilyn Jacobs

Taking the Edge Off

Jin-Ah Kim

Cocaine makes the crick in your
neck snap back straight, the pain melts away
like the sweat on a glass of ice water sitting in the sun.

Standing arms stretched out
toward the cocaine sunset
full of pink and purple hues

Washing over you, squeezing out all feeling.
Drawing you deeper and deeper
into the abyss of anesthesia.

Immobilized, desensitized, paralyzed
to the bee sting needle pushin' in the coke
for a direct route into my blood, no nose detours.

Cool summer night's air inhaled
and shiver runs down my spine,
I can barely feel my breathing.



Absolutely amazing. Blazingly blown.
I feel like a whole 'nother being.
A creature not of this planet,
walking around in a lizard suit
that can't feel when a mosquito sucks at my blood.

The unlucky greedy little bug
suddenly feels the effects
of the drugs from his meal,

Flying into walls,
barely able to stand, disoriented,
he soon keels over and dies from overdose.

I sit back relaxed,
And let the effects of death to laserwolf
release me.



The Day of A Life

Nicolas Eckerson

I went to school today, oh boy
to see how I could really make the grade
and though the class was rather slow
I didn't know at all
what had been growing now
Professor asked me where I was
I didn't know that yesterday would change
the whole class turned around and stared
they'd heard me speak before
nobody was really sure what I was even majoring in
I read the news to say no, boy
a one-man army had re-played a scene
a crowd of people laid the blame
but I had seen the same
having read the news
I'd love to meet you, man
Man, man...what's in your
handinyoursaf
einthecoatcolum
binetwelvekidstea



chercongressvirginiate
chmassacreapriltwentieth
videogamesviolenceshotintheh
eadparkinglotteneleventwothousande
levenonetenninetargetedforassassinationgunkidgun
man22yearoldmanwalther22glock19AIshmaelpackagesent
tonewsmonstertwohandgunsfiredroundsviolentwritinglonerstatus
fitsecretservicefellowstudentssaidhewouldbethetypetoshootupscho
olifanyonefurtherinformationattackelevenheyjoewhereyougoewiththat
schoolinyourhandsmangunman22mansonbrotherneighborssistermotherfatherchildclassmate.

Tick

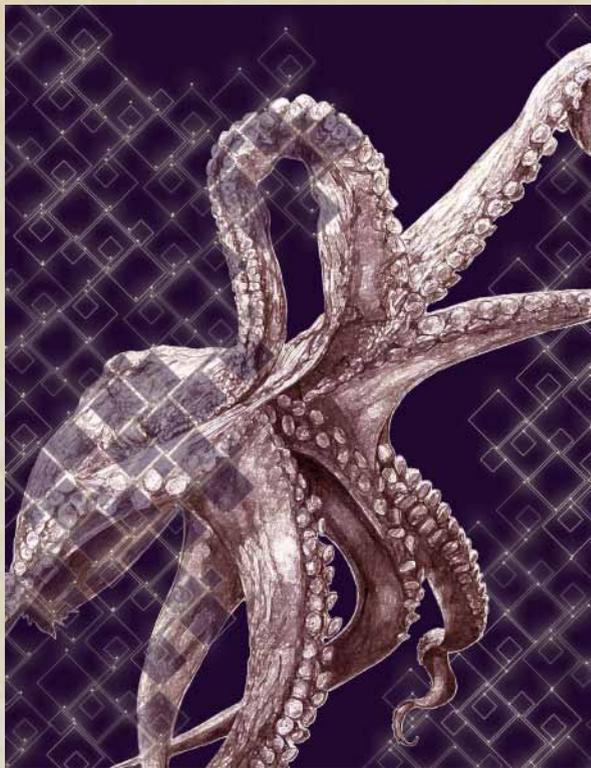


tick
tick
Woke up,
got out of bed
threw a hood over my head.
Found my way downstairs and in the mirror
they all would fear—I noticed I was late—
went to the safe and found it cold
made the cab, not quite the toll
found my way up front and had a look
pulled the hook and I went into a scream
Ahh
hhhhhh!
Ahhhhhhh!!!
Ahhhhhhhhhhh!!
Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhh
hhhelpsomeonecallnineone
onehelpambulanceanyonesh
otssheisbleedingbloodonthepa
rkinglotspotcongresssomeone



dicalsheneedgunmanarmedshotde
adpleasesomeoneanyonecalltheamb
ulancesheisgirlisguyisbrotherismother
iscousingunclesongundaughterclassmate
columbinewomanreporteddeadonarrivalfalse
portcallnineoneoneteneoneonenineoneoneeleven
oclockhourof silenceschoolshootingnineoneonetwo
thousandoneoneapriltwentyoneninenineninedescribed
asapotsmokinglonerwentforsecondmagazinekilledtwelve
studentswomanfaughtimguncontrolinstearizonanewyork
jeffersoncountycoloradoapriljanuarytwostudentsvirginiatechs
choolattendedcommunitycollegedisruptiveinclassalgebra professor
allegedlygunmanshotgunshotsrungoutparkinglotshunnedbyclassmates
marylinmansongothviolentvideogamesfifthamendmentrightsnotcooperating
withinvestigatorsblewhismindoutsuicidethebothofthemdidn'tnoticethatthelighthad
changedthey'dseentheirfacebeforecarryingaweaponontocampuschoolgroundsparents
badparentingneglectedchildhoodapriltwentyeleveneleveninefourtwoonemanwhat'sinyourhand
yoursafetrenchcoatcolumbineshootingspurchasedatlocalnooneyoucouldrelatetoheyjoewhereyougo
withthatcrowdinyourhandsheyjoewhereyougoinwiththatlifeinyourhandsmotherfathersisterbrother
cousinuncleantgrantmotherneiceneephewmanwhereyougoingwithallthat
life.





Octopus

Alicia Soos



On to Winter

Rebecca Boone

I'll extract your winter finery
and leave you cold as ice.

'Cause nothing runs like autumn's end,
and winter won't knock twice.





Macaw
Alicia Soos



Some People Get Together Surface Deep

Steven Deridder

The 100% Colombian tremored by the tapping of your middle hand ring makes me wish it was just the caffeine relaying some additional energy without outlet. And now I have the jitters and I don't even drink caffeine anymore, let alone coffee, but you of all voices know this.

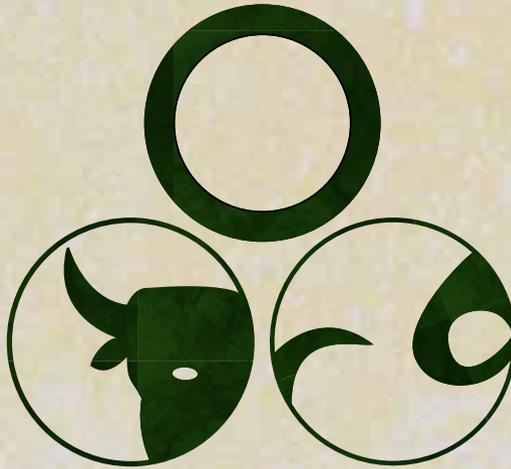
It's about that time in the conversation to repeat myself over and over, comparable to the hip cashier with the pink short cut mane and the twisted metal reinforcing her lip, to our left. Well, you're right. Always, even if you're wrong, because what I feel is unconditional.

It will never be worth a passion for painting, or a dream to move to Seattle, or even \$1.50 for a decaf. It transcends.

I cannot comprehend right or wrong, choosing dreams, and the physicality deciding together forever or apart for good. There is just you, my silence, and the door clicking behind me.

If you cannot catch onto the implication I make, the assumption that there are gray-lined differences between living and being alive, assume I'm Billy Collins and give me the Pulitzer Prize.





EARTH

The earth element contains Taurus, Virgo, and Capricorn. These individuals are practical and efficient when working on projects. They are organized and driven in their lifestyle. These people usually seek the most efficient and functional means of completing their endeavors.

Factory Line Malfunction

Jocelyn Lui

Mangled candy canes

Bent wrong in the factory line

(Left too long in the factory line)

One stacked, then reflected on the other

Curved C's

Contorted crescent moons

Infinity minus the bottom half

Clear plastic cocoon wrapper doesn't fit

Nothing fits

Anxiety attack

Tossed into the black can

Marked with an X

Two lines slashed like self-harm scars

Over two wrists

Like a bridge

Over to opposing sides

Awkward asymmetry

Bent back

But snapped

Cracked

Crap





Ivory Novel Keys

Ashley K. Billings



Ana

Sabrina Speranza

Your transforming embrace carved my body
No longer a ramshackle, graceless giraffe
With knock-knees but now merely translucent.

My sweet Ana, I offer my beautifully emaciated self
With molded ribcage: piano keys to drum fingers on.
Listen to my prayer of devotion and watch my hands
With their wrist bones delicately protruding.

Look at my bent neck, at the knotty vertebrae
And be pleased with my prominent clavicle,
A long smooth river guiding shoulder to shoulder.
Praise me on my hipbones, sigh over such high peaks.



My loving Ana, caress my gaunt body

Smooth your surely cold fingers over my cheekbones

And marvel in their sculpted and immortal form.

Inspire your enamored slave with your touch

Kiss my weakening joints and hold my hands gently

Elegant bird skeletons jutting through thin skin,

They are fragile when flexed.







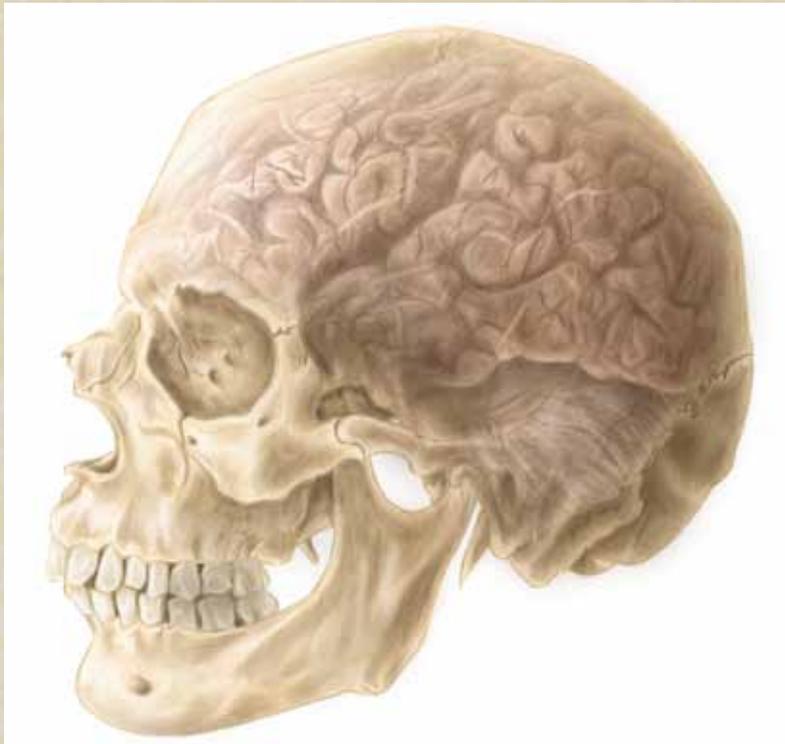
Piano Wire
Ashley K. Billings



Woodland

Amber Rebecca Gartung





Lateral Skull and Brain

Evan Oto





Owl

Amber Rebecca Gartung





Jump

Sawyer Hollenshead





Elephant

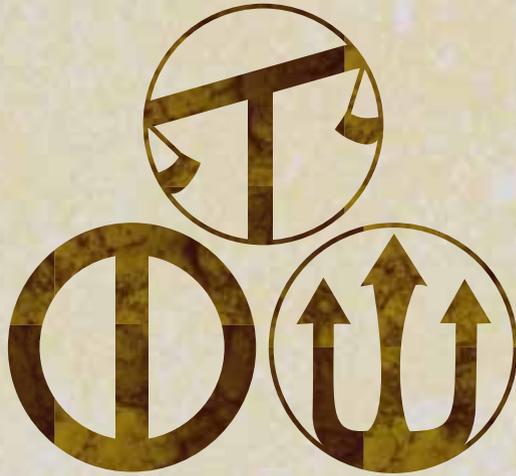
Jenny McCabe





Nasa Guys
Sawyer Hollenshead





AIR

The air element contains Gemini, Libra, and Aquarius. These individuals have a natural curiosity for life and all of its wonders. Their friends are often the most important people in their lives, and they will be honest and loyal to the fullest. Usually balanced in their thinking, these people are commonly the voice of reason among their peers.



Easter

Mohamed Omar Sadek







Lunge

Benlin Alexander



Jazz
Aaron Jackendoff





Robot

Shreyasi Das



Step By Step

Victoria Grace Snell

I've danced around, and only one partner
Understands my footwork.
The others, they sway back and forth,
But us,
We cover every inch of the floor,
Heating the carpet with the friction of our feet.
And even when I trip over my waltz-step,
He follows along in precise imperfection.
All of a sudden I'm taking the lead—
His hand rested within mine, granting the rare
Responsibility that doesn't make me sweat.
His hold as lifeless as mine gets with nerves.
It's oddly comforting, though, like the reverberance



That shakes us off beat,
The loud laughter that we dance to.
With his feet tickled by the rough carpet—
Rough with dirt and salt and sand
And without the protection of shoes,
I don't even step on his feet,
Which is a wonder for me, and I figure
We've got it good.
Because I never liked dancing until I tried it with the vacuum,
And I never liked vacuuming until it reminded me of dancing with you.





Barbershop

Mohamed Omar Sadek



The Newspaper is Dead

Christianna Piwinski

I am the ink
that collects
in the pools
of your finger
tips
when you read
the obituaries
in the newspaper.



They Call Me Thunder Thighs

Christianna Piwinski

Legs

Fatty-Fat

Soft tissue, no muscle.

Jello on swings when I walk.

They called me thunder thighs in high school.

So has every lover since.





The Plunge

Bradley Patrie





Be Unique
Emily Sidoti





The Split
Bradley Patrie







Noise

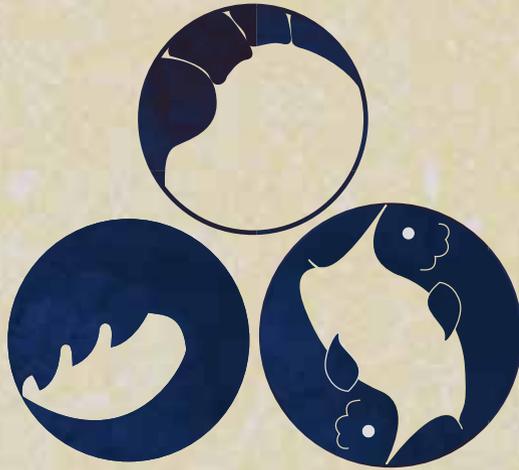
Sasha Rose Herbert



Machinery Animals

Seulgi Cho





WATER

The water element contains Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces. These individuals are imaginative and intuitive in their thinking. They are usually supportive and nurturing to those closest to them. These people are compassionate and generous; they will often go out of their way to help out those in need.

Eclipse

Sam Angarita

The next morning

The moon was nowhere to be seen, naturally.

She must have been resting, retiring like a star does, after an exhausting performance.

But I so wanted to run across the globe and hoist myself

past the stratosphere

Knock on her eyelids of shadow and dust

And ask about last night

Ask her how it felt

To perform that light spectacle of obfuscation and concealment.

Even in the shadows:

“Everybody was watching” I would joke,

“And you knew it. And you couldn’t help but blush.”



Morning Glories

Timothy Edmond Shank

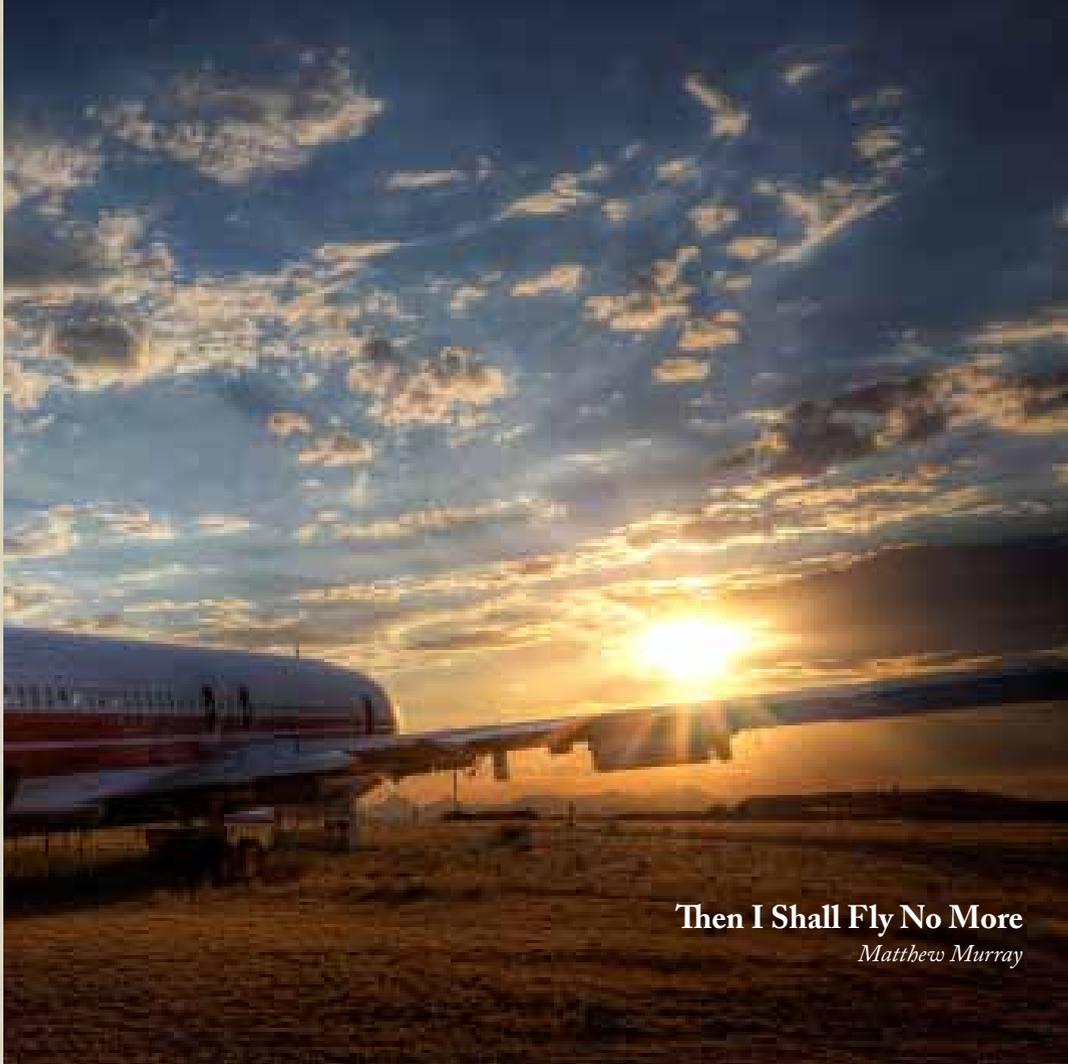
The petals creak slowly open,
Cognates of cogs torquing madly through the motion.
The machinery of nature grinds on:
As long it has,
So long it shall.

These are the machinations of an insane gearsmith—
Forgeries and technologies of genetic madnesses,
Vast cities of enzymes and proteins, fueled with
Pipelines and payloads, defended by fortresses—
The engines of metabolism crescendo,
Pumping their life from root to pith.

This morning is crisp with dew,
The low mist not yet vanished.
I pass some budding flowers on my way,
Each just beginning to peer at their world
Like children with freshest awe,
Glistening petals barely unshut.
I notice, and wonder at their mechanism.







Then I Shall Fly No More

Matthew Murray



We All Fall Down

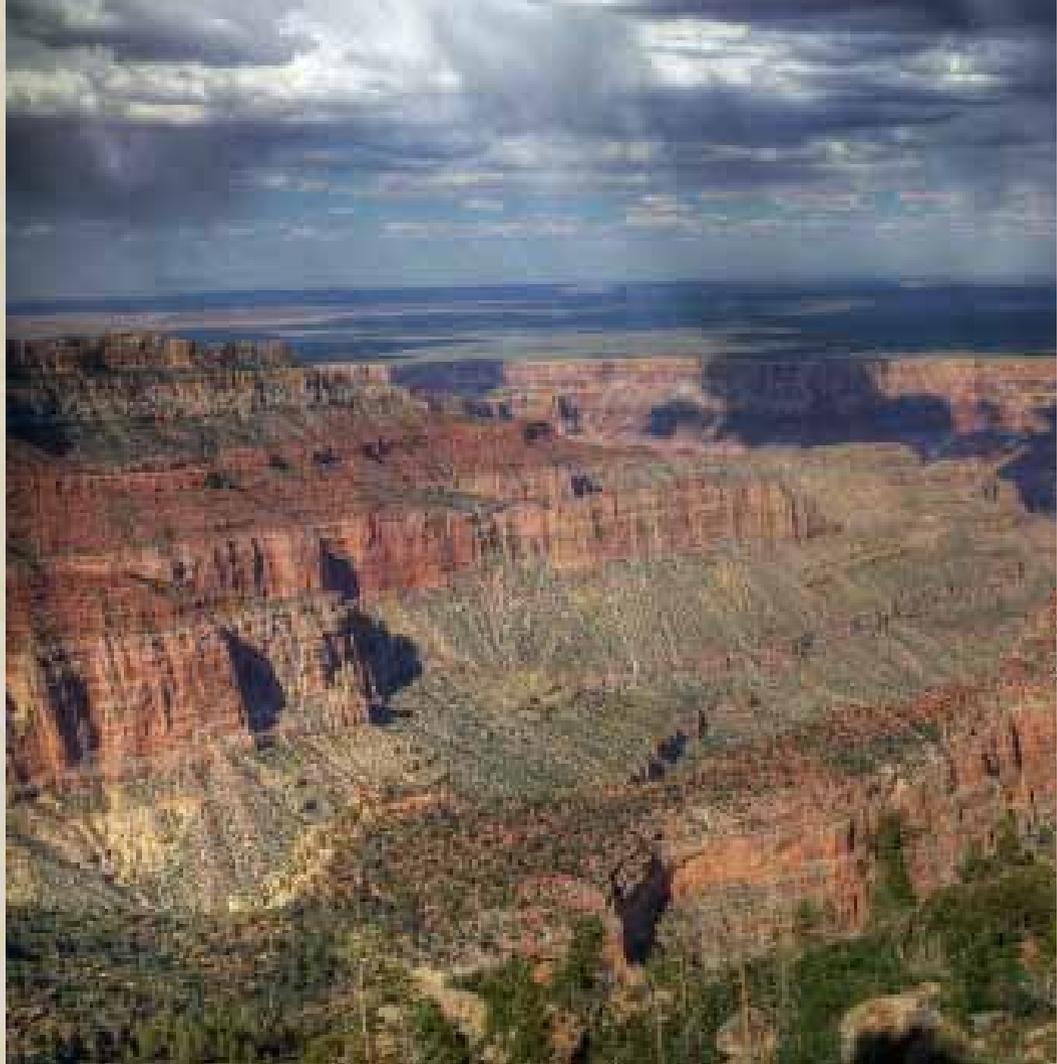
Matthew Murray

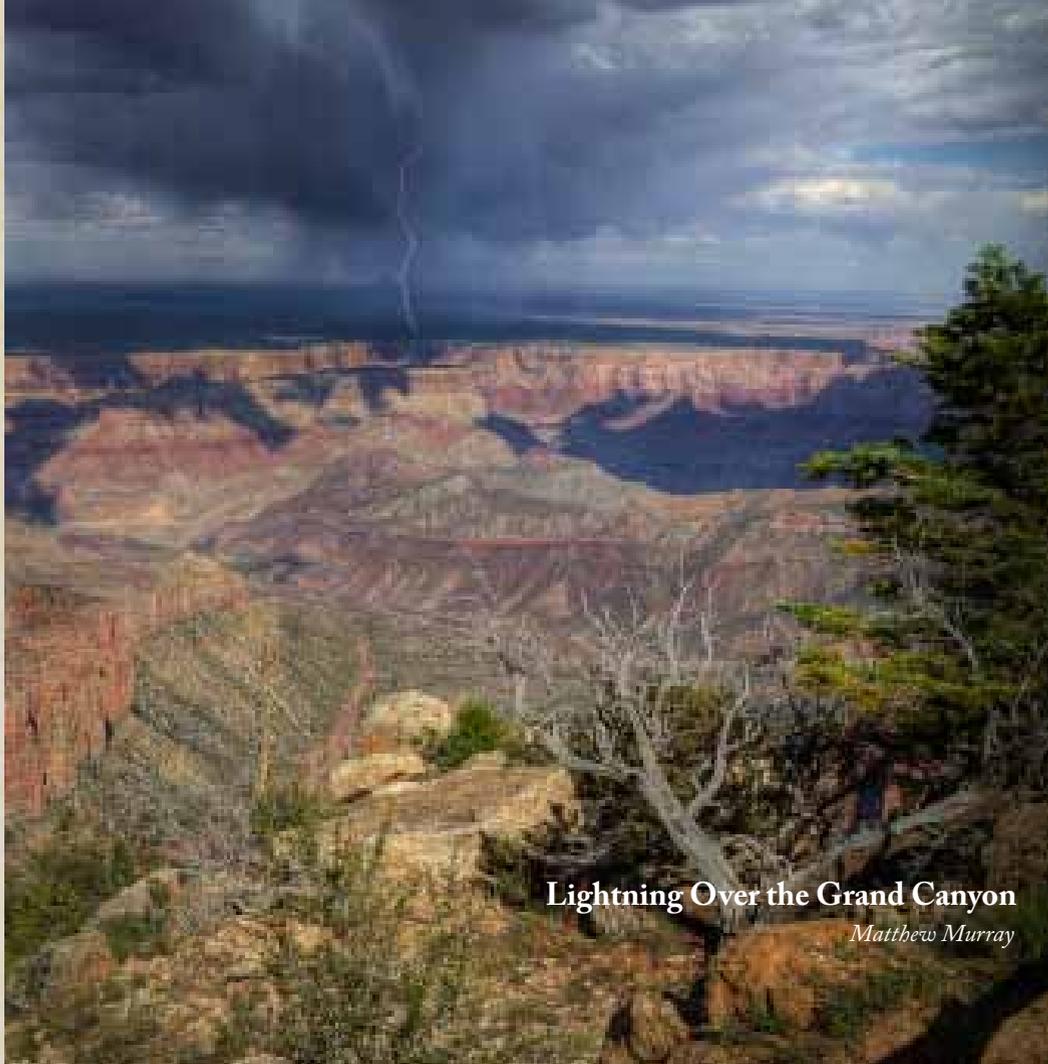




Destinations
Christalyn Joy Snyder







Lightning Over the Grand Canyon

Matthew Murray



Untitled
Kevin Kim



Earth Brothers

Anna Leigh Clem

Phone poles, broken tree souls

Ode to our fallen soldiers

Their breath is what we once breathed and

Now we heave from ashen leaves

Electric veins remain in vain

Earth brothers laid down to rest

At best the bookshelf holding on

To a hundred reflections of self





Fired

Justyn Iannucci



I Wanna Be a Pig & Definition of Online Privacy

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R·I·T

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