

SHAYNE TAYLOR

Picking Blackberries on the Middle Fork American

Shayne Taylor is the winner of
the George Hitchcock memorial
poetry contest for UCSC students



GEORGE HITCHCOCK

Entering the Forest, 1997
Acrylic on canvas, 16 x 22 in

The first rapid on the Middle Fork American
is Cold Cup of Coffee. Another is called Stick in Your Eye.
If you're not careful, the trees will claw
at your face. I raft this river every day, yet
the first splash always reminds me how much
I love warm showers with my boyfriend, and
the trees remind me how easy it is to bleed.
My favorite part of the day is not
the dynamite-blasted chute or the surging surfs,
it is playing the gondolier along the nine miles
of flat-water between Kanaka and Ruck-A-Chucky Falls.
Some days, I tell stories. Other days, I tell jokes.
Today, I say nothing: I share with six strangers,
silence. We follow the line of bubbles through ponds
spilling over the horizon. The river
takes us downstream no matter what. The current
pushes us up to a blackberry bush. Its fruit
are full and heavy, sweet and dark
in the hot August sun, no longer the angry red of July.
I pick a handful, and we just float as I pop
them in my mouth one by one, my tongue
bathed in a sharp, earthy wine.
The last berry in my palm is large and ready to burst.
I roll it around in my hand and crush it in my fingers,
wipe the juice across my cheekbones, staining
them a deep maroon, war paint as I charge
the thirty-seven-foot falls ahead.

Shayne Taylor is a third year student at the University of California at Santa Cruz studying Creative Writing and Education. There, he is also a Resident Assistant and writing tutor. His whole life, Taylor has been drawn to the water and, today, works as a commercial guide on the American Rivers.

George Hitchcock (1914–2010) was a major American poet, activist, actor, painter, and editor. The author of dozens of books across many genres, he is best known for founding and editing *kayak* (1964–1984), an influential and visionary poetry magazine widely collected nationally and internationally.

NOTES ON THE ARTISTS

Allison Atwill is a *roshi*, or teacher, in a Zen tradition that uses koans as a path to freedom (or, to open the mind). She teaches at Pacific Zen Institute and leads Coral Moon Zen in Santa Barbara. In part, she teaches through her paintings, which emerge from an intense and embodied interaction with specific koans. As she paints, the images—canyon wren, fox, golden trout—appear out of the lived and dreamed field of the koan. Allison has taught art to schoolchildren in Montecito for more than twenty years. She lives in Santa Barbara.

Richard Bennett is a painter and sculptor living and working in the Monterey Bay area. He is a member of the Santa Cruz Art League and Santa Cruz artists. He enjoys capturing the joy he sees in the many street musicians performing in the area as well as the beauty of the local landscape in his art.

Noah Buchanan was born in 1976, raised in Southern California. He studied classical painting and drawing, and did extensive studies in human anatomy at Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and in 2000 he received a BFA at University of California, Santa Cruz where he studied closely under Frank Galuszka. In 2002, he received an MFA from the New York Academy of Art where he studied with Martha Erlebacher, Steven Assael and Vincent Desiderio. Noah has received the Stobart Foundation Grant, The Posey Foundation Award, The Stacey Award, the Sugarman Award, The Congressional Art Award, and the Chancellor's Award, University of California at Santa Cruz. Noah Buchanan has participated in exhibitions in New York, Pennsylvania and California, and he has exhibited internationally in London and Aberdeen, Scotland. The artist is represented by John Pence Gallery in San Francisco.

Graphic artist and painter **Allen Forrest** was born in Canada and bred in the U.S. He has created cover art and illustrations for literary publications and books. He is the winner of the Leslie Jacoby Honor for Art from San Jose State University's *Reed Magazine*, and his Bel-Red painting series is part of the Bellevue College Foundation's permanent art collection. Forrest creates emotion on canvas with an expressive drawing and painting style that is a mix of avant-garde expressionism and post-impressionist elements reminiscent of van Gogh.

Mostly known for her large clay sculptures, **Carol Gaab** works in a variety of other mediums, such as paint, glass mosaics, stone, and cement—and in her newest body of work shown here, in mixed-media collage. Her work has been exhibited in numerous shows and several galleries. Dedicated to telling whatever story is longing to be told, Carol explores themes of loss, belonging, disconnection, nature, and transitions. She teaches art classes at her studio in Aptos, California; is a

long-time Open Studio artist; designs magical garden and home environments; and has written and illustrated a handbook called *You Are Not Alone* for women newly diagnosed with cancer.

Peter Rudolph is a painter and art dealer who divides his time between the Philadelphia area and Maine. He owns art galleries in both places. He studied at Syracuse University and at Tyler School of Art, and holds an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania, where he studied with several artists including Alex Katz. In Springs, on Long Island, he worked with Willem de Kooning. His paintings and prints suggest vital forces of the natural world, and his current abstractions developed from nearly abstract landscapes he had been painting in Maine for many years. His lyrical work has roots in abstract expressionism.

As a child of the seventies, **Cristina Sayers** has always been attracted to a kaleidoscope of colors, patterns, and mediums of art. Santa Cruz has a curiously unique and vibrant arts community, and has provided her with a plethora of inspiration. When she became a mother and child bride at fifteen, Cristina's paints went into hibernation for the next eight years. Upon the reawakening of her creativity, she began the exploration of all things art with a focus on mixed media and collage. She is a humble, self-taught artist with a passion for color, trying to live life by adding and using all pretty colors.

Beverly Sky has been exploring the creative and narrative possibilities of weaving, papermaking, and fabric collage for almost fifty years. The work included here is from her nine piece fabric collage on canvas series titled *We Shall Not Cease From Exploration: Windows On The Universe*. These "windows" are inspired by T.S. Eliot's *The Four Quartets*, Galileo Galilei, Paul Davie's *The Goldilocks Enigma*, Joseph Campbell's *The Power of Myth*, Carl Sagan and *The Golden Record*, and NASA's *Voyager I* (to name just a few). Born in Salzburg, Austria, she has lived in Canada, New York, Japan, and Mexico, and now calls Boston her home. Her studio is located at the Boston Center for the Arts.

Neal Snidow teaches English at Butte Community College in Northern California. "Meter to the Black" is excerpted from his memoir *Vista Del Mar*, to be released in the summer of 2015. This is his first publication.

Robin Winfield lives in Monterey, California, and has a gallery and studio space in Carmel. A fine arts graduate of Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, Winfield has exhibited in galleries across the country since 1990. She loves to travel, and has photographed architecture and other subjects from the many countries she has visited, including Mexico, Turkey, Italy, Japan, and India as well as the U.S. She is particularly drawn to interesting angles, repeating patterns, shadows, light, and textures.