

# UC Irvine

## Plexus

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**XUS**

**JOURN**

**AL OF ARTS**

**AND HUMANITIES UC**

**IRVINE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE 2010**



**UC IRVINE**  
**SCHOOL**  
**OF**  
**MEDICINE**

DIRTY BLONDE, MIXED MEDIA, ROLANDA ENGSTROM, ART FOR SOUL / CHAO FAMILY  
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

# PLEXUS

JOURNAL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

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SOM DEAN'S OFFICE,  
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AFFAIRS, OFFICE OF  
ADMISSIONS

THE DAYS WOULD PASS WITHOUT A WORRY OR CARE  
WITHOUT ANY KNOWLEDGE OF YOU  
OR THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE THERE  
THERE WERE THE USUAL TRIALS TO ACQUIRE APPROVAL  
THE SMILES TO BUILD CONFIDENCE AND CONVINC  
ME OF MY INVINCIBILITY  
I TASTED LOVE AND LEARNED OF  
DISTANT PLACES AND NEW FACES TO GREET ONE DAY  
I MADE PLANS AS IF THE **CLOCK HAD NO HANDS**  
AS IF THE FUTURE WERE FAR AWAY  
I HAD DESIRES HOPES DREAMS  
OF THINGS YET TO BE  
PERHAPS AN ADVENTURE TO ALWAYS REMEMBER  
TO LOOK BACK UPON AND RECOLLECT  
THE PRECIOUS DAYS OF YOUTH  
OR A HOME TO CALL MY OWN  
PERHAPS A CHILD I'LL TEACH  
TO BE MUCH LIKE ME  
OR ACCOMPLISHMENTS SO GRAND  
THAT IMMORTALIZED I'LL STAND  
IN TIME LIMITLESS THAT I CAN STILL SPEND  
WITH YOUTHFUL RECKLESS CARELESSNESS  
UNTIL...

## "INVINCIBLE"

AMISH DANGODARA

MD

ONE DAY, THERE YOU WERE  
LIKE FEAR, UNCLEAR, A BLUR  
THE KNOWLEDGE OF UNCERTAINTY  
THE DOUBT THAT DISTURBS THE PEACE  
SO I TRY TO DENY YOUR PRESENCE  
AND SMILE TO REGAIN MY PRESENCE  
AND CONFIDENCE TO CONVINC  
MYSELF OF MY **INVINCIBILITY**  
BECAUSE YOU SIMPLY CANNOT BE  
THE DAYS WERE WORRILESS WITHOUT A CARE  
BUT I AM NO LONGER UNAWARE  
OF YOUR ARRIVAL IN TIME  
TO REMIND OF TIME'S LIMIT  
TICK, TICK...  
STRANGE, I DO NOT FEEL SICK  
BUT THAT WAS YOUR TRICK  
YOU NEVER INTRODUCED YOURSELF WITH A HELLO  
SO THERE WAS NEVER A CHANCE FOR ME TO ANSWER  
YOU **SNUCK UP ON ME** AND ANNOUNCED "CANCER"  
AND THAT HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING  
AND EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED  
SUDDENLY, I'VE AGED...



VISIT TO AKBARS TOMB

PHOTO JACQUELINE HO

MS3



SQUARES

PHOTOGRAPH

CIPRIANO HURTADO UCING SECURITY

# "TWO POINT FIVE"

MICHAEL DOO MD

FROM NOVEMBER TO JANUARY  
AS PART OF MY JOB  
I DISSECT FILES  
TENS UPON TENS OF THEM  
OF THE ACCOMPLISHED  
AS THEY PREPARE TO THROW  
THEMSELVES  
INTO THE MURKY BEYOND



## HAMSTERFISH AMIDST THE CORAL PHOTO

DANIEL NAGASAWA



I GRAB HOLD OF THESE HOPEFUL  
AND I SHAKE THEM  
TEAR AT THEM  
RIP THEM APART UNTIL THEY ARE  
SIMPLIFIED TO A NUMBER ONE TO FIVE,  
TO THE NEAREST TENTH I LOOK FOR  
EVIDENCE OF DEVIATION FROM ONE  
NORM (FOR BETTER OR WORSE)  
AND MUCH OF IT **SMEAR**S—SERVICE,  
RESEARCH, HONORS, WORDS,  
NUMBERS, LETTERS—ACROSS MY  
VISION AND WITHIN MY MIND:

CORONA DEL MAR CHRISTMAS

PHOTO CHRISTINA UMBER MS4





THE WALK  
&  
RED BARN

PHOTOGRAPHS  
CIPRIANO  
HURTADO  
UCIMC  
SECURITY

"ABOVE EXPECTED,"  
"CONSCIENTIOUS,"  
"HP," "WITHOUT  
RESERVATION,"  
"215," "230,"  
"UNDERSERVED,"  
"CONVERSATIONAL,"  
"VERY GOOD TO  
EXCELLENT"  
AT THE END OF IT  
ALL I AM HUMBLED,

AND I AM TIRED  
IT HAS BEEN A  
COLD  
COLD  
WINTER  
AND I  
CAN'T  
WAIT  
FOR

THE **SPRING.**

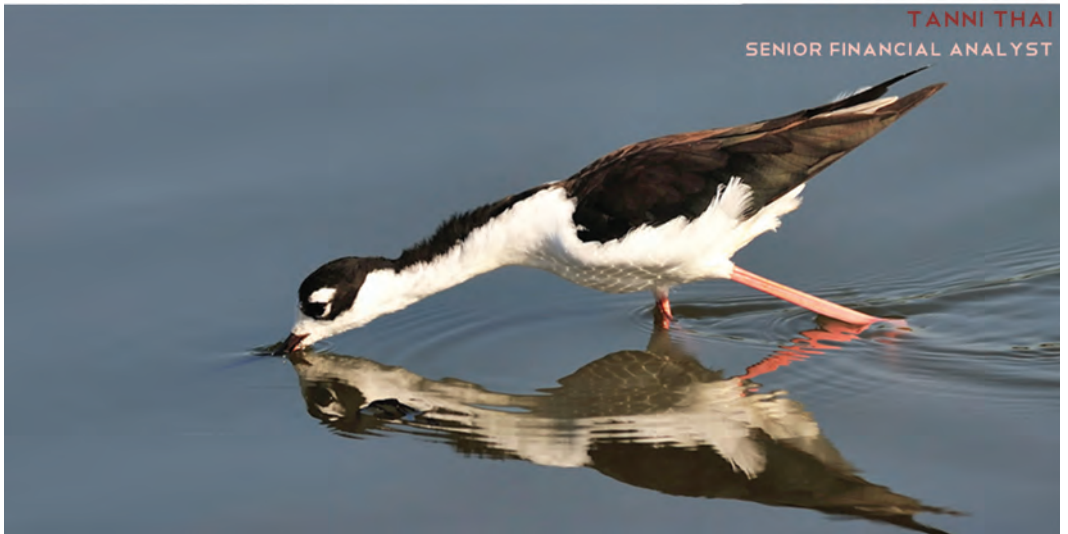




**STILL LIFE**  
ANTONIO SAN NICOLAS  
UCIMC PATIENT

**FOOD  
HUNTING**  
PHOTOGRAPHY

TANNI THAI  
SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST



# SITTING FOR SOUTINE

OIL ON WOOD  
ROLANDA ENGSTROM  
ART FOR THE SOUL /  
CHAO FAMILY  
COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER



## VENICE

PHOTO  
SANDY  
LIN  
RN

BEAUTY  
IN CHAOS  
PHOTO  
POUNEH  
NASSERI M53



ST. LOUIS ARCH TO HEAVEN PHOTOGRAPH LINDA HOGSETT

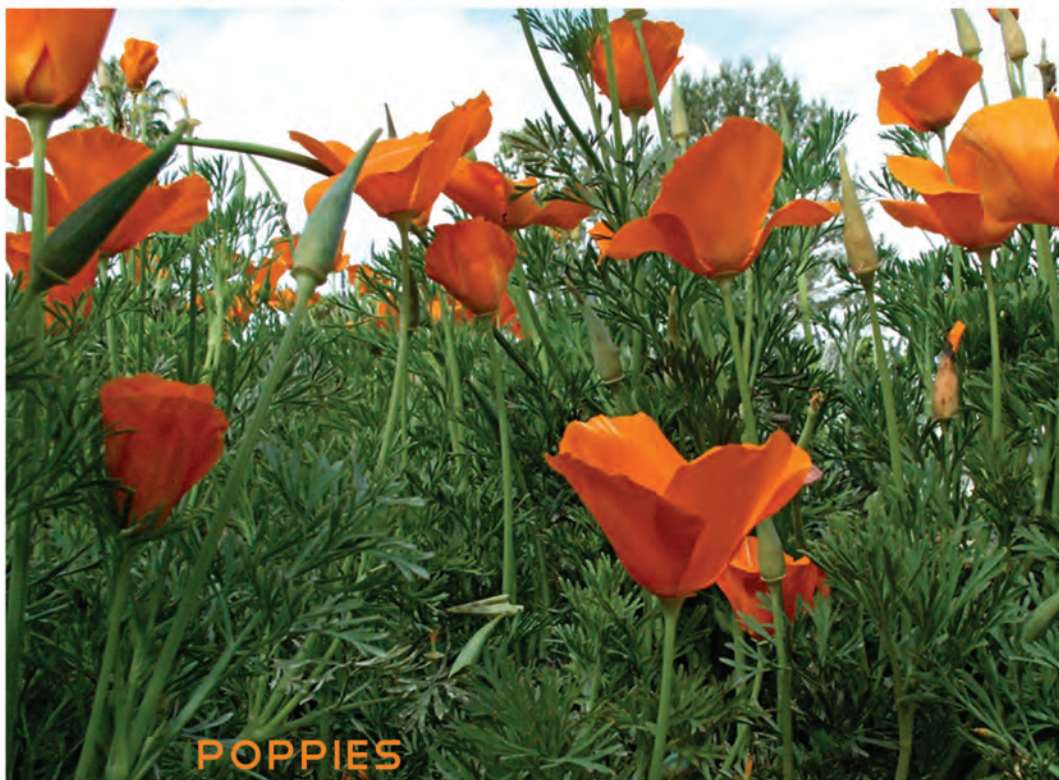
UCIMC ULTRASOUND TECH



^ ^  
TÊTE À TÊTE

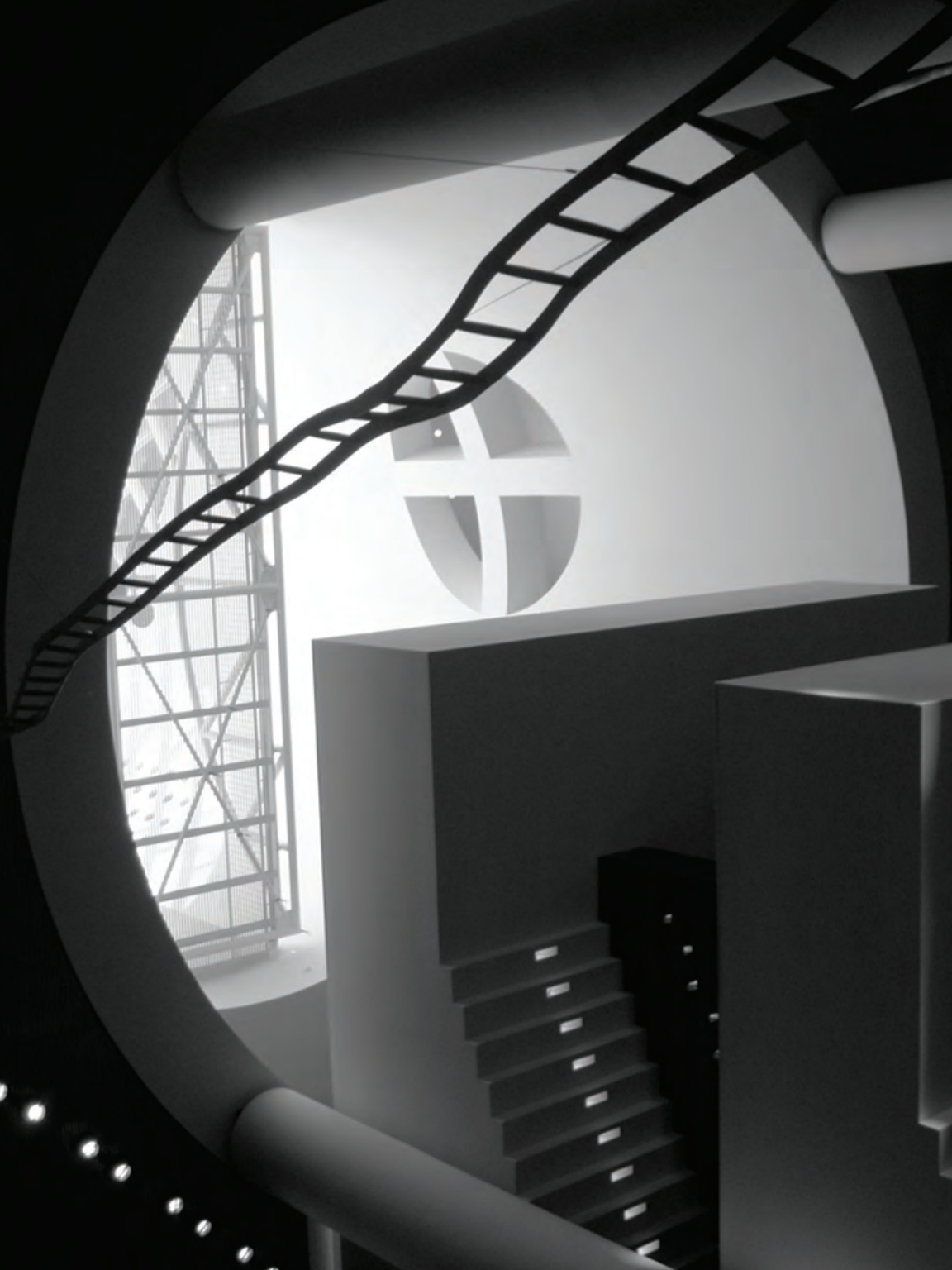
PHOTO

ALICIA SHEEN ms3



POPPIES

PHOTOGRAPH LINDA HOGSETT UCIMC ULTRASOUND TECH



# SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM OF MODERN

**ART** PHOTOGRAPH NATALIE MONIAGA MD

## GEOMETRY OF SUNSET



PHOTO MARINA PLANOUTENE STAFF RESEARCH ASSOCIATE



## A BIG HAPPY FAMILY

TANNI THAI **PHOTOGRAPH**  
SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST

# TAKING FLIGHT

PHOTO M.JARED THOMAS

UCIMC DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY



## BLACK GOOSE

PHOTO ANTONIO  
SANCHEZ  
CLINICAL  
RESEARCH  
COORD.



## PEEKABOO

PHOTO  
ROBERT DETRANO  
MD/PHD



#1

AS PER THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY DOCTOR  
PLEASE DISPENSE THE ATTACHED LIST  
IN AMBER SAFETY-SEAL BOTTLES:  
A PROVEN ASSORTMENT OF  
YELLOW, PEACH, AND LAVENDER  
PILLS

EMERALD CYLINDERS WITH IVORY **BANDS** ABOUT THE MIDDLE  
ENTERIC-COATED OR EFFERVESCENT  
TABLETS AND LOZENGES; VISCOUS SYRUPS  
STOCK SUFFIXES OF -AZOLE -VIREX -FORMIN  
IMPRESSED CIPHERS OF HE50 AND |CO|

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN ?

#2

SOMETIMES THEY PAY  
THEY DENY OR PRIOR-AUTHORIZE  
FOLLOWING COMPLEX MATHEMATICS, I AM TOLD  
THEY FREEZE ACCOUNTS, THREATEN FIDUCIARY TORTURES

I SUBMIT CLAIMS,  
SHOW UP EARLY, FOLLOW-UP  
USE ONLY AS PRESCRIBED, TWICE DAILY, WITH MILK  
I PROMISE

OH, IT'S NO USE, THEY WON'T PAY FOR IT  
OR THEY WILL AT FIRST, BUT THEN DENY COVERAGE  
RETROACTIVELY  
THEN I'LL BE BACK  
IN YOUR WAITING ROOM  
WORSENERD, HUMILIATED  
BECAUSE I'M NOT MEASURING UP  
TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS

## ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

PHOTO

HEATHER SAND MS2

TWO POEMS

TOMMY HAND, MS1





# VESALIUS REVISITED

COLORED PENCIL

STEFANIE MOONEY

MS2

I CAN SEE YOUR HOUSE IN BOSTON FROM HERE!

PHOTO LINDA A. MAH UCI PHYSICIANS  
BILLING GROUP



TOUCHDOWN PHOTO STEPHANIE LE MS1

IF YOU'RE **LUCKY**  
THE DOCTOR ENTHUSED  
THESE DROPS WILL SAVE YOUR SIGHT  
STILL TRYING TO GET MY MIND AROUND  
THIS NEW FACT

THAT I WAS GOING BLIND  
I ASKED ABOUT THE SIDE EFFECTS

HARDLY WORTH MENTIONING,  
HE SAID  
HIS **BACK ALREADY TO ME**  
AS HE NOTED IN HIS CHART  
THE DECLINE AND FALL OF MY VISION

THEN HE MENTIONED THEM RAPID-FIRE:  
LONG FURRY LASHES  
**DARK CIRCLES** AROUND THE EYES  
OCCASIONAL SLIGHT HAIR GROWTH ON THE CHEEKS  
AND – OH YES –  
YOUR EYE COLOR WILL CHANGE  
FROM **BLUE** TO BROWN

RACCOON EYES? I ASKED  
NO, NO, THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY.\*

**THAT'S A SIGN OF A SERIOUS PROBLEM.**

HE SEEMED UNCONCERNED  
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD BE TOO.  
WILL I GROW A TAIL?  
HE JUMPED SLIGHTLY, PERHAPS  
ALREADY APPREHENSIVE ABOUT MY  
IMPENDING **NONRETRACTABLE CLAWS.**  
BEG YOUR PARDON?

LATER, DRIVING HOME  
THE RAIN POUR DOWN LIKE  
VISCOUS, SIGHT-SAVING DROPS  
I PANICKED.

WOULD I BECOME NOCTURNAL  
SCRABBLING ACROSS THE KITCHEN FLOOR  
LATE AT NIGHT IN SEARCH OF SMALL RODENTS  
WASHING MY FOOD  
WITH MY **CLEVER LITTLE PAWS?**

IF MY RACCOON-LIKE BROWN EYES  
LOOKED INTO THE MIRROR  
WOULD I RECOGNIZE THE  
FURRY FACE STARING BACK AT ME?

THE NEXT DAY I CALLED.  
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A **BLUE-EYED** PERSON  
I SAID.  
I THINK I WANT TO  
KEEP IT THAT WAY.

DON'T BE SILLY,  
THE DOC **BRISKLY** ADMONISHED HIS  
SILLY PATIENT.  
WHICH DO YOU WANT?

BROWN EYES OR  
**BLIND EYES?**

PUT THAT WAY  
IT WAS HARD TO ARGUE

THAT NIGHT  
IN WENT THE DROPS  
RACCOON LADY WAS ON HER WAY  
I MIGHT NOT RECOGNIZE HER  
BUT AT LEAST  
I WOULD SEE HER COMING

**RACCOON EYES**  
JOHANNA SHAPIRO, PhD

\*INCLUDED IN DIFFERENTIAL  
FOR HEAD INJURY,  
CHILD ABUSE, AND  
NEUROBLASTOMA

A close-up photograph of a hummingbird hovering near a tall, dark stem with a cluster of bright red, tubular flowers. The bird is in sharp focus, with its wings blurred from motion. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with more of the same plants and a hint of a body of water under a pale sky.

SWEET NECTAR

- LAGUNA BEACH, CA

PHOTOGRAPH

PETER MCOUEN

M54

REFLECTING ON AGING PHOTO TAN NGUYEN MD



THE NEWS FELL HEAVY  
THROUGH THE OILY AIR  
OF HER DEPARTURE  
AND THE CROWD WAS LEFT  
UNMOVED  
ONLY A FEW FACIAL EXPRESSIONS  
ALTERED  
AROUND A DIMLY LIT ROOM  
A PARTY  
AND ONE GIRL LEFT WITHOUT  
A WAY TO GET HOME  
BUT YOU SURVIVED IT  
YOU AND I BOTH  
PERHAPS IT IS WHAT MADE US  
**BRICK BY BRICK**  
LADDER AND HAMMER  
WE SWEATED OUT THE SUMMER

HAND IN FEATHER HAND  
HUMMING THROUGH OUR FEARS  
THROUGH THE HEAT OF EARLY  
SUMMER NIGHTS  
THROUGH THE DAWN OF AUTUMN  
WE MADE IT  
FINDING NEW VOICES WITHIN  
OURSELVES  
WITHIN THE NEW US  
AND NEW **WORDS TO SPEAK**  
TO CLAIM THIS AND EVERY NEW DAY  
FOR OUR OWN  
AND THEY BREAK THEIR BACKS  
LOOKING FOR A WAY  
TO SAVE OUR BACKS  
EVEN WHEN THEY WANT TO BE  
BROKEN.



LAST SUNRAYS OF THE DAY  
PHOTO TRUNG THAI MD

I WANTED TO GIVE  
HER A RIDE HOME  
CAR EXHAUST IN OUR  
HAIR COOL NIGHT AIR

NOTHING DIFFERENT FROM  
ANY OTHER NIGHT  
**I DIDN'T KNOW** THAT TODAY  
THE GOVERNMENT WOULD

**PERMANENT  
MOON**

SHARINE WITTKOPP MS2

GOING HOME  
PHOTOGRAPH  
TRUNG THAI MD

FALL  
THE SUN WOULD CRY SWEAT  
TEARS  
AND THE WHOLE WOOLEN  
NIGHT SKY  
WOULD SINK PERMANENTLY  
INTO EVERY  
PAGE I'D EVER READ OR  
WRITE  
EVER AGAIN  
AND THAT MOON  
THE PERMANENT MOON OF MY  
LIFE.  
THESE ARE THREE BLOWS TO  
THE HEAD  
SWIFT  
PAINFUL  
WITHOUT REMORSE THE  
HEADLINE OF A NEWSPAPER  
YOU DON'T WANT TO READ  
BUT CAN'T PUT DOWN  
NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE  
COMPELLED  
BUT BECAUSE IT'S GLUED  
TO YOUR HAND.  
I AM STILL READING  
STILL BLOOD DRENCHED  
AND FIGHTING  
TO PUT IT DOWN  
THIS IS A STORY I KNOW TOO  
WELL  
THE NEWS IS OLD  
TOLD  
BUT EVEN AFTER MY EYES  
HAVE CLOSED  
I SEE THOSE  
CAPTIONS STRONG  
WORDS, DESCRIPTIONS  
AND IF NOT  
THEM  
THEN  
THE MOON.



EPIPHYLLUM  
NIGHT BLOOM  
PHOTO  
ANNE SAWYERS



AND YOU...



## ANGEL'S LANDING

PHOTO

DENNY LE MS3

# ALTERNATE UNIVERSE

MICHAEL FENLON MS1

I used to like alternate universes,

I was a **PALEONTOLOGIST**,

An astronaut.

The glass ceilings gone,

A President Fenlon.

Used to.

**THE SKY IS THE LIMIT**

PHOTO **TANNI THAI** (OPPOSITE PAGE, UPPER RIGHT)

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST

But then it came,

The moment,

The call.

THE ACCEPTANCE.  
ALL CEILINGS SHATTERED.

SURGING THROUGH MY VEINS,  
DISBELIEF, EUPHORIA?  
NO.  
UNABASHED TERROR.

LIKE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD,  
A BULLET DODGED,  
I knew what was on the other side.  
What the 58% felt,  
Receiving official watermarks,  
All saying no.

TELEOLOGY HOLDS THAT THE  
UNIVERSE WAS DRIVING  
TOWARDS THIS,  
THIS WAS ALWAYS TO BE  
THE ONE AND ONLY OUTCOME.  
BUT THEY'RE STUPID  
I KNOW THE ONLY TRUTH.  
CONTINGENCY.  
ONE LESS "A,"

TWO POINTS LESS, A WEEK'S DELAY  
WITH THOSE DAMN SECONDARIES:  
All potential failure.  
All entomb a less savory option,  
Where someone's in my seat,  
And I'm stuck looking up.  
BUT I DODGED THE BULLET.

DEEMED OF AN ACCEPTABLE CALIBER,  
I PASSED THROUGH THE GATES,  
INITIATED IN WHITE.  
Utter Terror, Welling up from deep,  
Because any less would've negated this universe,  
The best of possible worlds,  
With stars aligned.  
The highest of callings,  
Achieved.  
For a Medical Doctor I will be.

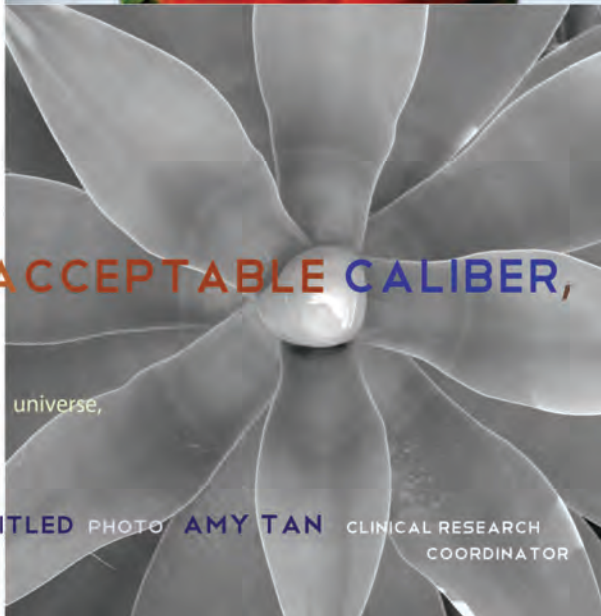


COLORFUL PARROT

PHOTO

ANTONIO  
SANCHEZ

CLINICAL  
RESEARCH  
COORDINATOR



UNTITLED PHOTO AMY TAN CLINICAL RESEARCH  
COORDINATOR



# ROCKPILE BEACH,

PHOTOGRAPH ROD MORTAZAVI

M54



IF YOU GO TO HER WITH AN INTENT TO LIE  
THEN BEWARE THE WRATH OF THE SQUINTY EYE  
IT'S A SIGN THAT SHE'S SUSPICIOUS, ASKING WHY  
THAT TELLTALE NARROWING OF THE SQUINTY EYE

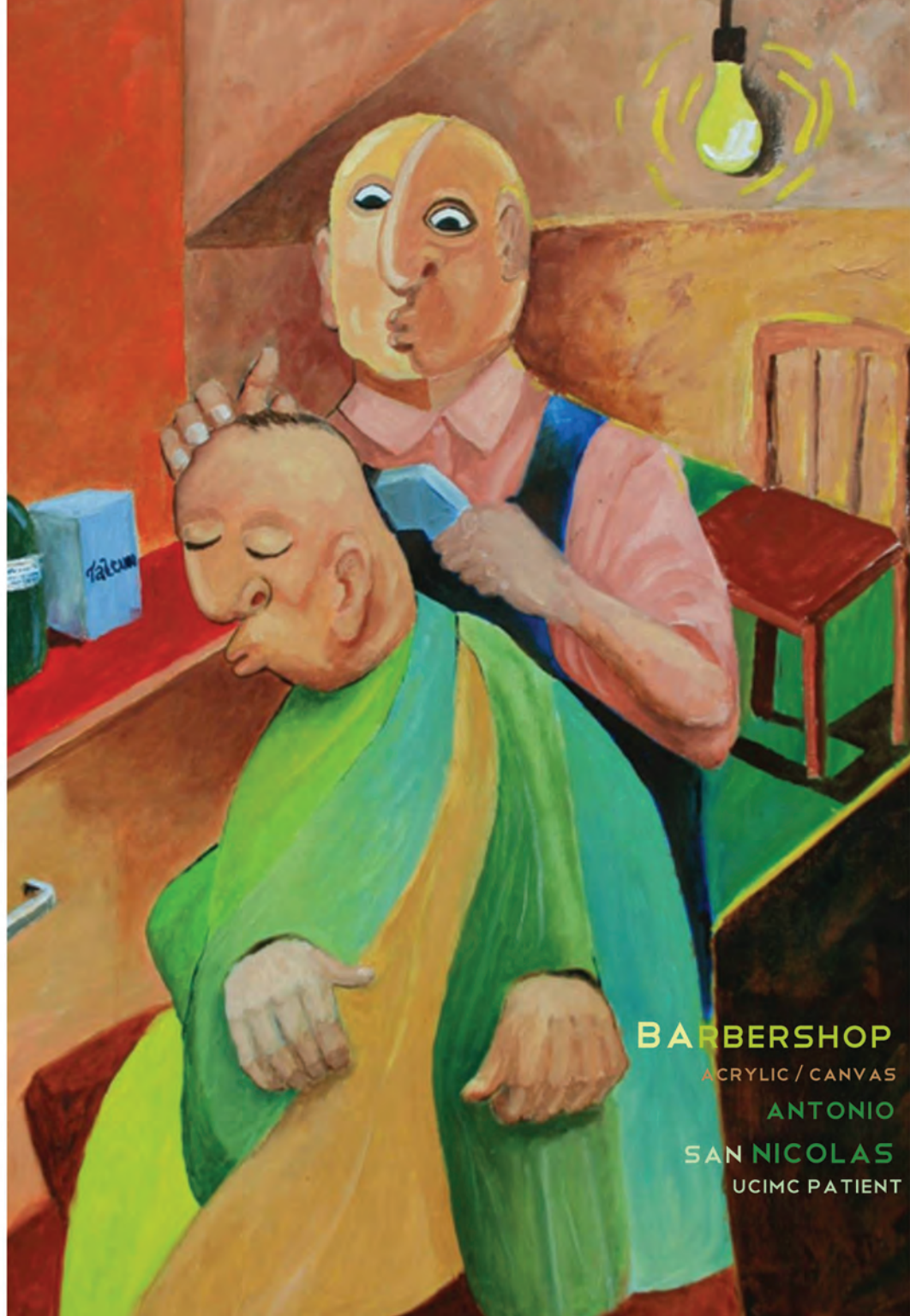
DON'T OVERSTEP YOUR BOUNDS OR SEEK TO PRY  
THAT KIND OF ATTENTION YOU DON'T WANT, THE SQUINTY EYE

IT COMES IN MANY FLAVORS, JUST LIKE PIE  
THE UNYIELDING LOOK OF THE SQUINTY EYE  
WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A HEAD TILT, OR SIGH  
YOU HAVE A DELUXE FORM OF THE SQUINTY EYE  
DON'T MISTAKE IT FOR A GLANCE, SIMPLE OR WRY

## THE SQUINTY EYE

MICHAEL DOO, MD

IT'LL TURN YOU COLD, THE SQUINTY EYE  
EVEN OVER THE PHONE, IT'LL MAKE YOU CRY  
IT'S BEYOND THE PHYSICAL, THE SQUINTY EYE  
ALL DEFENSES BREAK AND GO BYE-BYE  
BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE SQUINTY EYE  
YOU'LL SWEAT, YOU'LL SCREAM, YOU'LL THINK YOU'LL DIE  
IN THE BURNING FACE OF THE SQUINTY EYE  
EVEN THE BEST OF FRIENDS WILL LEAVE YOU HIGH AND DRY  
WHEN IT IS LOCKED ON YOU, THE SQUINTY EYE  
I WOULDN'T WISH IT ON ANY GAL OR GUY  
THE FRIGHTENING POWER OF THE SQUINTY EYE  
SO THE NEXT TIME YOU THINK, FOOL HER I'LL TRY  
HEED MY WARNING OF THE SQUINTY EYE!



## BARBERSHOP

ACRYLIC / CANVAS

ANTONIO

SAN NICOLAS

UCIMC PATIENT

**NAXIMAN AT  
CHINA CAL**

**CLINIC**  
PHOTO

**ROBERT DETRANO**  
MD/PHD



**WHISPERING WINGS**

PHOTO

**TANNI THAI**

SENIOR  
FINANCIAL  
ANALYST

**SERENITY** LAGUNA BEACH, CA

PHOTO **PETER MCQUEEN**

M54



## FOR WHOM

STEVEN C. CRAMER MD

HOW OFTEN IS PRAYER  
MAINLY FOR THE PRAYING?

WE GIVE PATIENTS SOCKS THAT MATCH,  
SPEEDILY REMOVE TUBES AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL CODE,  
AND STEP OUT TO GIVE FAMILIES PRIVATE ICU TIME.  
WE DO THAT TO HELP.

BUT HOW OFTEN DO WE SPEAK,  
TO SPEAK, NOT REACH?

WE APPLY LIPSTICK TO THE LIPS IN **ADVANCED** DEMENTIA,  
SHINE SHOES BEFORE PUBLIC CASKETS ARE OPENED,  
AND SQUARE BLANKET CORNERS ON ICU DAY 23.  
WE DO THAT TO HELP.

BUT FOR WHOM SOMETIMES IS ALTRUISM PERFORMED?



BUILD YOUR OWN NEST PHOTO **STUART GREEN MD**

ALMOST EVERY PEDIATRIC OUTPATIENT VISIT HAS SOME FOCUS ON SHOTS. VACCINES COME IN THESE LITTLE TRAYS, CARRIED BY THE NURSE AFTER THE DOCTOR IS FINISHED. THE KIDS KNOW THE SHOTS ARE COMING. YOU CAN SEE THEM CRINGE AND GET TENSE. THEY **START TO SQUIRM**. YOU GIVE THEM STICKERS AND TALK ABOUT THE THINGS THEY LIKE, BUT NONE OF THIS CHANGES THE FACT THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO GET POKED BY SOMETHING VERY SHARP. A METAL NEEDLE WILL PIERCE THEIR SKIN AND IT WILL CERTAINLY HURT. YOU CAN HEAR THEM SCREAMING FROM YOUR DOCTOR'S WORK AREA. THEY GRAB AND HUG THEIR MOTHERS AS THEY CRY, KICK, AND SCREAM. AND IN **THAT LAST MOMENT** OF DESPERATION, A BOY SAYS TO HIS MOTHER, "TE QUIERO MOMMY!" "I LOVE YOU MOMMY." AS IF THIS WERE THE LAST TIME HE WILL EVER SEE HER. THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO END, HE IS GOING TO DIE. THAT IS WHAT HE MUST BE THINKING. SECONDS LATER, WHEN ALL OF THE SHOTS HAVE BEEN GIVEN, HE BEGINS TO RELAX, TEARS DRYING UP ON HIS FACE. THE FUTURE IS **BRIGHT ONCE AGAIN**. OFF TO THRIFTY'S FOR ICE CREAM THE MIND OF A CHILD. TRULY BEAUTIFUL.



URBAN  
FLOWER  
PHOTO  
STEFANO  
SENSI  
MD, PHD



# SHOTS, SHOTS, SHOTS...

ASHKAN AKASHEH, MS3



CANYON LIGHT photo  
GEORGE MITTENDORF MS4

## PENGUIN ONE-UPMANSHIP

PHOTO STUART GREEN MD  
(OPPOSITE PAGE, LOWER RIGHT)



HAPPY WOMEN AT CHINA CALIFORNIA HEART  
WATCH CLINIC PHOTO ROBERT DETRANO MD/PHD

# THE GREAT AUSCULTATOR

JULIE HUI ms4

AUSCULTARE TO LISTEN  
TO THE INTERNAL  
SOUNDS OF THE BODY

EXAMINING THE SOUNDS OF

HEART

BREATH

BOWELS

MY SILKEN HAIR PERSIAN HIMALAYAN  
FELINE GODDESS LATTE SITS LIKE A  
FLUFFY CREAM PUFF WITH VIVID BLUE  
EYES UPON THE GOLDEN AND  
BORDEAUX-HUED ORIENTAL RUG  
LOUNGING IN THE CENTER OF THE FAMILY  
ROOM EARS PRICKED UP, POINTING  
FORWARD, SLIGHTLY OUTWARD  
CONTENT TO LISTEN CAREFULLY TO  
WHAT IS GOING AROUND HER

FTTT FTTT FTTT FTTT FTTT FTTT  
EARS SPRING ERECT AND SUDDENLY MY  
FELINE IS ALERT, READY TO  
INVESTIGATE THE SOURCE OF THE NOISE  
MOM SCUFFS THE HEELS OF HER DENIM  
JEANS ON THE HARDWOOD FLOOR  
QUICKLY TOWARD THE KITCHEN STOVE  
STIRRING THE STEAMING,  
FRAGRANT POT OF BEEF STEW  
LATTE'S INTERNAL STETHOSCOPE IS PUT  
TO USE AND HER BRIGHT EARS SENSE  
MOM'S ANXIOUS ANTICIPATION OF HOW  
THE FLAVORS OF THE STEW WILL BLEND  
FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF HER FAMILY

"MEI MEI!" MOM SHOUTS TO MY SISTER  
UPSTAIRS  
"YEAH?" MY SISTER'S SOPRANO VOICE  
SHOOTS DOWN FROM UPSTAIRS  
LATTE'S EARS HAVE A FIELD DAY AS  
THEY RALLY TO AND FRO

POINTING TOWARDS THE SOURCES OF ALL  
OF THE SOUNDS PRECISELY HONING IN ON  
HER TARGET  
FOR THE MOMENT, I ADMIRE HER DOZENS OF  
EAR MUSCLES  
HER MASTERFUL CONTROL OF EACH DELI-  
CATE STRAND OF MUSCLE  
EACH HUMAN EAR HAS ONLY SIX MUSCLES  
COMPARED TO A FELINE'S THIRTY TWO  
GIVING A FELINE THE CAPACITY TO  
FOLLOW NOISES INAUDIBLE EVEN TO A  
HUMAN BEING

WHEN THE HOUSE IS PEACEFUL ONCE AGAIN  
LATTE SITS PERFECTLY STILL THEN- A  
BARELY PERCEPTIBLE CRACKLE OF STATIC  
ELECTRICITY THE SOUND OF AIR BREAKING  
AROUND HER EARS AS THEY BECOME ERECT  
HER POSTURE STIFFENS AND I SEE HER  
HUNGRY EYES CLOSELY FOLLOWING A  
SCRUMPTIOUS TINY BLACK SPIDER LATTE  
HEARS THE FEATHERY SCURRY OF THE  
SPIDER'S THIN LEGS AND POUNCES ON HER  
PREY! HA!

I CONTINUE TO ADMIRE MY FELINE'S  
AUDITORY POWERS FUNNY, IT  
REMINDS ME OF MY INTERNAL  
MEDICINE ATTENDING'S ABILITY TO HEAR  
MINUTE HEART MURMURS  
IT'S A SKILL I WISH I POSSESSED  
CAN LATTE HEAR HEART MURMURS?  
GALLOPS? PERICARDIAL FRICTION RUBS?  
WHEEZES? CRACKLES? BORBORYGMI?  
I SMILE WITH AMUSEMENT. AS A PHYSICIAN  
IN TRAINING, IN TIME, I SHALL LEARN TO  
COMPETENTLY AUSCULTATE MITRAL  
REGURGITATION AND AORTIC STENOSIS  
FOR NOW, I SHALL CONTINUE TO EMULATE  
THE GREAT AUSCULTATOR

THAT IS MY CAT

A photograph of a modern building with a glass facade. The glass reflects a brown building with many windows. The reflection is distorted, appearing wavy and stretched. The sky is visible in the background.

**REFLECTION** PHOTOGRAPH **CHRISTINA UMBER** MS4





UNDER THE  
DECEPTION  
PASS BRIDGE

PHOTO  
NATALIE MONIAGA  
MD



JAMA  
MOSQUE

PHOTO  
POUNEH  
NASSERI  
M53

# THE HISTORY OF HAMLET

GOUTHAM GANESAN, MS2

PATIENT: H

CHIEF COMPLAINT: "HOW WEARY, STALE, FLAT AND UNPROFITABLE, SEEM TO ME ALL THE USES OF THIS WORLD!"

**HISTORY OF PRESENT ILLNESS:** PATIENT IS A YOUNG MALE OF DANISH ANCESTRY WHO PRESENTS WITH A ONE MONTH HISTORY OF INCREASING MELANCHOLY, ANGER AND CONFUSION. HE SAYS THAT THESE FEELINGS BEGAN ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS FATHER'S PASSING. THE TWO WERE PARTICULARLY CLOSE. THE PATIENT CLAIMS TO HAVE EXPERIENCED HALLUCINATIONS INVOLVING THE SPIRIT OF HIS FATHER. **THE FOCUS OF HIS ANGER SEEMS TO BE** HIS MOTHER, WHO HAS DECIDED TO REMARRY RATHER SOON AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH. THE PATIENT DENIES ANY RECENT SUICIDAL IDEATION, BUT WHEN PRESSED, HE BECAME AGITATED AND ASKED WHETHER ONE OUGHT "TO TAKE ARMS AGAINST A SEA OF TROUBLES, AND BY OPPOSING END THEM." HIS MEDICAL HISTORY IS NEGATIVE FOR SIGNIFICANT HEAD TRAUMA. DURING THE INTERVIEW, THE PATIENT ALSO REPORTED HIS RECENT PARTICIPATION IN HIGH-RISK SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH A NEW PARTNER. HE WAS COUNSELED ON SAFE PRACTICES, BUT DENIED ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE ON THE SUBJECT.

**DRUGS:** PATIENT OCCASIONALLY TAKES ROOT OF MANDRAKE FOR INSOMNIA.

**ALLERGIES:** NO KNOWN DRUG ALLERGIES

**MEDICAL HISTORY:** PATIENT REPORTS THAT, AS A YOUNG MAN, HE HAD REPEATED EPISODES OF "EXCESSIVE CHOLERA **AND BLACK BILE**" WHICH WERE TREATED WITH PURGATION AND EXSANGUINATION. HE HAS ALSO SUFFERED SEVERAL INJURIES WHILE FENCING.

**FAMILY HISTORY:** MOTHER, MIDDLE-AGED, AND HEALTHY. THE PATIENT REFUSED TO SPEAK OF HER FURTHER. HIS FATHER WAS AN IMPORTANT MAN, AND PASSED AWAY RECENTLY, POSSIBLY AS A RESULT OF POISONING.

**SOCIAL HISTORY:** PATIENT DRINKS OCCASIONALLY, AND REPORTS THAT HIS SITUATION HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY SINCE HIS UNCLE MOVED IN. THIS HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF FRICTION AND DISTRESS. H COMES FROM AN **ARISTOCRATIC FAMILY**, AND HE SAYS THAT HE SPENDS MOST OF HIS TIME BROODING AND SPENDING TIME WITH HIS CURRENT PARTNER (BY THE NAME OF O----).

**PHYSICAL EXAM:** NO SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS, EXCEPT AN ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE OF 150/100, WHICH THE PATIENT ATTRIBUTES TO "AN EXCESS OF YELLOW BILE." NO NEUROLOGICAL ABNORMALITIES, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT THE PATIENT HAS A TENDENCY TO SPEAK TO HIMSELF OR, AS HE SAYS, TO "HIS AUDIENCE."

**ASSESSMENT/PLAN:** IT IS THIS PHYSICIAN'S OPINION THAT THE **PATIENT IS IN DANGER** OF COMMITTING HARM TO HIMSELF AND OTHERS, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN TRAGIC CIRCUMSTANCES. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT HE UNDERGO THOROUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION.



CUSCO CHILD  
PHOTO  
BETTY WONG  
PEDIATRICS



PHOTO DENNY LE M53



DIFFERENTIAL CYANOSIS  
PHOTOGRAPH HEATHER SAND M52

## I BETRAYED

SHE HAD DEFIED HER  
FAMILY  
IN LOVING THIS OLDER  
MAN,  
AND HE WAS ALL SHE HAD  
WHEN THE  
CANCER CAME.

WHEN THE CANCER CAME  
HER LEFT BREAST WENT  
INTO THE JAR,  
AND HE WENT TO THE BAR  
LOOKING FOR SOMEONE,  
AS HE SAID,  
"WHOLE."

WHEN THE CANCER  
CAME SHE WAS  
WILTED  
BY THE POVERTY  
OF THE LIAISON,  
DISAPPEARING  
POUND BY POUND  
HER HOPES AN AFFAIR OF  
ASHES.

II. FAITHFUL

SHE HAD DEFIED HER  
FAMILY  
IN LOVING THIS YOUNGER  
MAN,  
AND HE WAS ALL SHE HAD  
WHEN THE  
CANCER CAME.

WHEN THE CANCER CAME  
HER RIGHT BREAST WENT  
INTO THE JAR,  
AND HE WEPT AND  
PRAYED  
HIS LAST DOLLAR GOING  
FOR THE MIRACLE.

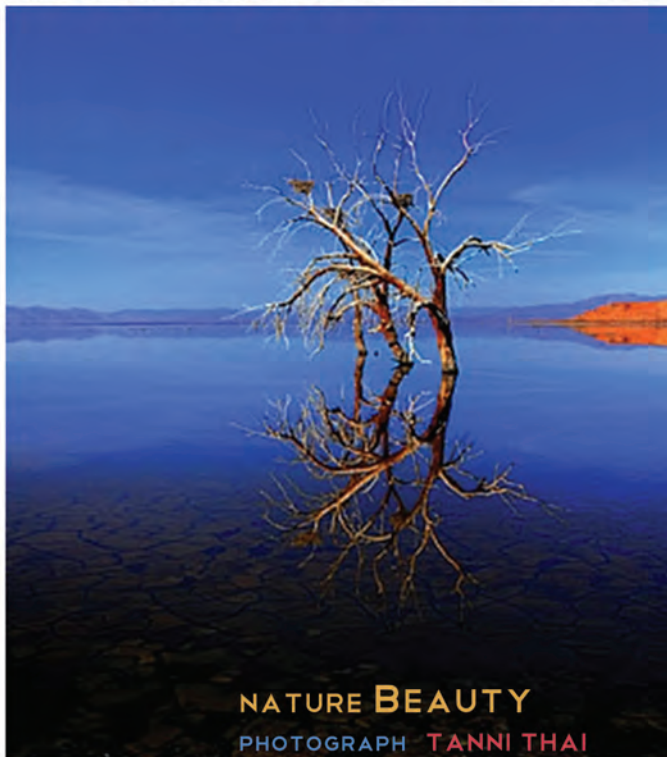
WHEN THE CANCER  
CAME SHE WAS  
MADE WHOLE  
BY HIS RESOLVE,  
GAINING IN STRENGTH AND  
FORTITUDE  
HER HOPES A REVERIE OF  
MELODIES.

## LOYALTY

FRANK L MEYSKENS JR



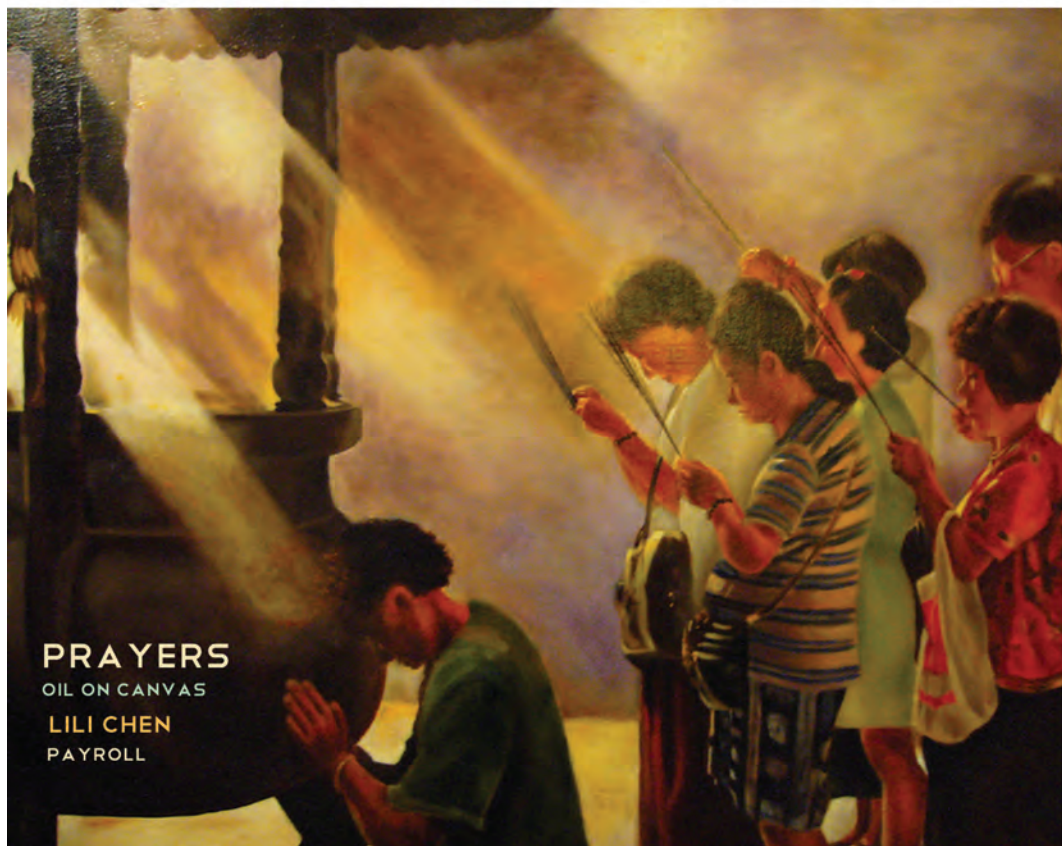
POLAR BEAR DISPUTE  
PHOTO STUART GREEN MD



NATURE BEAUTY  
PHOTOGRAPH TANNI THAI  
SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST



BYODOIN TEMPLE OAHU HAWAII  
PHOTOGRAPH DANIEL NAGASAWA MS3



PRAYERS  
OIL ON CANVAS  
LILI CHEN  
PAYROLL

# HUH? WHAT? WHERE?

PRIEL SCHMALBACH MS 2

"

HUH.

? HMMM?

SHOULD BE

HERE,

I

THINK." AT LEAST THAT'S

WHAT LEONARD TELLS ME. AN ANOMALY?

YEAH, MUST BE AN ANOMALY. A BLUISH PURPLISH ANOMALY.

OH, GREAT! IT'S THE VAGUS!

YOU'RE

QUITE THE TRAVELER. BUT

WE DIDN'T EXPECT YOU

TO RUN SO FAR OFF COURSE.

HUH ?HMMM? UNLESS....

GEESH THIS IS SO CONFUSING!

I WISH I WERE THE VAGUS.

IT ALWAYS SEEMS CONFIDENT

AS TO WHERE IT'S GOING.

JUST NATURAL. "I'M HERE!

OF COURSE I'M HERE!

ISN'T THIS WHERE I'M

SUPPOSED TO BE?"

WHAT? WHERE

ARE YOU SUPPOSED

BE?!?! TAKE ME

THERE! TAKE ME

TO SOME

KINDA UNDER-

STANDING! I JUST

WANNA UNDER-

STAND! OOOH.

HEY! THERE YOU

ARE! I SEE YOU!

# THE SUR GEON TAKES TIME OFF

MEGHANN KAISER, MD

LIKE A TEACUP WHICH  
FALLS  
AND SHATTERS  
SO FAR  
IN SO MANY DIRECTIONS  
IT **MIGHT** TAKE MONTHS  
TO REASSEMBLE  
**RESEMBLE**  
WHAT I ONCE WAS.

THIS MORNING  
THE SCENT OF PERFUMED  
LOTION  
WHEN I REACHED TO  
FASTEN  
GOLD DROP EARRINGS--  
A DRESS  
ORANGE, **PINK**, AND  
WHITE--  
PAINTED TOENAILS,  
EVEN.

IN THE HALL  
I PAUSE TO CONSIDER  
BLISTERING NEW SAN.  
DALS IN MY  
FULL LENGTH MIRROR.  
THE SOLOQUY OF MY  
**UNDOING STALLS**  
WHEN I CONSIDER  
THE THING(S) I AM.



**KARI**

PHOTOGRAPH

ALEX KELEMAN

JR SPECIALIST RESEARCHER

**CENTER OF ATTENTION** PHOTO TAN NGUYEN MD



# BRIDGE

PHOTOGRAPH SANDY LIN RN





# WITHOUT BOUNDS

PHOTOGRAPH

NUPOOR NARULA MS2



MEMO TO

(OPPOSITE PAGE)

TOP:

**BLUE MAN**

MIXED MEDIA

**ROLANDA ENGSTROM**

ART FOR THE SOUL/

CHAO CANCER CENTER

MIDDLE:

**PONDERING**

PHOTO

**TANNI THAI**

BOTTOM:

**PICTURE PERFECT**

PHOTO

**SUE WANG MS1**

# YOUNG

# DOCTORS

JOHANNA SHAPIRO, PHD

YOU CAN'T SCREW UP GOOD NEWS  
YOU CAN FORGET THE PART ABOUT  
HOW IT'S NOT CANCER UNTIL I  
HAVE TO ASK YOU POINT BLANK  
YOU CAN GIVE ME AN INTRICATE –  
AND

NO DOUBT INTERESTING

BLOW-BY-BLOW ACCOUNT  
OF THE INS AND OUTS OF THE BIOPSY  
WHILE ALL I CAN THINK IS  
WILL I LIVE?

YOU CAN USE SUCH ABSTRUSE  
LATINATE-SOUND LANGUAGE  
I WONDER IF I'VE STUMBLED INTO  
A PRE-VATICAN II MASS  
YOU CAN MUMBLE AND STUMBLE  
FORGET TO MAKE EYE CONTACT  
FORGET TO MAKE SENSE –  
IT DOESN'T MATTER  
I WILL STILL GIVE YOU A HUG  
AND TELL YOU  
YOU ARE A WONDERFUL DOCTOR

ON THE OTHER HAND, BAD NEWS IS  
ALWAYS

... BAD

NO MATTER HOW GENTLE YOUR VOICE  
HOW HONEST YOUR WORDS  
HOW SINCERE YOUR REGRET  
I WILL STILL RAGE AND RAIL  
YELL AT YOU  
ASK YOU UNANSWERABLE QUESTIONS  
EXPECT YOU TO BE GOD  
DEMAND A SECOND OPINION  
BLAME YOU, WANT TO KILL YOU

BE PATIENT

I WILL STILL NEED YOU TO GIVE ME A HUG

AND TELL ME I'M A  
WONDERFUL PERSON

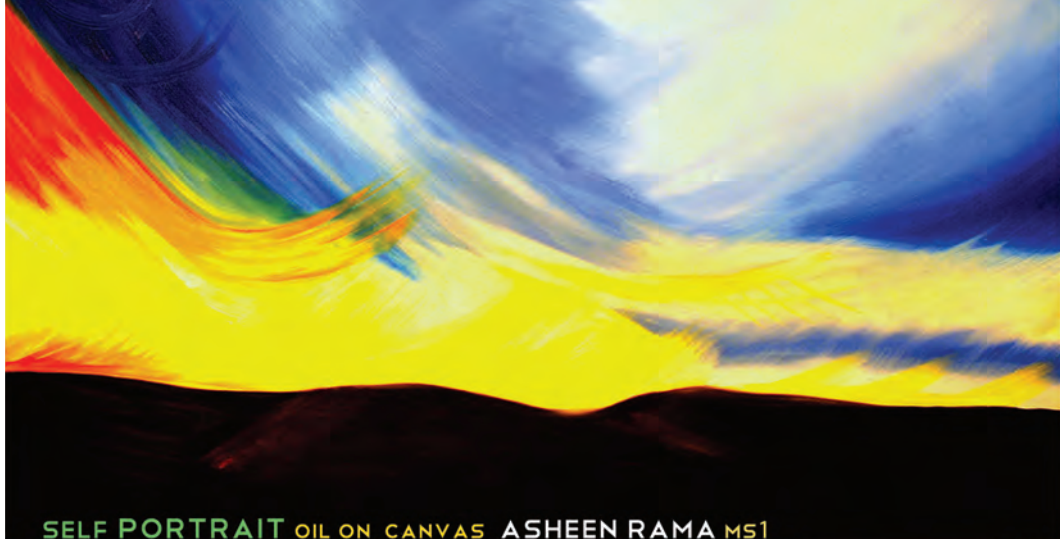
EVEN IF I'M DYING



# BEGINNINGS

OIL ON CANVAS

NEERA SODHI M54



SELF PORTRAIT OIL ON CANVAS ASHEEN RAMA M51



## HOSPITAL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

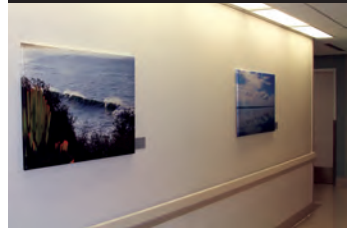
FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THE *PLEXUS JOURNAL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES* (JOHANNA SHAPIRO, PH.D., FACULTY ADVISOR) & THE GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY (FELICIA COHN, PH.D., FACULTY ADVISOR) HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF THE ARTS INTO HEALTHCARE. AS A RESULT OF THIS COLLABORATION (INITIATED BY BOBACK ZIAEIAN, CLASS OF 2008), WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT TWELVE PHOTOGRAPHIC WORKS OF ART HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE UCI MEDICAL CENTER. THESE PHOTOS CAN BE VIEWED ON THE FIFTH FLOOR OF THE TOWER; SEVERAL MORE WILL BE DISPLAYED ON THE NEWLY RENOVATED THIRD FLOOR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE DISPLAYS ARE MADE POSSIBLE WITH GRANTS FROM THE ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION AND THE ASSOCIATED MEDICAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT. MANY THANKS FOR THE CONTINUED ASSISTANCE FROM LEIF THOMPSON (SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER, UCIMC).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS!

SHARI ATILANO - OPHTHALMOLOGY RESEARCHER, 2008  
PARKER DUNCAN - UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT, 2010  
MICHAEL HABICHT - EMERGENCY MEDICINE RESIDENT, 2008  
DENNY LE - UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT, 2011  
JANET LIM - UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT, 2010  
PETER MCQUEEN - UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT, 2011  
ROD MORTAZAVI - UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT, 2011  
DANIEL NAGASAWA - UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT, 2011  
CHRISTINA UMBER - UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE STUDENT, 2011

SINCERELY,  
CHRISTINA UMBER  
HOSPITAL BEAUTIFICATION EDITOR





"FATHER FORGIVE ME"

ACRYLIC ON CANVAS

**AMBER OROSCO**

ADMINISTRATIVE  
ASSISTANT