

# Collage

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## Front Matter

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*Collage*  
*A Magazine for Language*  
*& the Arts*



# *Collage*

## *A Magazine for Language & the Arts*

*Collage* is an interdisciplinary magazine designed to explore the poetry of language and the visual arts. Submissions may include original poetry, short prose, and bilingual translations. All submissions must be accompanied by an English summary or translation and include the name of both contributor and translator. Images may be in black and white or color and must be submitted digitally. In the online version of the publication, we can also insert links for audio and video pieces.

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## *A Magazine for Language & the Arts*

*No. 4-Spring 2008*



### *Editorial*

by Judy Pfau Cochran

This fourth issue of *Collage* raises the question of identity. In response to voices as diverse as those of Chilean novelist Diamela Eltit, Colombian writer Héctor Abad Faciolince, and Leo Lionni, the author of fanciful children's stories with a twist, our contributors explore topics as varied as the role of the family under dictatorship and the miracles of everyday life, drawing our attention to the lessons and values that make us truly human. Linking the present moment to the eternal, one of our poets depicts a wasp's slow demise on a winter windowsill while she reads Descartes. In images ranging from shoes of all sizes to children holding hands, from the curious gaze of a red-bellied woodpecker to exotic underwater scenes, from the bright ceramic wares of a Middle Eastern market to the colorful mosaic of a church destroyed by fire, the diverse elements of existence are captured in the camera's lens.

From time immemorial, humankind has questioned its purpose and investigated its origins. Is all the world a stage? Is the Earth merely a reflection of a more perfect reality? Or, according to Renaissance humanism, is each of us a microcosm of the greater universe? As we discover the outer reaches of space and probe the mysteries of science, are we equally aware of the reality within ourselves? Writers and thinkers like the poet Rainer Maria Rilke have observed that despite the achievements of the intellect, we have not yet begun to tap the infinite reserves of the human imagination.

Some of our contributors have responded to this call by opening their minds and hearts to another voice, another culture. Whether inspired by the paintings of Picasso, the poems of Paul Éluard or the surrealist landscapes of Yves Tanguy, by social protest in the suburbs of Paris or the

fight for independence in colonized countries, our artists and authors have woven together the words and images of national identity and individual liberty, crossing the boundaries of separateness.

All our contributors follow the paths of their imagination. Along with the more serious perspectives on identity, we find a Cinderella story—imagined or real, we are not sure. Lighthearted guessing games accompany “The Lizzie Song,” whose composer woos a girl who won’t remember his name. From the humorous to the grave, the voices expressed here are all different, as we are all different, each for our own vision and experience, each for our own “golden dreams.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Leo Lionni, *Tico and the Golden Wings*. Pinwheel Books, 1975.