Collage

Volume 6 | Number 1

2012

Front Matter

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/collage

Part of the Modern Languages Commons, Photography Commons, and the Poetry Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://digitalcommons.denison.edu/collage/vol6/iss1/57

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by the Modern Languages at Denison Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Collage by an authorized editor of Denison Digital Commons.
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.

Editor
Judy Cochran (cohran@denison.edu)

Student Editor
Liza Hudock

Publisher
Department of Modern Languages – Denison University – Granville – Ohio – USA

Co-Editor and Technical Assistant
Cheryl Johnson, Instructional Technologist (johnsonc@denison.edu)

Cover Photographs
Charles O’Keefe

© all rights reserved
Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. John B. Hutchins for their generous support through the Patty Foresman Fund.

We would also like to thank Associate Provost Susan Garcia and the Office of the Provost.
Charles O’Keefe – Judy Pfau Cochran – Ping Zeng – Kurt Grahne – Adrienne Volklander
Abby Browarsky – Adam Shaw – Christian Payne – Rachel Winter
Daniel Persia – Sage Mahoney – Shawn White – Sadika Ramahi
Bernardo Feitosa – Brenda Falkenstein – Monica Edgerton
Heidi Kuempel – Brendan Corbique – A.J. Marino
Liza Hudock – Allie Midei – Gabriel Lozano
Chelsea Skoog – Natalie Rorick
Alana Schaffer – John Cowie
Cody May – Mirela Butnaru
Diana Mason – Brittany Rojas – Daisy Ochoa
Tara Stayton – Jessica Elsayed – Malick Guisse
This sixth issue of Collage explores the pictorial aspect of words in texts juxtaposing light and shadow, like the painter’s chiaroscuro. Language affords the writer the possibility of entering and exploring the deeper regions of the Self, what the poet Rainer Maria Rilke has called the “dark hours” of our being, which lead to the light of understanding.¹ Our selection of texts includes translations and interpretations of works by prominent literary figures, both past and present, as well as original prose and poetry. Through these words, we look again at the universal themes of time and memory, good and evil, love and death.

Acclaimed Middle Eastern author Andrée Chedid revives the Renaissance notion of humankind as microcosm, attributing to us the creative energy of the Sun, which inspires our “fragment of eternity.” In the poem “Rappelle-moi,” she evokes an anterior world, reminiscent of Plato’s world of

Forms, a more radiant, harmonious and generous world that we can only intuit. Chedid, like Victor Hugo in “Demain dès l’aube,” believes in the redemptive power of memory and the ultimate triumph of love over death. Three contributors in Spanish, responding to Garcia Lorca, have revisited the age-old story of love and death with similar optimism and purity: “I will kiss you on the forehead / And the burden of the world will rise from our shoulders.” A contributor in French treats the theme of memory through a study of the photographic image in the love story *L’Amant* by Marguerite Duras, where the creative voice – set free in writing – crystallizes and exonerates the past.

By contrast, the aesthetic nightmares of contemporary Spanish poet Leopoldo María Panero push the outer reaches of the Self, verging on madness. Panero refashions the fairytales of youth and lost innocence. His “Hymn to Satan,” dedicated to the author of *Les Fleurs du mal*, captures the duality of Charles Baudelaire’s struggle to reconcile good and the evil with the truth demanded by art. Panero’s depiction of Satan brings to mind the Persian myth of Lucifer, the fallen angel, recounted by Joseph Campbell. According to this Muslim legend, when God created the angels, Satan was His greatest lover. Therefore, when God commanded the angels to bow before man, he could not because his love for God permitted no other. The story ends with the poignant image of Lucifer eternally falling, sustained only by the echo of God’s voice, banishing him to hell.\(^2\)

In the poems “Refuge” and “Vagabonder,” two contributors consider the pathways of life and Self, while another explores a “Nuevo camino.” One recreates the solitude of her ascension of Mount Kilimanjaro. Yet another describes the irresistible call of language. All stretch themselves as they move toward a compassionate sense of commonality. Whether in the image of the sun setting over the seaport of Alexandria, or in the sun reflected in our hearts, the light of the world is ever-present for as long as we can feel and see.