

D R U M L U M M O N
Views

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Chris Autio of Missoula, Montana, has been a commercial photographer for fifteen years. He has also produced and directed six documentary films, including *Glass Blowing*, *Weavers of Oaxaca*, and *Potters of Oaxaca*, as well as *The Odyssey*, on the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts, and *Snake River System*, on an installation by Montana sculptor Patrick Zentz.

Robert Baker, associate professor of English at The University of Montana, is the author of *The Extravagant: Crossings of Modern Poetry and Modern Philosophy* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2005).

Richard Buswell's photographs are held in the permanent collections of many museums, including the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the National Galleries of Scotland, Bibliotheque nationale de France, Seattle Art Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, the Berkeley Art Museum, the Montana Museum of Art and Culture, and the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture. He has published two previous books of photographs, *Silent Frontier* and *Echoes: A Visual Reflection*.

John Clayton (www.johnclaytonbooks.com) is the author of *The Cowboy Girl: The Life of Caroline Lockhart* (University of Nebraska Press, 2007), a finalist for the High Plains Book Award. An independent journalist and essayist, he lives in Red Lodge, Montana.

Phil Cohea worked under Richard Hugo at The University of Montana in 1972–74. He moved to Helena, Montana, in 1975 where he co-founded with Rick Newby and Lowell Uda a small literary magazine called *Scratchgravel Hills*, which ran from 1978 to 80 and produced three annual issues. After publishing a handful of poems, Phil entered into a hiatus of twenty years during which he raised two sons and produced an album of songs, *Lone Western Stranger*. In 1996 he returned to writing poetry at the age of forty-eight and is assembling his first book of poems, *Last Drink with Sir Walter Raleigh*. Phil has also recently finished recording another song collection entitled *Wide Open* and is working on a young adult novel, *Company of Demons*.

Teresa Cohea is a vice-president of D. A. Davidson & Co. Terry spent eighteen years in state government, where she served as the legislative fiscal analyst and a bureau chief in the Department of Revenue. She was Montana's first female chief of staff to a governor, working for Gov. Ted Schwinden. She serves on

the Prickly Pear Land Trust Board, the state Board of Investments, and as co-president of the board of directors of the Holter Museum. Cohea has bachelor's and master's degrees in history from The University of Montana. She was the state's first recipient of the Marshall Scholar Award.

Michele Corriel is a poet and freelance writer living and working in the Gallatin Valley. Her work is as varied as the life she's led, from the rock/art venues of New York City to the rural backroads of Montana. Published regionally and nationally, Michele has received a number of awards for her nonfiction as well as her poetry.

Julian Cox was appointed as the new Curator of Photography at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia, in April 2005. Cox came to the High from the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles where he served as associate curator in the department of photographs. He is a co-author of the critically acclaimed publication, *Julia Margaret Cameron: The Complete Photographs* (2003), the first catalogue raisonné of her work. He has also worked at the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television in Bradford, England, and the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. He received a Master of Philosophy degree in the history of photography from

the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, in 1990, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history from the University of Manchester, England, in 1987.

Ken Egan, Jr., recently accepted the position as new executive director of Humanities Montana. For many years a professor of English at Rocky Mountain College, Billings, Montana, Egan is the author of *Hope and Dread in Montana Literature* (University of Nevada Press, 2003).

Karen Fisher has lived in the West as a teacher, wrangler, farmer, and carpenter. She now lives with her husband and three children on an island in Puget Sound. She is the author of the acclaimed historical novel, *A Sudden Country* (Random House, 2006).

A longtime resident of Missoula, Montana, **Patricia Forsberg** studied at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, DC, and received her MFA in Painting at The University of Montana in 1981. She has received a Montana Arts Council Individual Artist Fellowship, and over the past two decades, her work has been exhibited at Phillips Gallery, Salt Lake City; Botanica Fine Art, Bozeman, Montana; Dana Gallery, Missoula; and various other galleries throughout the West.

Patricia has spent considerable time in Italy studying Italian language and art history, and most

recently, she has immersed herself in Japanese language, literature, and art at The University of Montana, followed by a teaching residence in Japan. Patricia is a serious student of the violin and plays in the Missoula Symphony Orchestra.

Jennifer A. Gately, who recently resigned as the first Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Northwest Art at the Portland (OR) Art Museum, previously served as visual arts director at Idaho's Sun Valley Center for the Arts.

Stephen Glueckert read "Rudy's Hands" at the Rudy Autio memorial at Montana Theatre at The University of Montana on Saturday, July 21, 2007, in Missoula. Glueckert is the curator of the Missoula Art Museum and one of the many friends of Rudy and Lela Autio

Scott Hibbard, a native of Helena, is a ranch manager, ranch management consultant, and ranch laborer. He studied creative writing under Richard Hugo and Bill Kittredge at The University of Montana.

A fourth-generation Montanan, **Hilary Hoffman** was born and raised in Helena. Her great-grandparents founded Bowman's Corners. She lived in Washington state for many years, obtaining a bachelor's degree in English literature from Whitworth College in Spokane

and an M.F.A. in creative writing, poetry emphasis, from the University of Washington in Seattle. For the past seven years, she has worked for environmental and engineering consulting companies as a technical editor and marketing assistant. She serves on the steering committee for the Helena Festival of the Book. Her poems have appeared in *The Oregonian* and *The Seattle Review*.

Brian Kahn is host of the interview program, *Home Ground*, on Yellowstone Public Radio. Brian's diverse background includes work as collegiate boxing coach, attorney, President of the California Fish and Game Commission, Director of the Montana Nature Conservancy, author, journalist, and documentary filmmaker. *Home Ground* was named by the Montana Broadcasters Association as the state's Outstanding Non-Commercial Radio Program. Brian's most recent book, co-written with his Labrador retriever, Tess of Helena, is *Training People: How to Bring Out the Best in Your Human* (Chronicle Books, 2007).

Greg Keeler has published six collections of poetry and his latest, *Almost Happy*, was released by Limberlost Press in '08. Three of his poems have been read by Garrison Keillor on three segments of *Writers' Almanac*; his song, "WD-40 Polka," has been featured on NPR's *Car Talk*; he has performed his songs on

NPR, PBS, ESPN and BBC4 Radio; he has been a cartoonist for Canada's national magazine, *The Walrus*; and he has written and co-written six musicals for the Vigilante Players, the latest of which is *Neon Dream*, which he co-wrote with Greg Owens. His memoir, *Waltzing With the Captain: Remembering Richard Brautigam* was published in '04 by Limberlost Press. His next memoir, *Trash Fish*, is forthcoming from Counterpoint Press this fall. In '01, he received the Montana Governor's Award in the Humanities for his satire and social commentary.

Beth Lo is professor of art at The University of Montana, having taken over the position held by Rudy Autio upon Rudy's retirement. She is the two-time recipient of the UM School of Fine Arts Distinguished Faculty Award. Beth's work has been exhibited widely and has been featured in *American Craft*, *ArtWeek*, *Ceramics Monthly*, and the *New York Times*.

Born in 1960 in Tucson, Arizona, **Wes Mills** spent his childhood in Kimberly, Oregon, before his family relocated to Great Falls, Montana, when he was fifteen. He studied art at Murray State University in Kentucky and in 1981 moved to New York City, where he abandoned art making entirely, only to return to it ten years later while living in Taos, New Mexico. Since then, his work has been seen in numerous galleries and

museums throughout the United States and Germany. He currently lives with his three children, Ava, Robin, and Isaac, near Missoula, Montana.

Rick Newby is co-editor, with Lee Rostad, of *Food of Gods & Starvelings: The Selected Poems of Grace Stone Coates* (2007) and, with Alexandra Swaney, of *Notes for a Novel: The Selected Poems of Frieda Fligelman* (2008), both from Drumlummon Institute. His latest collection of poems is *Sketches Begun in My Studio on a Sunday Afternoon and Completed the Following Day Near the Noon Hour on the Lower Slopes of the Rocky Mountains* (Editions Koch, 2008). Newby's recent exhibition catalog essays include "Wrested from the Earth: The Recombinant Poetics of Stephen De Staebler," (Zolla/Lieberman Gallery, 2008); "Beckoned into Landscape: The Paintings of Dale Livezey" (Stremmel Gallery, 2007); and "How Many Worlds? The Ceramic Art of Stephen Braun" (John Natsoulas Press, 2007).

Chris Nicholson grew up in Billings and Helena, Montana. He currently lives in Paris, working for the *International Herald Tribune*. His work has been published in *paris/atlantic*, *The Guardian Unlimited* (online edition), and *The New York Times*.

Richard Notkin's teapots and other sculptures can be found in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum

of Art, New York; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Kunstindustrimuseet, Oslo; Shigaraki Ceramic Cultural Park, Japan; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; and Victoria and Albert Museum, London. His large-scale tile mural, *The Gift*, is owned by the Portland (Oregon) Art Museum, and the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, has acquired his mural, *All Nations Have Their Moment of Foolishness*. Richard and his work were featured in PBS's 2007 series, *Craft in America*, and he was recently honored with the Archie Bray Foundation's Meloy Stevenson Award of Distinction. Richard lives in Helena with his wife, the painter Phoebe Toland.

Paul S. Piper was born in Chicago, lived for extensive periods in Montana and Hawaii, and is currently a librarian at Western Washington University in Bellingham. He spends more time than he should writing, taking his lead from Luis Borges. His work has appeared in various literary journals including *The Bellingham Review*, *Manoa*, *Sulfur*, and *CutBank*. He has published four books of poetry, the most recent being *Winter Apples* by Bird Dog Press. His work has been included in the books *The New Montana Story*, *Tribute to Orpheus*, and *America Zen*. Paul also co-edited the books *Father Nature* and *X-Stories: The Personal Side of Fragile X Syndrome*. Visit his blog at: piper gates.blogspot.com

Keith Raether works as a writer in administration at Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington. Keith studied English literature at Boston University and the University of California at Riverside, where he earned a bachelor's degree. He worked at newspapers in Albuquerque, Denver, Seattle, and Oslo, Norway, and has written about jazz since the late 1970s. Keith recently received an M.F.A. in writing from Bennington College. He and his wife, photographer Teresa Tamura (who until recently taught photojournalism at The University of Montana), are currently collaborating on a book, *Made in Minidoka*, about the internment in Idaho of Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Russell Rowland was born and raised in Montana and now lives in Billings. His first novel, *In Open Spaces*, made the *San Francisco Chronicle's* bestseller list and was named among the Best of the West by the *Salt Lake City Tribune*. Russ has a Master of Arts in Creative Writing from Boston University and earned a MacDowell Fellowship in 2005. He teaches writing workshops online; for more information, visit www.russellrowland.com

Michael Schechtman is Executive Director of Big Sky Institute for the Advancement of Nonprofits (www.bigskyinstitute.org/).

Jodi Schmitz is a recent graduate of Carroll College who grew up in Helena, Montana. She studied English writing and plans a career in publishing. In spring 2008 she participated in a publishing internship for Drumlummon Institute, hoping to learn all the things they don't teach you in school. In addition to reading and writing fiction and poetry, Jodi enjoys anything that gives her an excuse to be outdoors, including fishing and hiking.

Chris Staley is Professor of the Ceramic Arts at Penn State University. He received his MFA from Alfred University and was a special student at the Kansas City Art Institute. He has traveled extensively as a visiting artist, from Bezalel Academy in Israel to Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Maine. He has received two National Endowment of the Arts grants and two Pennsylvania Council of the Arts grants. His work is in many collections, including the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery of the National Museum of Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London as well as friends' cupboards. For nine years he served on the board of directors at the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, Montana, and he is currently serving on the board of directors at The Haystack Mountain School of Crafts.

In 2004, just a few months after she gave birth to her first child, **Rebecca Stanfel** was diagnosed with a rare

chronic illness called sarcoidosis. A Helena-based freelance writer, Stanfel created a blog, *Chronic Town* (www.rs.4030.com), as a way "to catalogue what life is like at the intersection of sickness and motherhood."

Gilles Stockton is a rancher, poet, fiction writer, and essayist who divides his time between the family ranch at Grass Range, Montana, and Africa, where he works as a consulting agronomist.

Melanie Rae Thon's most recent book is the novel *Sweet Hearts*. She is also the author of *Meteors in August* and *Iona Moon*, and the story collections *First, Body* and *Girls in the Grass*. Her work has been included in *Best American Short Stories* (1995, 1996), three *Pushcart Prize Anthologies* (2003, 2006, 2008), and *The O. Henry Prize Stories* (2006). She is also a recipient of a Whiting Writer's Award, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Writer's Residency from the Lannan Foundation. Her new fiction appears in *Five Points*; *Pushcart Prize XXXII*; *The Best Stories of the American West*, edited by Marc Jaffe; *Montana Women Writers: A Geography of the Heart*, edited by Caroline Patterson; *Virginia Quarterly*; *Agni*; *Conjunctions*; and *Image*. Originally from Montana, she now lives in migration between the Pacific Northwest and Salt Lake City, where she teaches at the University of Utah.

Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs is co-author of *The Lewis and Clark Companion: An Encyclopedic Guide to the Voyage of Discovery*. She lectures nationally about her experiences and observations on the Lewis and Clark Trail, which she first followed in 1976 with her father, bestselling author Stephen Ambrose. She works with conservation and citizens groups to preserve and protect the trail and adjoining wilderness areas.

Stephenie holds two degrees in history from The University of Montana and currently writes local history and serves on the boards of the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Foundation, the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Friends of Montana PBS, and the American Prairie Foundation. Her book of essays on Lewis and Clark has been published by the University of Nebraska Press in the fall of 2008. Stephenie and her husband John live in Lewis and Clark County, Helena, Montana, with their sons Alex and Riley.

Nicholas CP Vrooman has been working as a cultural specialist since the 1970s. He was the first State Folklorist of North Dakota, the Dakota Field Representative for ArtsMidwest (a regional consortium of state arts agencies), second State Folklorist for Montana, Nevada State Folklorist for Indian Traditional Arts, Program Director of Educational Talent Search in Indian Country for

the Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, visiting professor of Native American Studies at The University of Montana, and proprietor of Northern Plains Folklife Resources. Vrooman created the Indian Traditional Arts Residency and Master/Apprenticeship Programs for the North Dakota Council on the Arts and the Montana Arts Council. Through the 1980s and 1990s, he was intimately involved in the development of the Northern Plains Indian Art Market.

Nicholas served as consultant to the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Festival of American Folklife on the Mall, the Métis National Council of Canada, and the National Folk Festival. He's worked with tribal peoples throughout the American and Canadian West to produce sound recordings, documentary films, performances, publications, conferences, ceremonies, and festivals highlighting Aboriginal culture. Currently he serves as Executive Director of the Helena Indian Alliance, a nonprofit comprehensive urban Indian center, continuing his involvement with issues of American Indian cultural resiliency.

Mignon Waterman served in the Montana Senate from 1991 until 2002 and has been the Democratic candidate for Montana's sole seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

O. Alan Weltzien is Professor of English at The University of Montana Western. He is currently working on an article on forgotten Montana novelist, Thomas Savage, for *Montana The Magazine of Western History* and is seeking to re-publish some of Savage's titles, the first of which, *The Pass*, will be reissued in early 2009 by Drumlummon Institute in collaboration with Riverbend Publishing. Alan's newest books include a memoir, *A Father and an Island: Reflections on Loss*, from which this chapter is taken, which will be published by Lewis-Clark Press in 2008; and *The Norman Maclean Reader* (editor), which the University of Chicago Press will publish in November 2008. Alan still likes to climb mountains in and out of Montana.