

## Samirah Alkassim

Samirah Alkassim is the Director of the Film Program in the Department of Performing & Visual Arts at the American University in Cairo. She is an experimental documentary filmmaker and is currently working on a documentary about Palestinian artists in Jordan, while developing a Multi-Media Center for the Royal Film Commission. She has published articles on experimental video in Egypt and Egyptian cinema. Samirah's contribution to Nebula 3.1 is a timely and rare piece of critical work, tracing the genealogy of experimental video in Cairo.

## Mary Lynn Broe

Dr. Mary Lynn Broe is Professor in the College of Liberal Arts, Rochester Institute of Technology, where she has just completed a term as Chair for the Department of Language and Literature. She has taught at Grinnell College, holding the Louise Rosenfield Noun Chair (1986-2002), Binghamton University and the University of Notre Dame. Her books include *Protean Poetic: The Poetry of Sylvia Plath* (U of Missouri, 1981); *Women's Writing in Exile* (U of North Carolina, 1989); *Silence and Power: A Reevaluation of Djuna Barnes* (Southern Illinois U, 1991) and *Black Walking: Letters of Djuna Barnes to Emily Holmes Coleman, 1934-38* (Wagenbach, Berlin, 2002; Archinto, Milan, 2004 and forthcoming in English). She is working on a creative non-fiction memoir about keeping an Alzheimer's mother at home—*Sweeping up the Heart*. Among the courses she teaches is Maps, Spaces and Places, a look at literature through the lens of the new cartographies. A recent paper (EACLALS, Malta, 2005) was on the geographical imagination of Michael Ondaatje. She raises Irish setters and trains them in agility work. Broe's contribution to Nebula is an "Xtreme Makeover for Academics" which attests to the awkwardness of the body both corporeal and metaphysical.

## Grayson Cooke

Grayson Cooke holds an interdisciplinary PhD in the Humanities from Concordia University in Montreal. He is employed as a lecturer in Multimedia at CQU Bundaberg Campus. He has exhibited works of interactive art and photography in Australia, New Zealand and Canada, and has published in various journals including Culture Machine, M/C Journal of Media and Culture, and Transformations. Cooke captivates us with a first person narrative which reveals an acute critical eye and which explores concepts of the post human, post industrial and post modern ontology.

## **Kathy Hughes**

Kathy Hughes received her B.A. in English/creative writing at Creighton University in Omaha, NE (2004). She is currently a first-year graduate student at Creighton. Kathy Hughes offers us a critical reading of Kathy Acker's *Blood and Guts in High School*, probing the uncomfortable subject of child sexual abuse.

## **Teresa Jones**

Teresa Michael Jones received her PhD in English and Creative Writing (1997) and her masters (1993) from Georgia State University (U.S.). She is currently acting as Assistant Professor at the University of West Georgia. She has acted as assistant editor for *Five Points: A Journal of Literature & Art* and has published previous works in *The Writers' Chronicle*, *Image: A Journal of the Arts & Religion* and *Thicket* (Alabama). Jones's short story is endearing, its characters are believable yet caricatures, allegorical and yet also literal. Exploring the cultural and political rift between third world and first, Jones's characters are at once attracted to and repulsed by each other, oscillating throughout a highly allusive narrative.

## **Nicole McNamara**

Nicole McNamara is an undergraduate student at the University of Sydney (Australia). She is deeply interested in the written word, particularly in its relation to musical composition. In her contribution to *Nebula*, McNamara reveals the delicate sensibility of a developing poet who speaks almost unconsciously, of feelings, sensations, fears or traumas to which many are able to relate.

## **Nicolas Mansito III**

Nicolas Mansito III is a Cuban-Colombian-American scholar, writer, and translator. He earned his B.A. in English from the University of Florida and his M.A. in English with a specialization in Creative Writing from the University of North Florida. He is currently working on his doctorate in Cuban Studies with a specialization in Creative Writing at Illinois State University. His work has appeared internationally in *The Arabesques Review* and is forthcoming in *The Rio Grande Review*—both online and in print. Mansito's contribution comes in the form of a frank and much needed assessment of institutionalized scholarship, its failures and potential reparative procedures.

## **Guido Monte**

Guido Monte is an Italian writer with a bent for the international. He has published several works and translations in Italian, including those published by Nuova Ipsa, Rubbettino and Ed. Della Battaglia. He currently teaches Latin and Italian literature. His most recent works have been featured in *Words Without Borders* and *Litterae*.

## **Maria Cristina Nisco**

Maria Cristina Nisco is a PhD candidate at the Università degli Studi di Napoli “L’Orientale” (Italy). She is currently working on the black female body represented through literary as well as visual works. In previous research, Nisco has focused on the construction of identity in relation to the white creole woman and the black colonized man in the West Indies. She has also published an article entitled "Islands and Beyond: George Lamming's Theory of Postcolonial" in *Ecloga* the journal of the Dept. of English Studies at the University of Strathclyde, Scotland. Nisco introduces *Nebula* readers to the confronting and emotive work of African artists such as Saartjie Baartman and Ingrid Mwangi.

## **John Parras**

Dr John Parras received his PhD in English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University in 1996. He was awarded the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for fiction writing in 2004. His novel *Fire on Mount Maggiore* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2005) won the Peter Taylor Prize at the Knoxville Writer’s Guild in 2004. Dr Parras has published creative and critical works too numerous to mention. His latest critical work "Literary Theory in the Composition Classroom," was published in the *Journal of Teaching Writing* (Fall 2005). While his latest creative work is forthcoming in *Painted Bride Quarterly* and *Sulphur River Review*. John contributes to *Nebula* 3.1 in the form of a critical analysis of the uses of form and structure in Joseph Conrad’s most celebrated work, *Heart of Darkness*.

## **Rodney Sharkey**

Rodney Sharkey is a professor of English Literature at Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus. His research interests are primarily in the work of Beckett and Joyce, and in Popular Culture Studies. He occasionally produces creative writing and was once Irish Young Playwright of the Year, but finds that theorizing for a living and writing fiction no longer mix. Sharkey shocks and horrifies us, as he has always intended to do, in a brilliant and highly relevant ficto-critical piece on the “uncomfortable” images and realities of cannibalism and postmodern culture.

## **Joshua W. Suddath**

My name is Joshua W. Suddath. I was born in a small town in Tennessee in 1981. After graduating from high school in 1999, I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, eventually serving for four years and six months in a variety of locales including Okinawa, Japan; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Iraq; Thailand, and Albania, among others. Since soon after my discharge I have enrolled East Tennessee State University, where I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in History. This is the first piece of writing I have ever submitted for publication. I wrote most of it while traveling around the United States on a (quite) extended road trip. Suddath's unnamed U.S. Marine Corps naval officer is as delicate as the title of this piece, revealing the wounds of the post 9/11 America and those who suffer on behalf of an entire nation and a political agenda.

## Michael Angelo Tata

Michael Angelo Tata received his M.A. in Creative Writing/Poetry from Temple University, his M.A. in Liberal Studies from the New School for Social Research, and his Ph.D. in English Literature through the CUNY Graduate Center. His poetry and criticism have appeared in the journals *LinQ*, *Nebula*, *M/C*, *Ugly Couch*, *Lit*, *Lungfull*, *eye: rhyme*, *kenning*, *Bad Subjects*, *Found Object*, *Rhizomes* and *to the quick*, as well as the Critical Studies compilation *From Virgin Land to Disney World: Nature and Its Discontents in the USA of Yesterday and Today* (Editions Rodopi, 2001) and the Madonna Studies anthology *Madonna's Drowned Worlds: New Approaches to Her Cultural Transformations* (Ashgate UK, 2004). His first chapbook of poems, *The Multiplication of Joy into Integers*, won Blue Light Press' 2003 poetry prize. His poetry has also appeared in the collections *This New Breed: Bad Boys, Gents and Barbarians 2* (Windstorm, 2004) and *Bordered Sexualities* (San Diego State, 2006). Michael Angelo Tata's second contribution to *Nebula* is as intriguing, well articulated and burdensomely researched as the first. In tune with Cooke's contribution on the cyborg, Tata takes a less introspective look at the concept as it appears in *Warholian Machinehood*.

## Jesse Zanavich

In December of 2005, Jesse Zanavich graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a B.A. in History and a minor in Biology. He is shortly due to begin his Masters program in Historic Preservation at the University of Vermont. Zanavich became deeply interested in the lack of attention devoted to the multifaceted drug problem affecting Afghanistan, during his undergraduate studies. In his remarkable contribution to *Nebula*, Zanavich looks at the ethical and economical crises facing a country so highly reliant on its poppy plantations.