

# HOTEL AMERIKA

Editor David Lazar

Associate and  
Managing Editor Jennifer Tatum

Assistant Editors Sophie Amado  
Jeffrey Barbieri  
Colleen O'Connor  
Ryan Spooner

Readers Brooklyn Kiosow  
Micah McCrary  
Meaghan Shannon  
Scott Strom  
Sidney Thompson  
Scott Wilson

cover art: Ernest Ceriani

Country Dr. Ernest Ceriani in a dazed state of exhaustion, having a cup of coffee in the hospital kitchen at 2 a.m. after performing a cesarean section where the baby & the mother died due to complications, 1948. (Photo by W. Eugene Smith/The LIFE Picture Collection via Getty Images)

## *Hotel Amerika*

Columbia College Chicago  
Department of Creative Writing  
600 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60605  
[www.hotelamerika.net](http://www.hotelamerika.net)  
@HotelAmerika

[www.facebook.com/HotelAmerikaLitMag](https://www.facebook.com/HotelAmerikaLitMag)

For Subscriptions please visit  
University of Nebraska Press,  
Hotel Amerika  
[www.nebraskapress.unl.edu](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu)

Journal Design Tyler Crumrine

Site Development David Rossa  
[DavidRossaDesign.com](http://DavidRossaDesign.com)

Volume 19, Winter 2021

© 2021 Hotel Amerika

ISSN: 1541-2261

Special thanks for the funding of this issue to Lois Parkinson Zamora. We are extremely grateful to the Journals Division of the University of Nebraska for their work in publishing *Hotel Amerika*.

## Essays

<i>Laurin Penland</i>	The Gift that Destroyeth the Heart	9
<i>Joshua Craze</i>	Cairo is a Knife	27
<i>Megan Baxter</i>	On Revision	37
<i>Glen Retief</i>	The Prepared Dance	55
<i>Anna Whiteside</i>	The Other Woman	63
<i>Clinton Crockett Peters</i>	Made Fire	71
<i>Jack Bastock</i>	The Emperor's Gayze	87
<i>Talvikki Ansel</i>	Cove	102
<i>Brent Livingood</i>	God Wanted	129
<i>M. Jennings</i>	No Shortcuts	138
<i>Steffan Hruby</i>	Though Changed I Rise Unchanged	145
<i>Leah Mensch</i>	How to Save a Dying Plant	151
<i>Deborah Thompson</i>	Middle Age in Seven Exercises	157
<i>Primo Ventello</i>	Community College	170
<i>Kat Moore</i>	Meditation (while watching My Own Private Idaho)	177

## Fiction

<i>Laura Grothaus</i>	Sleepwalker's Atlas	2
<i>Joseph Bathanti</i>	The Pall Bearer	81
<i>Harrison Cook</i>	Anatomy of an Angel	106
<i>Maia McPherson</i>	Lijep Pogled (Nice View)	115
<i>Vicki Lindner</i>	A Man Comes for Tea	167

## Poetry

<i>Kallie Falandays</i>	Home	1
<i>Carol Potter</i>	I know it was not nice of me	15
<i>Ciera Horton McElroy</i>	Circe Dances	16
	A Few Don'ts for Debutantes	17
<i>Susan Terris</i>	Some Chants, Some Drums, Some Burning Tires	18
<i>Patrick Whitfill</i>	With Regards to My Smoldering	23
<i>David Rock</i>	Just Friends	26

<i>Sarah A. Chavez</i>	Halfbreed Helene Begins Her Funeral Playlist	30
<i>Ace Boggess</i>	An Autobiography	46
	As with Moscarda's Crooked Nose	47
<i>John Gallaher</i>	Commercial Break	48
	(Architecture 54)	
	Elegy for the Gift Economy	49
	(Architecture 60)	
	Let's Pretend We're a Novel	50
	(Architecture 72)	
<i>Lauren Hilger</i>	The stone bruise	52
	In reply to your last letter,	53
<i>Constant Williams</i>	ER Waiting Room	54
<i>Roy Bentley</i>	Unfathomable Love, Still Diving	80
<i>Paul Christiansen</i>	When Phúc Became Phuc	97
<i>Partridge Boswell</i>	Are We Here?	98
	Not Yet a Jedi	99
<i>Camille Carter</i>	Torch Song	100
<i>Jeffrey Alfier</i>	Dreamt by a Fugitive Passing a Foreclosed Farm Outside Tupelo	101
<i>Amanda McGuire</i>	After	124
	Back At It	125
<i>Richard Robbins</i>	Moon in Water	126
	Four Constellations	127
<i>Charlene Fix</i>	Aloof	135
<i>Stephen Ruffus</i>	Street Imagination	136
	Luncheonette	137
<i>John Sibley Williams</i>	Prototype	141
	Coat of Bees	142
<i>Anisa Rahim</i>	Feast	143
	Peacock	144
<i>Amy Pence</i>	Those Ghost Selves	149
<i>JW Goll</i>	Brief Picnic with Flannery O'Connor	161
<i>Lucien Darjeun Meadows</i>	Mile 47—	163
	Mile 56—	164
<i>Dave Harrity</i>	After Rococo	165
	Maiden of the South Sea	166
<i>A. Molotkov</i>	The Static Lives of Nightingales	175
	The Stars	176

## Prose Poetry

---

<i>Kathleen McGookey</i>	Because Now There Is No Child	4
	Elegy for My Loneliness	5
<i>Benjamin Paloff</i>	By Diverse Means Men Come to a Like End	6
	Of Books	7
	Of Smells	8
<i>Bill Rector</i>	Album	51
<i>Matthew Thorburn</i>	Fireflies	68
	How It Starts	69
<i>William Repass</i>	Ticker Tape	70
<i>Margaret Barbour Gilbert</i>	from Sugaring Off	77
<i>Steve Castro</i>	Heart Compass	104
<i>&amp; Daniel Romo</i>	Regarding Necromancy	105
<i>Rebecca Cross</i>	Game of No Mothers	128
<i>Dayna Patterson</i>	Red-Handed	155
	A Walk with Asherah	156

## Transgenre

---

<i>Carol Guess</i>	Conversation Non-Starters	19
<i>&amp; Rochelle Hurt</i>		
<i>Abigail Chabitnoy</i>	Mechanisms of Faulting	32
	Flotsam & Jetsam (disambiguated)	34
<i>Dana Curtis</i>	Croatoan: Permutations of Virginia Dare	108
Contributors' Notes		181