

THE RACKET

29

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Hi.

How's everyone doing? Feels like we've slogged through the brunt of the storm but the last bits of bitter wind are still knocking us around a bit.

This is a special issue.

I mean to me - the doting parent of The Racket Journal - they're all special, but this issue is a *special* issue.

It's our first Art Issue.

I started The Racket not so many months ago entirely unaware how important of a part, visual art was going to play. In the first draft of the first issue there was no art. Only because one of our writers sent in a piece of art with their work did I suddenly think "Oh, wait, this could be a visual journal as well..."

Since then, we've featured close to a hundred different artists across a broad spectrum of disciplines and styles. It has been a great joy in these mostly miserable last few months to not only learn more about art (and my own taste in terms of art) but to be in conversation with so many amazing artists.

From the start, one of those artists was Anna Rotty. She is a skilled photographer - and manipulator of photography - as well as an incredibly prolific and supportive member of the Bay Area's art community. A while back we dedicated an entire issue to Rotty's work and I still think of it as one of our very best marriages of the visual and the writing.

So, when it came to this idea of doing an issue (the first of many) where we handed the curation off to a respected artist, flipped the ratios of writing and art and let the visual images tell the story - Anna Rotty was the first name that came to mind.

And, as you're about to see, Anna has done an absolutely incredible job. Seen on its own, the art Rotty has chosen, is amazing - gorgeous, inventive, provocative, sometimes even fun. But when you go back and look at the sequencing of the art, the *curation*, it quickly becomes apparent that there are many levels (and stories) being told by it. At some point while I was putting this issue together, I turned to my partner and said, "As it turns out, I am very much a novice when it comes to curation."

Anna Rotty though, as you are about to find out, is working on a very high level. And it's an impressive thing to bear witness to.

A tip: look at each piece individually, then pull back and look at everything again and again. Let the onion peel.

And then do it again.

'Till next time.

- N

The Racket stands against
police brutality, racism and violence
perpetuated towards BIPOC
communities in all forms.

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Pretty artsy in here.

WWW.THERACKETSF.COM

WE HAVE A PATREON

We aren't in this for the money.

That said: there are costs in doing what we do.

Any help with those costs (and with the costs of future endeavors) would be greatly appreciated.

If not, we get it and we still appreciate you.

If so, we're working on some special rewards. And we know you love special rewards.

THANK YOU TO THESE FOLKS

MATTHEW CARNEY
CATHY & JOHN SANDERS
HALLIE YOUNG
JAMIE ENGELMANN
CASEY BENNETT
LILIAN CAYLEE
LAUREN C. JOHNSON
ANGIE MCDONALD
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A NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

Over the last few months, and as we got to the other side of the event that had been looming over us all, the election, I considered how time seemed to be moving around us in strange ways.

The heaviness of uncertainty weighed on us all, striving to unify but still forced into our own, often isolated, spaces.

I was drawn to artists looking inward, using everyday domestic materials saturated with emotion, and the symbolism found in process, color, and how material is used in relationship to the self.

Exhaustion, decay and impression come to mind. There's perhaps a sense of relief and comfort underlying the disease of the past few months and we consider where to go from here.

- Anna Rotty



DAD IN WAVE
EMILY BARRESI
2016



ELI'S PUMPKIN
AURELIA WRENN
2019



ASH #3
LINDSAY STONE
2017

Pea Plant

HANNAH DUANE

The sidewalk spirals in treetops below me today
shoe soles click louder than usual or
I can hear better now
or I don't think I can hear at all.

When stressed, reality fades. Moments pass
like river water. I've given up on isolating
drops. Curve and curve and curve. I've missed
my bus stop. I meant to turn. The album ended

and all I can hear forever is silence.

There is this silence inside of me. Silence slinking
in between gaps in reason. Eats thought
with voracious hunger—almost amazing to watch.

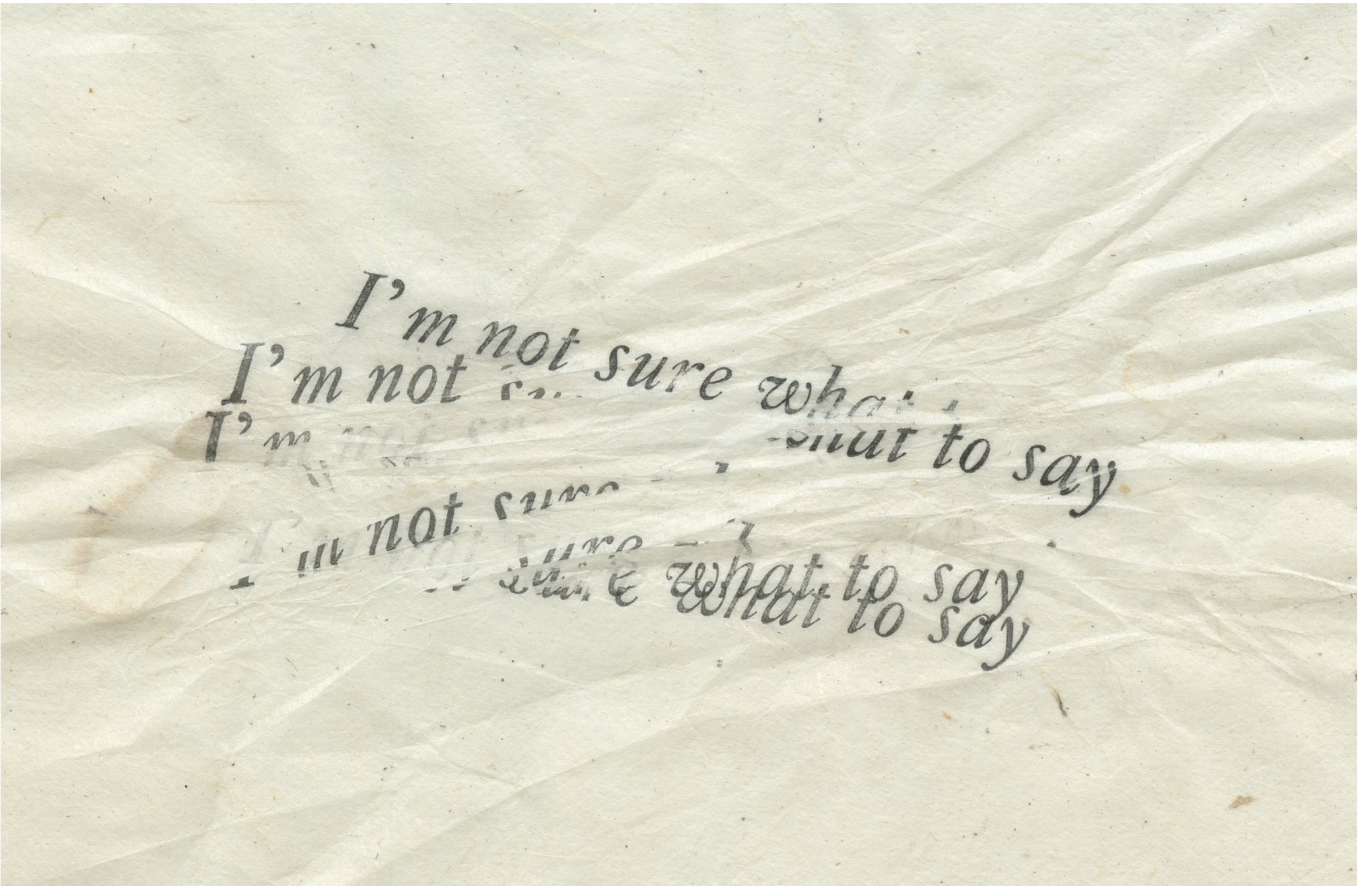
But nothing that isn't real can hurt you.

Tilt eyes up, hold forearms. Notice:
skin cells drop to the floor—
join sand from cuffed pants.

Tell me: why do I feel each muscle in my back?
I am unfurling these days.
Eat pea tendrils so someday I will
feel them grow tall in my belly.



UNTITLED STILL LIFE
AURELIA WRENN
2020



UNTITLED (I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY)
ALYSON PROVAX
2020



RED LANDSCAPE
XIAO WANG
2020

Hope Is Online

FELIPE RODOLFO HENDRIKSEN

You always say I don't know you at all, Hope, but I don't think that's true.

Here's what I know.

You never had a déjà vu. You probably never wore a purse. You once explained to me when it was right for you to wear a thong or not. You had many boyfriends and you kissed many men (and a couple of women). You tried weed once and it made you sick. You were my friend but we were never close. We talked about sex when we were fifteen years old. You watched porn, like me. You invited me to your home to watch MTV. You let me sleep on your shoulder once after reading *Death of a Salesman*. You put your head on my shoulder in a party while you waited for your ex to arrive. You sat ahead of me on a flight that almost fell to the sea. You cut your hair short and dyed it red. You walked with me through a British cemetery and urged me to speak. We hugged and cried, and then you went to sleep (and cry some more). You didn't want to lose me after I did everything to lose you. You have abs, and you like to show them. Your breasts are smaller than mine. We spent a lot of time together when we were kids, playing pretend. You probably have a TikTok account, and that's just sad. You don't like Borges as much as I do, and that's sad too. You read more Hesse than I did. You never held my hand, and you never kissed me. You had many friends and I hated them all. You like anime and you love Naruto. You once asked me to watch *Attack on Titan* so you could have someone to discuss it with.



THIS MOMENT
MICHAEL HYUN GU KANG
2020

We don't have many photos together (less than five). You say you like comics, and I want to believe it's true. Your favorite movies are: *Girl, Interrupted*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. You're a bit edgy, and I like that. You like to read, and I didn't know that. Your dad always wanted a son. You always argue with your parents, but deep down you love them. We never say "Happy Birthday" to each other. You sometimes tell me things because I'm the only one who cares. You say you're a libertarian girl, but I think you're joking. You're lost, you don't know what to do with your life. You like to travel, or so I think. You're a radical feminist, and it's hard to cope with that. You don't like me anymore, you never really did. We always argued, and it was always my fault. You didn't go to prom with me, and I didn't ask. I saw your nipple once, in Paris (I've seen better since). I never jerked off thinking about you (I promise). I'd never have sex with you, I'd never even kiss your lips. I don't know how I dared to tell you I loved you. I always dream about you, I still do (after all these years). You never accepted my gifts. You always ignored me. You ghost me all the time. You put up with me too many times. You went to my house once, because you were worried. I cut because of you, and I let you know (I'm sorry). You hate your nose, and I love it. You taunt me, you play with me. You told me one night that you regretted everything. You told me you made out with my best friend to hurt me. You said "No" when I said "I love you." You blocked me too many times. You don't know why I love you so much, and neither do I. you like stupid bands with edgy singers. You let a douchebag finger you and you sucked a scumbag's dick. You liked to use dark blue lipstick. You like my brother more than me. Your favorite Pokémon is Vaporeon. You have poor taste. You're materialistic and cocky, according to a female friend. You're hot, according to another (but you're not so hot as you think). You draw like shit and, if you write, it's probably not good either. You like staying up late drinking coffee. You don't like your career. You'd love to be a psychic (and I can only laugh at you). You always used eyeshadow and chokers. You get bored too fast. I never got over you, and never



OCTOBER 11, 2020. DAY 209
AMY ELKINS
2020

will. Your grandfather was a cop and wrote books. Your grandmother loved me more than you ever did. Your mother was always nice to me. Your father never trusted me at all. Your cousins probably know you're my crush. Your surname is stupid. Your name is sweet. You don't want to see me anymore, you never did. I never saw you in a swimsuit. You provoke me sending me photos. You use me because you love the attention. You hope I forget about you. You wish me well. I haven't heard your voice in six years, we haven't been friends for more.

From now on



SLUMBER (AFTER GOYA) - DAWN
XIAO WANG
2020



ASH #1
LINDSAY STONE
2017

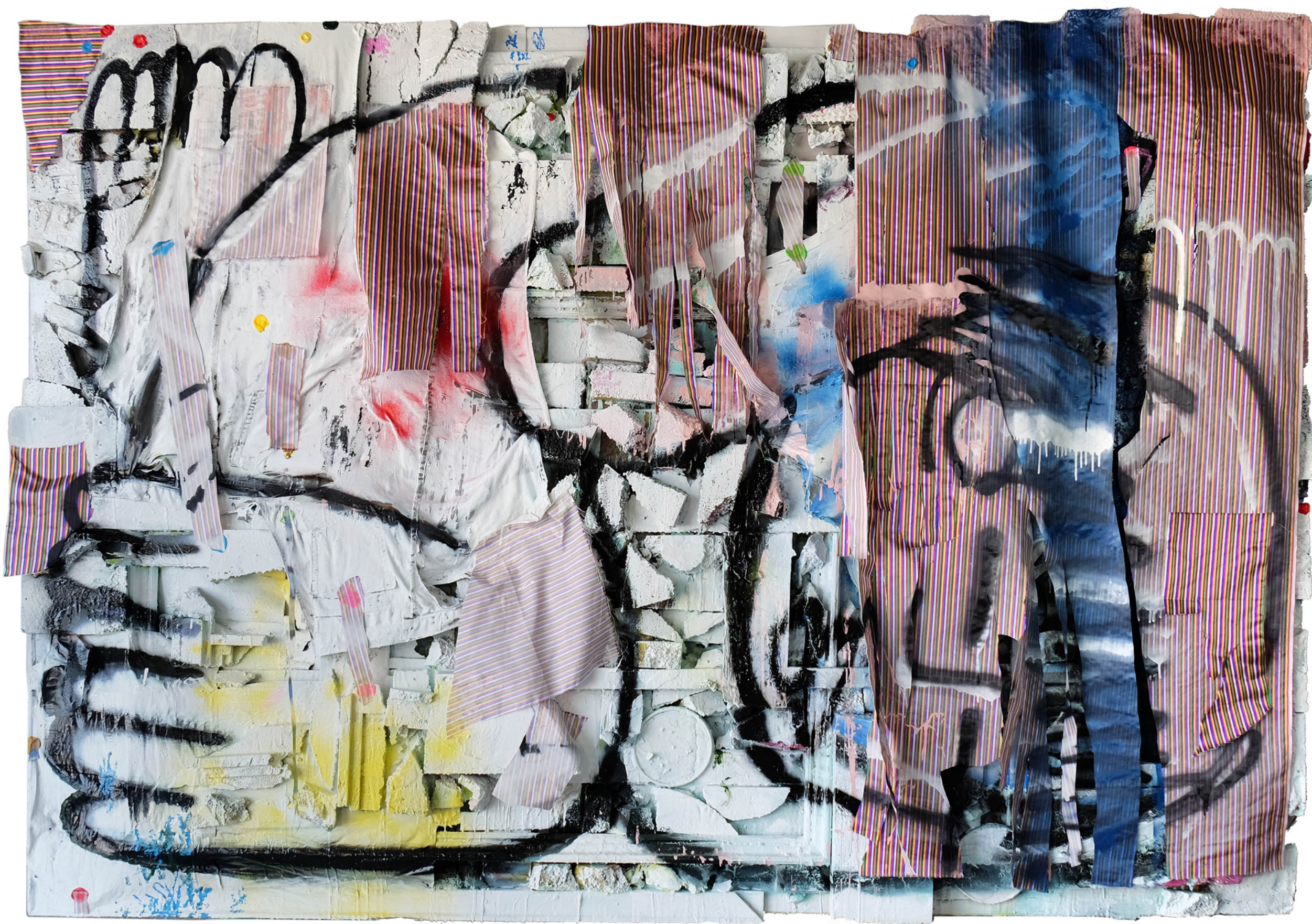
K i k u

B E N O H M A R T

Happy Life
Happy Sale
on the red poster
behind her as the customers
mill past and barely look
Irasshaimase
as she folds the shirts
others have looked at and
tried to fold back themselves
her feet are tired
which do not interest her
the manager is serving a customer
who has only bought one thing
but soon she will be over
instructing again on how
to fold—no, that is not fair
on which shirt should be on top
as
Medium is the quickest to go
and if the most popular is

put on top, there is less reason
generally
to dig through for sizes

that is understandable
but she wishes there
were more customers



SHELTER
MICHAEL HYUN GU KANG
2020



OCTOBER 14, 2020. DAY 212
AMY ELKINS
2020



HE STOOD THERE SCREAMING
EMILY BARRESI
2018

**THE
BACK
PAGE**

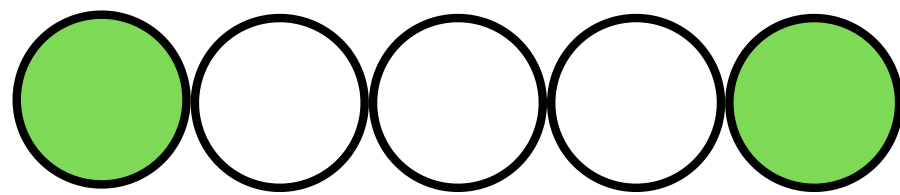
BY
LAURA JAYE CRAMER

THE WEEKLY MUMBLE

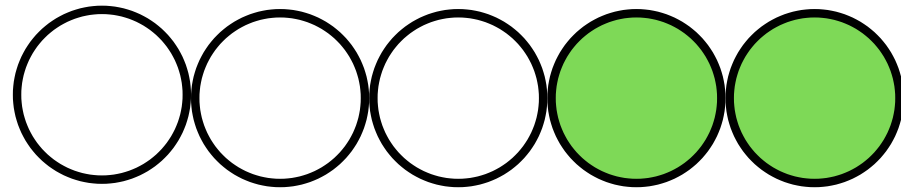
WORD STUFF

Unscramble each Mumble to form five ordinary words.
Then, arrange the green letters in the highlighted spaces to
complete the punchline.

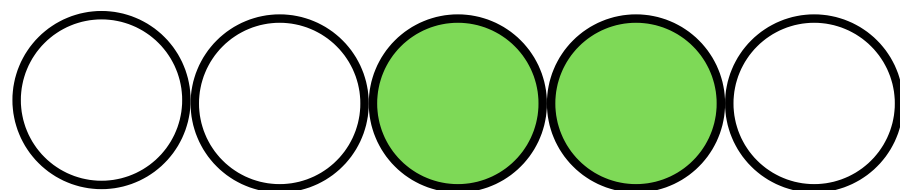
GMTIH



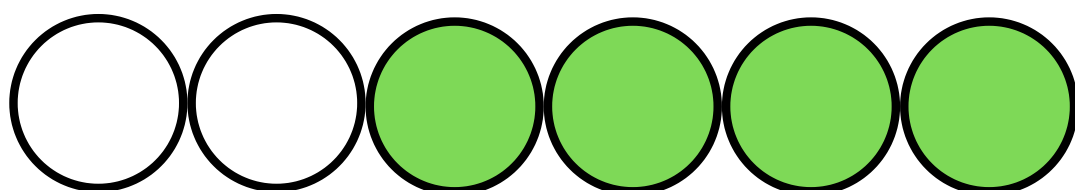
SEERU



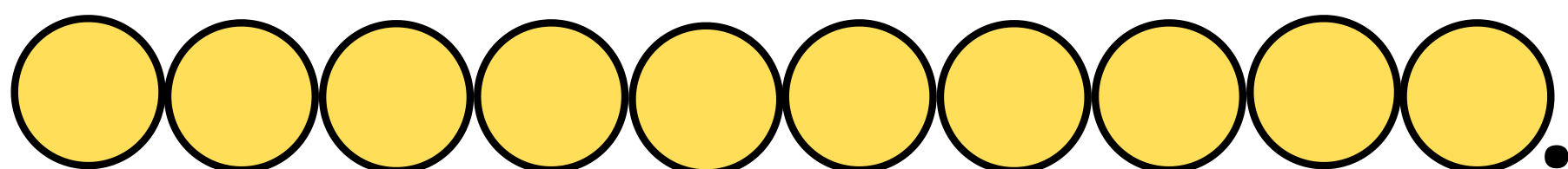
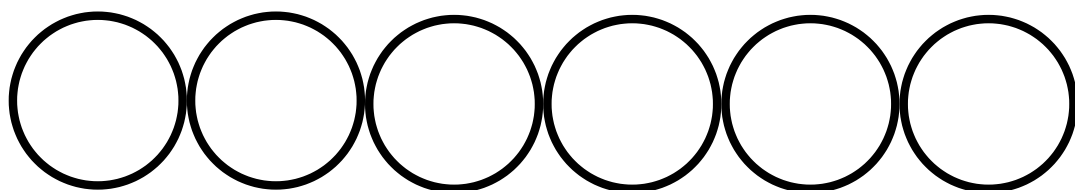
NVGEI



SUELHB



ALTUCA



(Answers next week.)

Last week's answers:

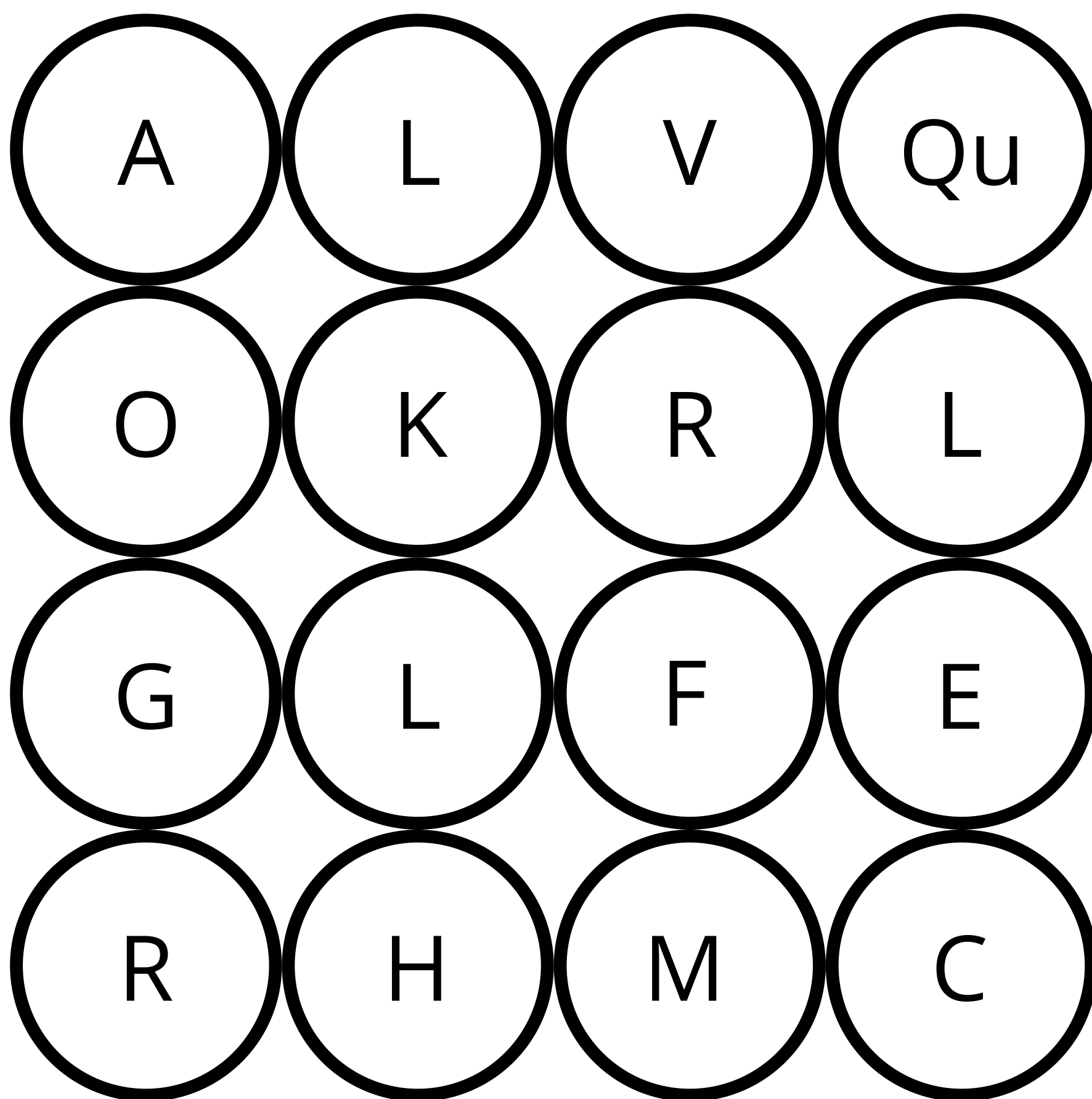
RAZORS, PLUMB, EXERT, SALMON, DONKEY

Whiteboards are like prodigies, they're *remarkable*.

BONGGLE

Set a timer for three minutes (honor system!) to find as many words as possible within the grid by connecting letters horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

You know, like Boggle.



SCORING (by word):

three/four letter - 1 pt.
five letter - 2 pt.
six letter - 3 pt.
seven letter - 4 pt.

Send your list of words and your score to:
theracketreadingseries@gmail.com

High score gets a shout out in the next issue!

BONGGLE

LAST WEEKS WORDS

bien	coir	dop	iron	nib	pine	roch
bier	comb	dor	irone	nid	pinier	rod
bin	come	dorb	ironer	nidor	pion	roin
bine	comer	emir	ironier	nie	pioner	rom
biner	con	emo	mein	nim	pir	rone
biro	cone	emodin	men	nimb	pirn	vein
brei	coni	hoc	meno	nip	pirnie	venom
bren	cop	hod	merc	nod	pod	verb
brie	cor	hoi	merch	nodi	poh	verm
brier	corbie	hom	mib	noh	poi	in
brim	corn	hombre	mien	noir	pom	
brin	corner	home	mine	nom	pome	
brine	corni	homer	miner	nome	pone	
briner	cornier	homie	mini	nor	porier	
brinier	crem	homier	mino	nori	porn	
brio	cremini	hominid	minor	och	pornier	
bro	cremor	hon	mir	ombre	rei	
broch	din	hone	miri	omen	rein	
brod	dine	honer	mirin	omer	rem	
brome	diner	hop	miro	one	remorid	
bromin	dino	hori	moc	oner	ren	
bromine	dip	horn	moch	onie	rev	
bronc	diphone	horner	mod	opine	rib	
choir	doc	hornier	modi	orb	rid	
chon	doh	inch	moi	orbier	riem	
chop	dom	income	mon	pho	rim	
chopin	dome	incomer	moner	phon	rime	
chopine	domier	inerm	monie	phone	rimer	
chorine	domine	inorb	mop	phoner	rin	
cod	don	intro	mor	phonier	rine	
coin	done	ion	morn	pin	rip	
coiner	doner	irid	morne	pinch	roc	

THIS WEEK'S WINNER:
Brad Salterson

*TO BE A WINNER -
SEND US YOUR
ANSWERS!*

CONTRIBUTORS

EMILY BARRESI

HANNAH DUANE

AMY ELKINS

FELIPE RODOLF HENDRIKSEN

MICHAEL HYUN GU KANG

ALYSON PROVAX

BEN OHMART

LINDSAY STONE

XIAO WANG

AURELIA WRENN



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IS CLOSED.**

