

## WHAT'S INSIDE

“**I** THINK it is in collaboration that the nature of art is revealed.”

the jazz artist and prolific collaborator Steve Lacy once said. In this special issue of the magazine we take a look at what writing in collaboration with another writer, artist, or musician can bring to the work, to the individual artists involved, and to our understanding of the creative process.

The poet Yusef Komunyakaa, in his essay, “The Spirit of Yes,” writes that “collaboration is a tango of sorts, a system of anticipation.” Brian Turner and Matthew Burgess, both poets and teachers, offer us some fun and interesting teaching ideas, and describe how the collaborative work they assign in the classroom creates a playfulness that encourages students to take risks with their work. Or, as poets Denise Duhamel and David Trinidad put it in their collaboratively-written haiku, “When we work alone / we stew in own juice: as two / we blend pink smoothies.”

They are joined, in these pages, by poet John Yau; musician David Grubbs; and the artist team of Matthew Dalziel and Louise Scullion in a lively collection of interviews on the collaborative process. Nick Flynn and Josh Neufeld discuss the creation of their poem-comics and show us a selection of their work together; and an excerpt from T&W's own *Handbook of Poetic Forms* on the Renga explores the use of this ancient collaborative form.

We hope you enjoy the issue, and, in the spirit of collaboration, pass it along.

— Susan Karwoska



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