

Alex Weiss November 2014

Magazine: Driftwood Press

<u>Issue #:</u> 5

<u>Editor:</u> James McNulty and Jerrod Shwarz <u>Web Address:</u> <u>http://www.driftwoodpress.net/</u>

<u>What they publish:</u> Fiction, poetry, photography, graphic narrative, literary criticism, and interviews. They focus on symbols and themes, along with anything from stream of consciousness to minimalism, realism to absurdism, hybrid forms of experimental works, contemporary noir, or anything of literary merit. They stray away from young adult, fantasy, romance, novel chapters, and mainstream mystery fiction.

<u>Submission Guidelines:</u> One piece of prose, no longer than 4,000 words. Single spacing, including a name on the first page. '.Doc' or '.Docx' file types, don't submit PDFs. <u>Description of Publication:</u> Includes an opening page with a table of contents. Interviews follow multiple poems and stories. The ending pages are followed by submitted art and works cited pages. It's a neat and visually appealing issue to read through.

Prose Per Issue: 6-7

<u>Prose Review:</u> *The Unrecognizable Men,* by Michael X. Wang is a story told in two parts: the first through an unidentified cop investigating the accusations of thievery, rape, and physical violence by extremely confused victims in the small, small town. None of the victims can remember what the three men looked like, or any trait that could help this cop find the men. The second part is told by one of these men who is explaining this whole issue of being forgotten by everyday people to a kid. The men are forgotten once someone turns their head, and as he explains it to the kid, it's touched on that this happens quite often, and it just might happen to him.

The point of view of this story was intriguing and confusing. It used second person when the forgotten man was talking, but first in the cops point of view when he was interviewing the victims. Sometimes dialogue quotations were used, and other times they weren't, so stylistically it has a personality. It balanced between realism and sci-fi without jumping in one side too heavily. The characters were strong even though they had no physical description. The place was told through the dialogue, and you understood character personalities with how they talked to one another. It felt like putting together a puzzle with a mysterious quality.

If Only the Official Trainee's Kit Included Herbicide, by Virginia Elizabeth Hayes is a short piece about a young real estate trainee trying to pass her training by selling a house. After forty showings, potential buyers are turned off by the jungle-like backyard that hasn't been touched in centuries due to the man who lives there and has spent his life ridding himself of worries by just allowing himself to sit and think, and therefor never get back up.

Mostly told through dialogue, it moved at a fast pace. Like the last story, it had a theme of mixing reality with fantasy with people and concepts. Overall, it was strong writing, but the writer could have focused more on the setting since it was centered around the backyard and it was only shown for a sentence or two.

Rating: 6, they're a new press accepting new writers, but are limited in what they accept.