

the contributors

series I . episode I . water

Taylor Adam Swift
Photos and Essays



When Taylor Adam Swift packed his bags at age nineteen to pursue his wildest dreams of being a photographer, his mother said her goodbyes and added: I believe people are going to know your name all over the world. . . . He shook it off as fame was not his forte.

Fearless, he pursued photography, then social justice, graphic design, spoke at a TEDx event, and now builds nets of all shapes and sizes. The last time he counted, he had logged over 10,000 miles by boat, 300,022 miles by car, and “several” by plane.

He currently lives in the Pacific Northwest with his two best friends, music and solitude. Find his work at tayloradamswift.com.

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Natalie Blanton
Photos and Essays



Natalie Blanton is a vegan ecofeminist from the rural mountains of Utah. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in environmental sociology at the University of Utah. When she is not completely consumed by that stress monster, she can be found reading, getting responsibly lost in the mountains or across the globe, teaching sex education at the local jail, reluctantly protesting animal rights atrocities, making coffee, or selling books. Natalie lives in Salt Lake City, works as Director of Communications for Sage Mountain: An Advocate for Farm Animals, and is a devout rescue dog mum.

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Lauren Lockey

Essay



A passionate animal welfare advocate since childhood, Lauren Lockey grew up in southwestern Ohio. During these years she developed a fond admiration for animals of all kinds, which influenced her decision to embrace a vegetarian and vegan lifestyle. This also led to her continuing volunteer work of educating people on issues such as animal testing in labs and the Bovine Growth Hormone in dairy cows.

Since relocating to Utah in 2002, Lauren has been active in local animal welfare issues through writing, public speaking, petitioning, promoting plant-based nutrition, and playing an integral role in horse rescue operations. Lauren is currently the executive director of Sage Mountain: An Advocate for Farm Animals, and truly believes compassion begins with what we choose to eat each and every day.

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Haley Morris
Photos



Haley currently lives, works, and plays in and around the Colorado Rocky Mountains. She finds taking photos to be energizing and therapeutic. Her favorite subjects are her nephews, her cats, and the occasional resident foxes. She gets as much joy from a six pack of cheap beer on a sunny day as a pint of craft brew with good company. She loves music, a raucous night dancing, iced coffee, her middle finger, and above all, her family.

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Dana Perry

Essay

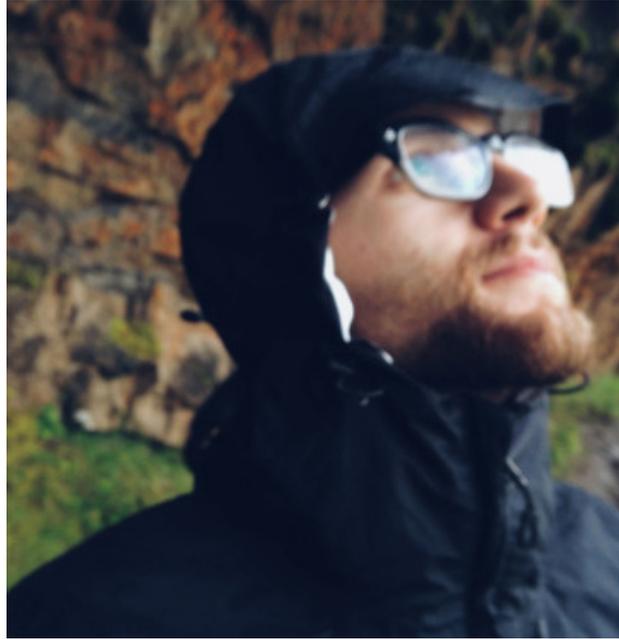


Originally from rural north Idaho, Dana Perry is a Brooklyn-based freelance grant writer and copy writer for numerous nonprofit organizations, individual artists, and small businesses. She holds an eclectic collection of ongoing education certificates and an M.A in Sociology from The New School. She is currently studying clinical herbalism at ArborVitae in NYC.

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Travis Hammill

Essay



Travis Hammill is a grassroots organizer with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance where he works in their Washington, DC office to build support and mobilize activists to protect wilderness lands in Utah. He lives in Alexandria, Virginia with his wife Rachel and his cat Misha. He enjoys hiking and mountain biking, playing guitar, and drinking beer with whomever will share one. He can be reached at travis@suwa.org.

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Z.G. Tomaszewski

Poetry



Born in 1989 and currently living in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Z.G. Tomaszewski is a poet, maintenance man, and musician, as well as co-director of Lamp Light Musical Festival and a founding member of Great Lakes Commonwealth of Letters. His first book *All Things Dusk*, was selected by Li-Young Lee as the 2014 International Poetry Prize winner and published by Hong Kong University Press.

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Tom Van de Water

Essay



Tom Van de Water first worked on the Selway in 1980 on a trail crew and began fire lookout with his partner Betsy Kepes in 1988. With their sons Lee and Jay, they have continued to work lookout and trails in the Selway country of Idaho. During the school year he can be found teaching high school earth and environmental science at Canton High School in Canton, NY.

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Aftyn Shah
Linocut Prints



Aftyn Shah is the self-taught printmaker behind Rise + Wander, an artistic endeavor she started to inspire herself and others to get up and get outside. Fascinated by the diverse textures and contrasts of nature, her work generally focuses on landscapes and outdoor scenes. She currently lives just outside Philadelphia with her husband and son.

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Kelsey K. Sather

Essay



Kelsey (kelseyksather.com) was born and raised in the Gallatin Valley. After nearly a decade of living in numerous crevices around the U.S. and abroad, she moved back to Bozeman to take root and share her passion for writing with the community. She co-founded the Thunderhead Writers' Collective, where she teaches creative writing workshops. With a MA in Environmental Humanities from the University of Utah, her writing explores human-nature relationships and has appeared in numerous magazines and literary journals. When she isn't wrapped up in words, she can usually be found rock climbing, teaching yoga, cooking, painting, or hiking. She creates a life with her loving husband, Jarred, and their two fur babies, Titia and Jehuty.

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JP Kemmick
Short Story



JP Kemmick lives in Portland, Oregon where he writes about music, literature, and the environment.

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Allison Lansverk

Essay



Allison Lansverk is a PhD candidate in evolutionary biology, studying domestication and speciation. Though she currently resides in the coastal plains of eastern North Carolina, her heart has never left Bozeman, MT, a place of mountain peaks, a confluence of three rivers, and something less tangible. Because of her love of biology and creative nonfiction, she often finds herself weaving scientific concepts into her writing, and is always searching for ways to anchor herself to a sense of place through words.

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KD Segura
Poetry



KD Segura was born in 1990 and raised in the dirty south. She is a creator. She is a poet. She is an activist, writer, zine maker, DIY enthusiast, and artist. KD is best known for her free verse poetry, political works, and published academic pieces. She focuses on the intersectionalities of her experiences existing as a queer person of color in different spaces. KD competes with the Bozeman Poetry Collective and currently resides in Bozeman, MT.

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Mollie Dwyer

Essay



Mollie Dwyer currently lives with her partner on their sailboat in Juneau, Alaska and is working on her undergraduate degree in environmental science. She dabbles in writing and the visual arts, and spends most of her spare time pursuing a torrid love affair with Southeast Alaska. She believes in humane spider rescues, unabashedly caring about the earth, and working to be kind and true.

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Hayley Hungerford
Illustrations



What do you do?

Freelance illustrator, watercolor painter, designer, musician, barista, cat lover, good cook, likes lighting candles and looking for the moon.

Why do you do what you do?

To express awareness of an emotional truth. To re-evaluate my understanding of perspective. To prove to myself I can be diligent in a personal practice and ultimately, to be happy.

How do you work?

With a hot cup of Madcap coffee and a .005 pen, used in a crosshatch and stippled fashion. Make a mark, start a line, start another, carry on with the first, continue the second while starting a third.

What's your background and what work do you most enjoying doing?

Born in Waterford, Michigan, cultured in Grand Rapids. Received a BFA in illustration from Kendall College of Art and Design. Earned a few awards and have had work featured in various zines and broadsides. I enjoy anything flora or fauna related, quiet observational studies of simple things that catch the light.

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Carl D. Esbjornson

Essay



Photo by Kelsey Sather

Carl Esbjornson (last name, Swedish, means “Son of the Bear God”) has been a university professor at Michigan State University and Montana State University, an environmental activist and wilderness advocate, a freelance writer, and best of all, a parent and spouse, who favors protecting all endangered species, including the most endangered of all—homo sapiens.

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Rachel Esbjornson
Essay



Photo by Lindsey Bolling Photography

An interdisciplinary spirit at heart, Rachel has engaged environmental issues from a variety of angles. She has worked on organic farms in Washington, as a naturalist and guide in Alaska, and an environmental educator and citizen science volunteer coordinator in Arizona. Advocacy for the natural world through art has also played an important role in Rachel's environmental work. While living in Alaska, she participated in an artist-in-residency with the Misty Fjords National Monument, exploring why wilderness areas are so important, and did a gallery exhibit of paintings that explore how there is just as much cooperation as competition in the natural world. At the core of Rachel's work is a desire to be involved in efforts to heal broken connections within the natural world, our communities, and ourselves. Recently, Rachel moved back to her hometown, Bozeman, MT, where she is working as an outdoor science educator and massage therapist.

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Rebekka Esbjornson

Essay



Photo by Lindsey Bolling Photography

Rebekka Esbjornson currently resides in her hometown of Bozeman, Montana, where she returned just over a year ago after ten years living in other states. While her love for the Rocky Mountains is down to her bones, her main heart-line now belongs to the weeping sky, lush ferns, towering cedar, and ragged, rocky coastline of a strange little Southeast Alaskan island town, Ketchikan, or the place that is home. Rebekka currently runs a coffee shop in the heart of Bozeman's downtown, but will soon be relocating to Boston, Massachusetts to pursue a Publishing and Writing MA at Emerson College. She has put words to paper since she could hold a pen, and has always been drawn to wild spaces. Rebekka deeply believes in the power of community, and authentic human connection, in facilitating the most profound change.

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Johannes Oberman
Photos



Johannes is a traveller, a collector of friends, and a individual that's always searching for the next adventure. Based in New York City, he works as a freelance photographer and videographer.

series I

Phillip Harder
Cover Design



Somewhere on the East Coast, Phillip Harder was born into a family of 6 & grew up across the States; with the exception of a year long stopover in England when he was 10.

Along the way he quickly became acquainted with the power of human intimacy & the the weight of memories.

In light of these findings, he set out to capture them.

Phillip Harder is a photographer based somewhere in America & works with brands, musicians & all sorts of other human beings that are wanting to create media that means something.

series I

Tyler Dunning
Editor



Photo by Phillip Harder

Born and raised in Montana, Tyler developed a feral curiosity at a young age. This disposition has led him around the world, to nearly all of the U.S. national parks, and to the backcountry of his own creativity and consciousness. He's dabbled in such occupations as professional wrestling, archaeology, social justice advocacy, and academia. At his core he is a writer.