

Timothy Gager – Featured Poet

Five Poems



Feature – Five Poems

Day One: The Day After

One eye, a closed dysfunction
disfigurement , and hard stare
please don't look, willing to
accept—we sailed the open
seas, invited trouble, waved
on over whenever it was

when you felt lonely, you bled
screamed, “What did I take” until
it ended in your aftermath
Mother, came over
there was a search mission
picking up the pieces,

the compounds the powders off the rug,
the kitchen floor, each one a friend but,
“Were they drugs?” mother asked.

You answer with a self-righteous—
dammit with a fist, on the table.
We all become disfigured

What's the answer?
The question disappeared-
The question appeared

In rehab, there was shame
for 24 hours or 29 days shame,
no shame, shame, no shame

Red Barn

there is no reason
to go inside the Red Barn
no need
suspicion
perception

how we turn
will make America
want to call it as is:
Blood on a meat hook
hanging from an adversary

Bringing a Monkey to Work

Pluto was his name
He arrived on your back

We've reigned cats and dogs
here: never a monkey

Careful, you tell the boss, he
might rip off your hypocrisy

now you're facing the music.
Human Resources said that

no one is allowed to throw feces
around this office, unfit for human

employment—how short is life?
You should leave

Pluto will always be with you.

The Truth About Pastels

I don't see color
but I see *color*

Fearless souls live in deep colors
but wish for pastels, really,

soft in color comparison
used to soothe the serious

seeking to spring out of a skin
as oily as Craypas. How difficult

to understand that
Sakura is a cherry blossom
inside on the box with all
the pastels you need

Still there Are Boxes

If only we let go
still images remain
Pictures, boxes
the photos fell

Leave them there
the many and only like being
trapped in a room full of people
There's safety in a cage.

What provides the shade?
There's still a single hair
between my eyebrows
One tree in the desert

Timothy Gager is the author of thirteen books of short fiction and poetry, including two novels. His latest *Chief Jay Strongbow is Real* his first book of poetry since 2014. He has had over 400 works of fiction and poetry published, of which eleven have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize. His work has been read on National Public Radio. He has hosted the successful Dire Literary Series in Cambridge, Massachusetts since 2001.