

Micki Blenkush

For the Students of Senior Picture Season

Stone Arch Bridge, Minneapolis

Each of you staged by turns
before the mill's artful ruins
and the upswept spray
of the dam-spilled river.

Someone carries a change of clothes,
a comb, your metaphorical placement.
You in newly-distressed jeans,
the store's folded crease

crisp against the offhand pose.
Your indelible image high above
the graffiti-graced relics
and shadowed trails.

Your tense jaw poised to smile
when the shutter finally opens.
Archways, railings, lavish jam of logs
across the crouched falls.

You hunched on the curb,
outside the frame,
one hand atop your sprayed 'do
while the photographer stages

a light reflector
against the cloud-drowned sun.
Your wind shedding loose
October trees.

Micki Blenkush lives in St. Cloud, MN and works as a social worker. She was selected as a 2017-2018 fellow in poetry for the Loft Literary Center's Mentor Series program and was a 2015 recipient of an Emerging Artist Grant awarded by the Central MN Arts Board. Her writing has appeared in a number of journals, including: Gyroscope Review, South 85 Review, Star 82 Review, Pittsburgh Review, Sequestum, and is forthcoming in Midway Journal, Postcard Poems and Prose, and Crab Creek Review.