

Bonnie Jill Emanuel

## During the war

the field is green.  
I drown too much wine.  
My long silk sea gown.  
The news drones  
on & on like a wasp in a full wet stem.  
When I track  
your brow with my tongue  
you caw.  
Grass & its teeth  
look up the slow cream paste  
sky. My  
eyes shrink small.  
We do bad things in the sun.  
Count of crows mix  
on the wire, they come,  
they come with their thick black god-  
like call.



Dear Readers,

As you open the pages of *RHINO 2025*, know that you are part of a community that has made this publication and all related programming possible since 1976. We thank you for your passion for poetry in Illinois, the United States, and around the world.

The cover of *RHINO 2025* proudly features the art installation, *Table for One*, Cynthia Kerby's Best-in-Show piece from the exhibit "Preposterous Dadaism 2024." In her artist's note, she writes:

*Take a seat. Your action has consequences. The world is burning, our government is burning, our society is burning. Is your plate full? We eat without the nutrients of human decency. We're never satisfied, we quench our thirst and ignite our worst fears. We are together alone, burned out. Vessels burning.*

Cynthia Kerby lists the materials for her piece as follows: punch wood resin on a water pitcher, tulle, wire, resin, burned wood, ash, arylacrylene resin, and silverware. Out of the materials of the current moment, the joy and ethical hubris and adventure, poets have created art to provoke and sustain us. In the poems that follow, you'll find vessels and ashes and everything in between.

Thank you, again, for your readership, for coming to our events, and for your ongoing support. Your participation sustains *RHINO's* commitment to poetry as our compass and star map.

With appreciation,  
The Editors of *RHINO 2025*

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