

The Catalanian Review

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Editor: Unlisted

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Web Address: www.catalonianreview.com

What They Publish: Poetry and fiction.

Submission Guidelines: Submit stories 3,000 words or fewer, though they prefer fewer than 1,000 words.

Submission period appears to be always open. It is published quarterly. Simultaneous submissions are welcome, just notify them if piece is accepted elsewhere. Paste work into an e-mail with your name and the genre of your work (fiction or poetry). No multiple submissions. Only original work. No reprints.

Description of Publication: An online quarterly that is looking for work that is experimental and literary. More poetry than prose and the prose published here is short, usually under 1,000 words (sometimes only a paragraph long) though guidelines say they will accept up to three poems. Web site is bare bones, plain but clean, and very readable. The current issue shows the contributors on the home page and each name is a link to their story or poem.

Prose Per Issue: 40 percent: 8 stories, 12 poems.

Prose Reviews:

Procedural by Roxane Gay is a plainspoken, experimental short story in a domestic setting. The narrator has a boyfriend who is sexually aroused by the television show *Law and Order*. She has grown accustomed to this oddity, at first finding it intriguing but now she accepts it. At the end of the story she comments that he never finds out what happens to the characters: “Thing is, he never knows how it all ends. He doesn’t see the trial and the bargaining and the defendant demanding to take the stand. He misses the twist and the verdict and the final prosecutorial quip. He’s asleep by then.”

The story is quick-moving; Gay takes you from their early dates to the moment they’re settling into a relationship. It’s funny, but you can’t help but feel a little sad for the narrator whose boyfriend is “Breathing heavy and trembling...By the time the coroner or emergency room physician or psychiatrist gives the detectives a rundown of all the things that went wrong in the victim’s life.”

Garibaldi by Dave Erlewine is a plainspoken, experimental story in a domestic setting. The narrator’s brother’s friend, Craig, is reading an affidavit, which he is about to sign, that says the narrator is of sound mind. The narrator has struggled with a stutter that has left him almost unable to speak. In the wake of his brother’s death he has decided to take matters into his own hands. He has found the root of his stuttering problem, a nodule in his brain he has named Garibaldi. Once Craig has signed off on the affidavit, the narrator will destroy the node with a needle and then he will call his wife and tell her it’s okay to come home.

The story is surprising in how convincing Erlewine makes the narrator. The story is somewhat absurd; the idea of naming part of your brain and trying to destroy it seems unbelievable. But upon a re-read there’s a creeping sadness that runs through the piece. The dead brother, the estranged wife and the left behind friend all make this story moving—if at times odd.

Rating: 5. *The Catalanian Review* is a new journal less than a year old. The work it publishes is experimental and odd but there are some gems there. No contributor bios are given, so there is no way of knowing just how much

room emerging authors are given per issue. That said, if you've got a piece that runs along the edge of the surreal, it might find a place in this journal.