

In the Ocean of Nothingness

Wading into clean, wrinkled laundry,
my ironing board's a pier
with buttoned-down barnacles.

The water will be warmer tomorrow.
It sloshes around my ankles
as I walk between sticky pilings.

Hip-deep, I finish the sleeves
of my third shirt, lean back
and float on crescents of disbelief

until I sink. A little background noise,
even in these depths, makes illusions
more believable to anyone gazing down.

I went for a long swim last night
between two tiny continents.

The entrails of a transparent fish

swayed in mordent harmony.

Near dawn, it spoke: "I am this universe."

Its gills rippled like buoyant silk.

Bill Mohr

Bill Mohr has a Ph.D. in Literature from the University of California, San Diego, and is currently an associate professor at CSU Long Beach, where he teaches 20th century American literature and creative writing in the MFA program. His literary history, *HOLDOUTS: The Los Angeles Poetry Renaissance 1948-1992*, was published by the University of Iowa Press in 2011. In addition to *Vehemence*, a spoken word release from New Alliance Records, his collections of poems include *Hidden Proofs* and *Bittersweet Kaleidoscope*.

