

THE POET AS SURGEON



Drawing by Brendan Constantine

It has occurred to me a fundamental truth
A poet who writes personal, introspective, psychological poetry,
is completely and utterly mad.

For they are a surgeon performing exploratory surgery on themselves
They dissect, cutting open old scars and retract their organs to
examine under penetrating light.

The poet who reads aloud is the most demented type of all
For they hold out their organs for total strangers to scrutinize
Today, I offer up my own still beating, fragile heart.

But know this, before you judge the color of my liver;
let me touch your spleen.

JAMES PINKERTON HAS BEEN WRITING POETRY FOR LESS THEN A YEAR. THIS IS HIS FIRST FEATURED READING. HE HAS A B.A. IN ENGLISH FROM CSU NORTHRIDGE. JAMES HAS WORKED AS A PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVER, MECHANICS ASSISTANT, MATHEMATICS TUTOR, SUBSTITUTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AND AN AMERICORPS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY. HE IS CURRENTLY STUDYING POETRY WITH LAUREL ANN BOGEN. JAMES LIVES WITH A ROOMMATE IN SUNLAND, CALIFORNIA.

