



# The BEAT

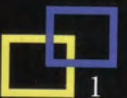
*Volume XIII*

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Cover Art:

**The Storm**, by Shahram Yazdani



## Twelve Ways of Listening to Maria

Ray Luo

I.

One hand after the other,  
One step over the next along these walls.  
A light irradiating from some chamber  
Of the mind, a heart pumping from Maria.

II.

I hear in blue,  
I hear in gold,  
I see in green Maria's glow.

III.

While all dream of one-sided fractals not one  
itself  
Maria sits and nods.

IV.

Print and illustration  
Subsume the world.  
Print and illustration and identity  
Subsume Maria.

V.

I do not know whether  
I should look inside  
The album to read its mind,  
Or judge the cover  
To feel its heart;  
Whether Maria is outside,  
Or inside.

VI.

A radio blasting against  
Trumpets from a statue,  
"Long live my ideas!"  
Written down and  
Deciphered  
By Maria,  
Silent as a sculpture.

VII.

The walls push us in  
To look at one side of the mirror,  
Each angle a patch of color.  
Do you not see the refraction  
Of Sorrento, Amsterdam, Dusseldorf  
Off the Milky Way?

VIII.

I can write greetings  
In Hallmark style,  
And draw pithy figurines.  
I know also Maria is part of  
More than I know.

IX.

Paint easels, PF Flyers, pillows,  
We think we know.  
Not Oreos, Ipods, or watches.  
They come out of the reflection of  
Shards of glass on the wall.

X.

As Maria moves from my mind  
To yours,  
Please listen to the whisper  
Without looking.

XI.

One after another along those walls.  
Where is the issue?  
The side-long glances off the prism,  
Are light split between you and I and Maria.  
What then is heard?

XII.

One pillow after another,  
The watch stopped ticking.  
Infinite time,  
Infinite turns,  
Infinite shards.  
There Maria stands, listening.

## Literature Biographies

Doris N. Finck - Men Wearing Robes and Gowns

Doris Fink has worked at the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior for 25 years. For the past 10 years she has edited the SIN & HB Newsletter, which is e-mailed twice a month to more than 1,000 NPIH staff and faculty, and ends each Newsletter with a "doris rhyme." She doesn't think of her un-poetic, "Doris rhymes" as "art" but as acerbic amusing comments about "life."

Eddie Garcia - Blocked!

Eddie Garcia is a first year medical student. He likes limericks, Morningstar vegan buffalo chicken wings and wearing scrub pants all day, every day. His limerick, "Blocked," is an allegory of the discontinuity of service between specialties in the current health system.

Elaine Hirsch - Let There Be Light

Elaine Hirsch (pseudonym) is a graduate student in the neurosciences. She enjoys writing and wrote this essay out of a desire to communicate her experience and break the bonds of isolation that a mood disorder can create. This is her first published piece.

Devan Jaganath - Kanaka

Devan Jaganath is a third year medical student at UCLA. He wrote this poem in memory of his grandmother, Kanaka Chari.

Robert M. Kahn - IBID AND ANON

Robert M. Kahn MD is a Clinical Professor of Family Medicine, has been on faculty at UCLA for approximately 35 years. He also has a private practice in the Pacific Palisades.

Ellora Karmarkar - It, Calling, Untitled

Ellora Karmarkar is a second year medical student and a proud Santa Cruzan who loves the lower case, poetry and art and music. Her mother is a fallopian tube cancer survivor.

Ziyad Khesbak - Pomegranate

Ziyad Khesbak, a first year medical student, was born the son of Iraqi refugees in the wintry city of Warsaw. Since moving on to warmer locales, he has developed a disposition tending to invert the contextual relevance of most things in his life. He enjoys kisses, onion dolma, and is the perennial opponent of all things kilter.

Tanya Liu - The Microtome

Tanya Liu grew up in Miami, graduated from Pomona College, dabbles in creative writing, and currently plays with scientific instruments at UCLA.

Erica Lubliner - Sworn Disciple of the Germ Theory of Disease

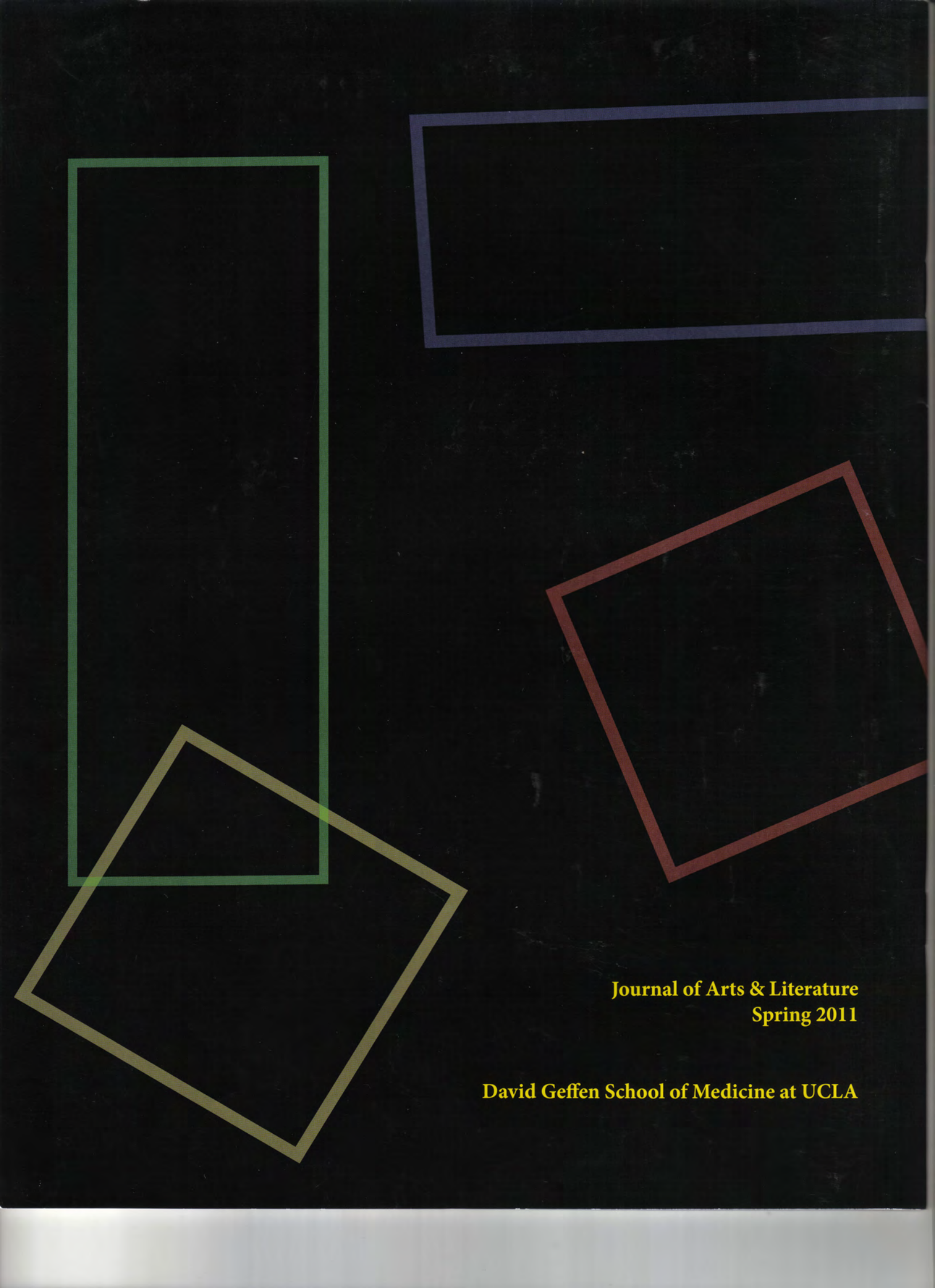
In medical school, Erica learned about Dr. Ignaz Philipp Semmelweis's pioneering idea in the 1800's proposing that- doctors wash their hands after doing work on corpses to prevent deaths in pregnant women. This poem was written during a cruise down the Nile River after realizing how washing hands affects people's relationships, wardrobe, and psyche; plus it's a small recognition to the doctor known as the "savior of mothers". P.S. Erica does not have OCD.

Ray Luo - Twelve Ways of Listening to Maria

Ray Luo is a graduate student in neuroscience. He has written for the Daily Bruin, UCLA Westwind literary magazine, and stagehappenings.com, among other venues. He studied math, computer science, and European studies while at Berkeley, but these days, he'd rather make a living by writing Hallmark cards. His work can be found at <http://rayluo.bol.ucla.edu/projects/articles/>.

Stacie Nishimoto - J. Joyce on a First Date, The gears of my mind don't creak at night

Stacie Nishimoto is a first year medical student at UCLA. She enjoys chilled guava juice and 2am delirium. The J. Joyce piece is an interpretation of an early scene in Ulysses, where the protagonist (Bloom) receives a love letter written in a symbolic language of flowers.

The background is a solid black color. It features four large, empty rectangular outlines in different colors and orientations. A green rectangle is positioned vertically on the left side. A blue rectangle is positioned horizontally at the top right. A red rectangle is tilted and positioned on the right side. A yellow-green rectangle is tilted and positioned at the bottom left, overlapping the green rectangle.

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