Zack Bean is the author of the story collection *Man on Fire* (ELJ, 2016). His stories and essays have appeared in *Fiction, Pank, Miracle Monocle*, and elsewhere. He teaches creative writing at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana, where he lives with his family and their pets.

Sara Bechtol earned her BA in English with a minor in Korean Studies at the University of Iowa. With her trusty dachshund by her side, she’s currently pursuing her MFA in Creative Writing at Texas State University and working on her first novel.

Sally Bosson lives in the cultural melting pot that is the Middle East, where she constantly finds inspiration for her short fiction. She is an avid reader and a novice ukulele player.

Ronda Piszk Broatch, poet and photographer, is the author of *Lake of Fallen Constellations*, (MoonPath Press, 2015). Ronda is the recipient of an Artist Trust GAP Grant, and her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart prize. Her journal publications include *Blackbird, Prairie Schooner, Sycamore Review, Mid-American Review*, and Public Radio KUOW’s *All Things Considered*, among others. She has an affinity for bones, old keys, and other such mortal reminders.
Nicholas Brown lives in Florida with a pup named Weird Boy. He enjoys basketball, trees, and lamping.

A nonprofit founder, Rachael Carnes develops inclusive performing arts experiences for people of all ages. She discovered playwriting in 2016 and is humbled by her many productions since, across the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. Highlights include invitations to the William Inge Theatre Festival, the Midwest Dramatists Center Conference, the Mid-America Theatre Conference, the Women's Playwright Initiative at the Ivoryton Playhouse, and the American Association for Theatre in Higher Education. Her play Partner Of— was published by the Coachella Review, won Best Play in the 2019 Take Ten Festival in NYC, received an Initiative Award at the Ivoryton Playhouse, and was featured at the 2019 Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Festival in New York City. Rachael’s full-length play, Canopy, received staged readings at the Parsons Nose Theatre in Pasadena, the first play in their inaugural Women’s Playwright Series, and was featured in the WriteON Festival. Rachael founded #CodeRedPlaywrightsENOUGH, a national playwrights’ collective dedicated to producing plays in response to gun violence, and she thanks her playwriting mentors and her family for their continuing support.

Samina Hadi-Tabassum is an associate professor at Erikson Institute in Chicago. Her first book of poems, Muslim Melancholia (2017), was published by Red Mountain Press. She has published poems in Tin House, Clockhouse, Conduit, East Lit Journal, Soul-Lit, Journal of Postcolonial Literature, Papercuts, The Waggle, Indian Review, Classical Poets, Mosaic, Main Street Rag, Connecticut River Review, Pilgrimage Literary Journal, riksha, and These Fragile Lilacs. Her poems were performed on stage as a part of the Kundiman Foundation and Emotive Fruition event focusing on Asian American poetry in 2016. She was a 2018 Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Performance finalist for the Guild Complex competition in Chicago. She has also published a short story titled “Maqbool” in the New Orleans Review journal in June 2018 and now it is a chapter in a Penguin anthology on Muslim writers.
Ollie Kurk is from Pleasant Hill, California. She is a freshman at Pacific University currently majoring in Creative Writing. She has an interest in art and has been creating art in her spare time since she was a child. She has no plans to stop creating art and will keep drawing throughout her studies and time at Pacific. Ollie has hopes to incorporate her art into her writings and make use of her artistic creativity. The piece “Colors Uncontained” is a pen portrait overlaid an abstract watercolor portrait, created with the intent to display the beauty of color and people in one composition.

Cal McCarthy is a junior English Literature major at Pacific University. They are currently working through three minors: Creative Writing, Editing & Publishing, and Gender & Sexuality Studies. Although originally from San Jose, California, they feel at home in the Pacific Northwest. Cal is passionate about writing, either academically or to explore creative ideas, and enjoys experimenting with different mediums of art in their spare time. This is their second year working on Silk Road.

Nancy Carol Moody is the author of two collections of poetry, “The House of Nobody Home” and “Photograph with Girls,” as well as the 8-poem chapbook, “Mermaid.” Her work has appeared in The Southern Review, The Gettysburg Review, Zone 3, and Nimrod, among others. Nancy also constructs collages by layering a variety of inks and papers, a process which bears a striking resemblance to the way she constructs her poems. When she’s not on a train, Nancy lives in Eugene, Oregon.

Em Nelson is a student who has worked with Silk Road as an assistant editor. They are currently completing their English Literature bachelor’s degree with an emphasis on medieval to early modern literature. They are also minoring in Editing & Publishing and Creative Writing.

Sarah Nicks is an artist who specializes in multi-media illustration. Inspired by fairy tales, she enjoys dabbling in charcoal, graphite, and
ink drawings, as well as digital painting. Her style has been described as “vibrant” and “whimsical.” Sarah studied at Grace Fine Arts for four years, winning three Best in Show awards, as well as Best Portrait, and Best Watercolor Painting. She is currently studying to become an art teacher. Sarah hopes to instill her deep love of all things art in her future students.

A confessed outsider, Chicago’s J. Ray Paradiso is a recovering academic in the process of refreshing himself as an experiMENTAL photographer and writer. His work has appeared in dozens of publication in print and online. Equipped with graduate degrees in both Business Administration and Philosophy, he labors to fill psycho-social holes and on good days to enjoy the flow.

Emily Pérez is the author of the poetry collection *House of Sugar, House of Stone*, and the chapbooks *Backyard Migration Route* and *Made and Unmade*. A granddaughter of Mexican immigrants, she grew up in the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. She graduated with honors from Stanford University and earned an MFA at the University of Houston, where she served as a poetry editor for *Gulf Coast* and taught with Writers in the Schools. A Canto Mundo Fellow, she has received funding and recognition from the Artist Trust, Jack Straw Writers, Bread Loaf Writers’ Workshop, Summer Literary Seminars, Inprint, and the Community of Writers at Squaw Valley. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in journals including *POETRY*, *Copper Nickel*, *Fairy Tale Review*, *Glass Poetry*, and *Queen Mob’s Teahouse*. She teaches English and Gender Studies in Denver where she lives with her husband and sons.

Alex Rawitz is a native New Yorker who now lives in San Francisco. His work has appeared in *Monday Night* and *Streetlight Magazine*.

C. R. Resetarits is a writer and visual artists. She has had writing out recently in *Southern Humanities Review* and *Native Voices: Indigenous American Poetry, Craft and Conversations* (Tupelo Press). Her collages have appeared recently in *New Southern Fugitive, Midway, The Journal of Compressed Creative Arts, Gasher, Sonder Review, Pretty Owl Poetry, Empty Mirror*, and *Nashville Review*. 
Emily Shearer is an ex-pat poet and yoga/French/writing teacher outside Houston, TX. She’s a fried-chicken-biscuit and a flute of Prosecco, followed by a barefoot boogie-woogie hallelujah. Her poems have been twice nominated for a Pushcart and the Best of the Web, shortlisted for the McCabe Poetry Prize, University of Houston Robertson Prize and Orison Anthology prize and published in Silk Road (forthcoming), Please See Me, jellybucket, Fiolet & Wing, emry’s journal online, psaltery & lyre, West Texas Literary Review, Clockhouse and Ruminante, among others. She has conversed with Viennese ghosts, photographed Mexican iguanas and wild horses in their native habitats, witnessed reincarnation and written about it all. You can find her on the beaches of North Carolina, the hilltops of Prague, the sidewalk cafes of any French-speaking country or on the web at bohemilywrites.net.

Emma Siple (she/her) is a junior in the Interior Architecture program at Cornish College of the Arts, in Seattle, Washington. Her personal work explores the serenity and rich colors of the natural environment. Emma’s work in pencil, chalk, and pen allow her to articulate intriguing details. She finds that the art making process is an avenue of study that can inform design in the built environment.

Maya Wahrman is a Bilingual Case Manager at the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, serving Hedgepeth-Williams Middle School of the Arts in Trenton, New Jersey. She graduated from Princeton’s Department of History, with certificates in Creative Writing and Near Eastern Studies, and is now undertaking her Masters of Social Work at Rutgers University. Wahrman has had opinion pieces published in the History News Network, the English and Hebrew editions of Haaretz, and Novelly, and has had poetry published in various publications, including Nimrod International Journal, Lilith Magazine, Love, Struggle, Resist, Fifth Wednesday Journal, The Copperfield Review, and the Jewish Currents Poetry Anthology Urge. Her writer’s website is mayawahrman.com.

Faith Whittington is from Portland. Her media consists of pen and ink with watercolor. In the process of creating, she’s found the ability
to balance structure and flow to her art. By using defining black line work and layered watercolor, Faith’s process leads to a completed piece that shows both, depth and delicacy. Whittington continues to use art as an outlet, and as a way to teach others how to express their thoughts and emotions. She believes that art offers so much power to those who wish to speak through impressions and interpretation.

Sally Wies graduated in 2016 with a BA in Creative Writing from Pacific University. She received the Amy M. Young Award in Creative Writing for nonfiction (2015), fiction (2016) and poetry (2016), and the University of Houston’s Robertson Prize for Creative Nonfiction in 2015. Her nonfiction has been published in Glass Mountain.

Michelle Delaine Williams grew up in Missouri and now resides in Portland, Oregon. She was a 2018 Atheneum fellow at the Attic Institute of Arts and Letters, where she also co-hosts the Fridays on the Boulevard reading series. Her work has appeared in RAIN Magazine, VoiceCatcher and Verseweavers.

Evie Zimmer is an American artist creating and teaching in Cleveland, Ohio. Her early work consists mainly of traditional portraits, although she has always been drawn to the intricate design and energetic beauty of op-art. Eventually, Evie began to explore her fascination with color, design, and pattern, and her work blossomed into her current mesmerizing style. Evie’s work has been described as a “strange loop” of process and product. Her oil paintings radiate an inherent energy field not unlike traditional mandalas with acidic colors transforming into soothing pastels, and geometric patterns melting into exotically organic shapes. Recently, Evie’s paintings have become more floral and symmetric yet maintain her unique and recognizable abstract style.