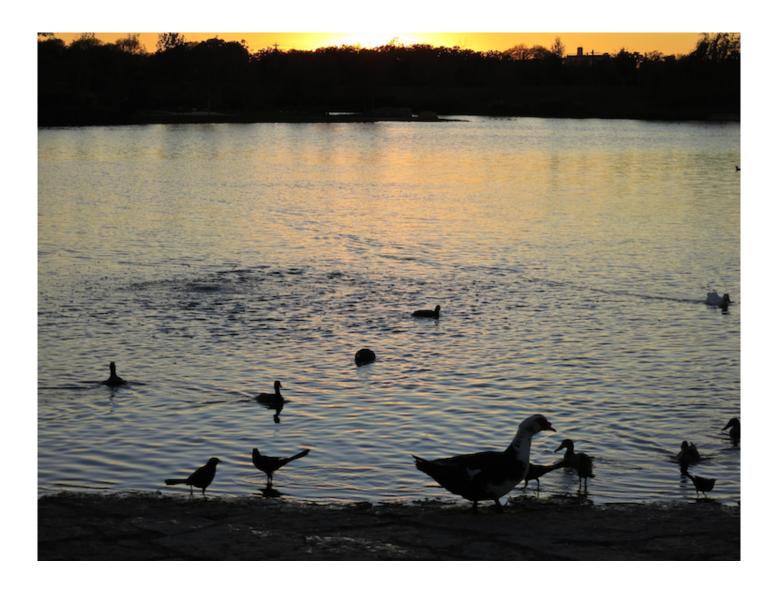
# Waterside at Mueller Lake Park [1]

May 22, 2017 <u>Featured Poetry</u> [2] <u>Borders</u> [3]

# Two Poems by David Meischen



## **Waterside at Mueller Lake Park**

Mallards bloom beside the reeds this morning while here along the trail, among the complicit shrubs, the butterflies smuggle pollen, and petals recall the shapes that bind us to them. A single drake wishes loudly for a cap less fraught with sheen—no creature wants such beauty, such

(function(i,s,o,g,r,a,m){i['GoogleAnalyticsObject']=r;i[r]=i[r]||function(){ (i[r].q=i[r].q||[]).push(arguments)},i[r].l=1\*new Date();a=s.createElement(o), m=s.getElementsByTagName(o)[0];a.async=1;a.src=g;m.parentNode.insertBefore(a,m) })(window,document,'script','https://www.googlege 1 of 3 analytics.com/analytics.js','ga'); ga('create', 'UA-18260536-1', 'auto'); ga('send', 'pageview');

#### **Waterside at Mueller Lake Park**

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attention. Better to serve unnoticed like the breeze I feel behind me pouring its whispered refrain into a trembling sky while beyond the lake—wisps of dust furling, unfurling—solitude sweeps the pathway clean.

## **Gleaning**

Afterward, the Valkyries feasted, ravens tethered to a chassis abandoned on the riddled earthwork.

Beneath the oaks, gut-shot conscripts, thirsting, shadows heavy with heat, cicadas winding up

like castanets and grief not coming in on cue: no strings, no reeds, no tympani or brass to build

and bleed—this harvest done, the young men dead and gone. A stillness of stopped hearts. Hunger.

The taste of fatted flesh. Frangipane, cigarettes, brandy. What each wants last: the afterbone.

#### **Art Information**

• "Dux" [4] © Awesome Joolie; Creative Commons license.



David Meischen has recent poems in *Borderlands*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and elsewhere. His essay, "How to Shoot at Someone Who Outdrew You," has been selected for *Pushcart Prize XLII*. Co-founder of Dos Gatos Press and co-editor of *Wingbeats* and *Wingbeats II*, Meischen is also a fiction writer, with recent work in the *Evansville Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, and *Valparaiso Fiction Review*.

His first published short story appeared in *Talking Writing*; his story "Agua Dulce [5]" won the 2012 Talking Writing Prize for Short Fiction.

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Learn more about David Meischen at his website, Meischen Ink [6].

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