



collages by

C a r o l y n A d a m s

with text responses by

Stella Brice

Larry Thomas

Mary Margaret Carlisle

Peter Schwartz

Joseph R. Trombatore

a r i g h t h a n d p o i n t i n g web artbook

www.righthandpointing.com



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

**right
hand
pointing**

It's my pleasure to present an e-chapbook of collages by Carolyn Adams. Carolyn's poetry and art have appeared in several issues of RHP and we've always been delighted to be able to present her work.

We thought it might be fun to ask a few poets to take an early look at Carolyn's collages and submit some text as reactions to these. We were vague in our directions to these folks, but they turned in some nice poems, fragments of poems and prose for the issue.

So special thanks to

Larry D. Thomas

Stella Brice

Joseph R. Trombatore

Peter Schwartz

and

Mary Margaret Carlisle

Hope you enjoy!

Dale



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

right
hand
pointing

Some of these collages appeared previously in the following publications: *Mannequin Envy, Alsop Review, Small Spiral Notebook, Liquid Muse, Tar Wolf Review, Pierian Springs, Muse Squared, all things girl, Thunder Sandwich, Mad Hatters Review, Aesthetica, Pedestal Magazine, Tryst, Foliate Oak.*



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Big Fish, Little Fish

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Big Fish, Little Fish

right
hand
pointing



trout tear into our world
like lightning
whisper something to us
before the dive back
would like to stay longer
waiting for a response
that will not come

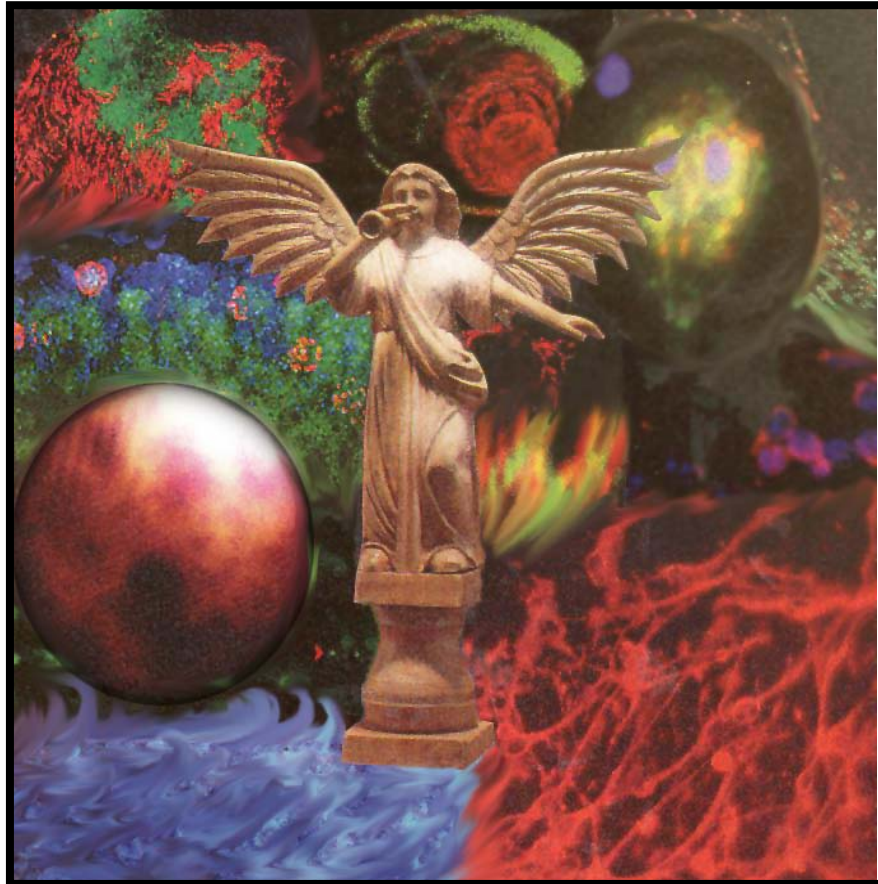
Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Clarion

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Clarion

**right
hand
pointing**



**bass player smokes too much
a 32 bar intro of
xylophone & clarinet
wait for limber wrists, firm lip lock
the program tonight is regret**

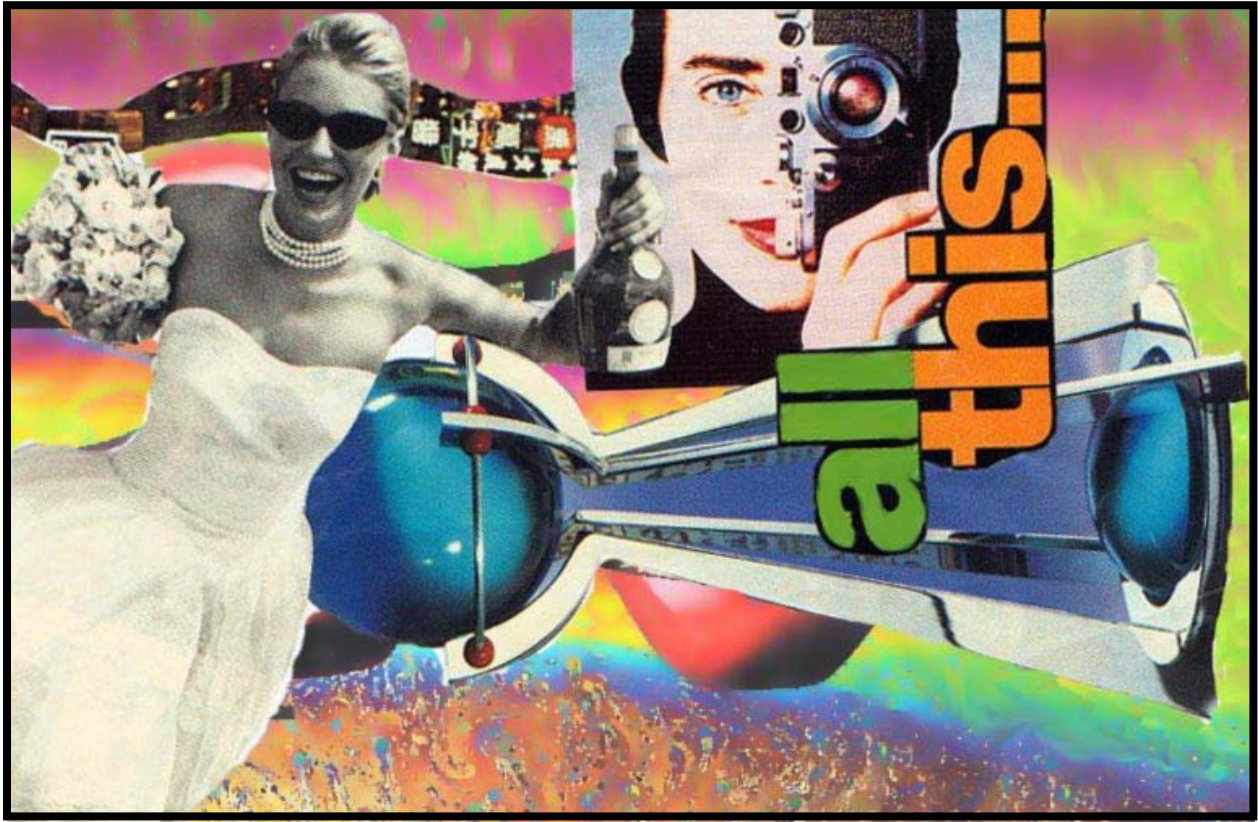
Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Dogma a la Mode

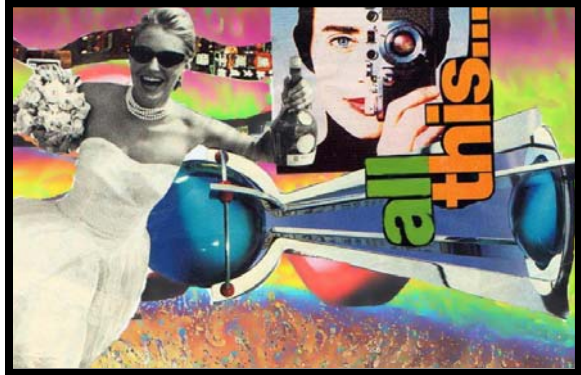
right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Dogma a la Mode

right
hand
pointing



The doctors tried to come up with a name. Post-Marriage Consumer Syndrome was the best they could do. See hundreds of women from all over the country, mostly white women on their honeymoons, have fallen into a kind of trance in which they started naming brand names uncontrollably: Tide, Panasonic, Kellogg's, Reebok, Hostess, Revlon...

Peter Schwartz



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Dollhouse

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Dollhouse

right
hand
pointing



Ephrastasia

Imagine a cold-blue baby, arms flailing, pushing all away
a woman, perhaps the baby's mother, shown in fragments
partially revealed in black and white, a photo
superimposed upon a mask-like robotic mannequin
whose mouth is sewn tight to a zipper
that could be opening or closing.
Peeking out from beneath the feet of the baby
the surly face of a mistrustful child,
while tucked around the edges, an afterthought
of richly rendered fantastic flowers.
All fragments, nothing clear, as if baby, child, mother,
each holds a tiny piece of the whole
and nothing will come clear
until all come together again
unfettered, unsewn, open.

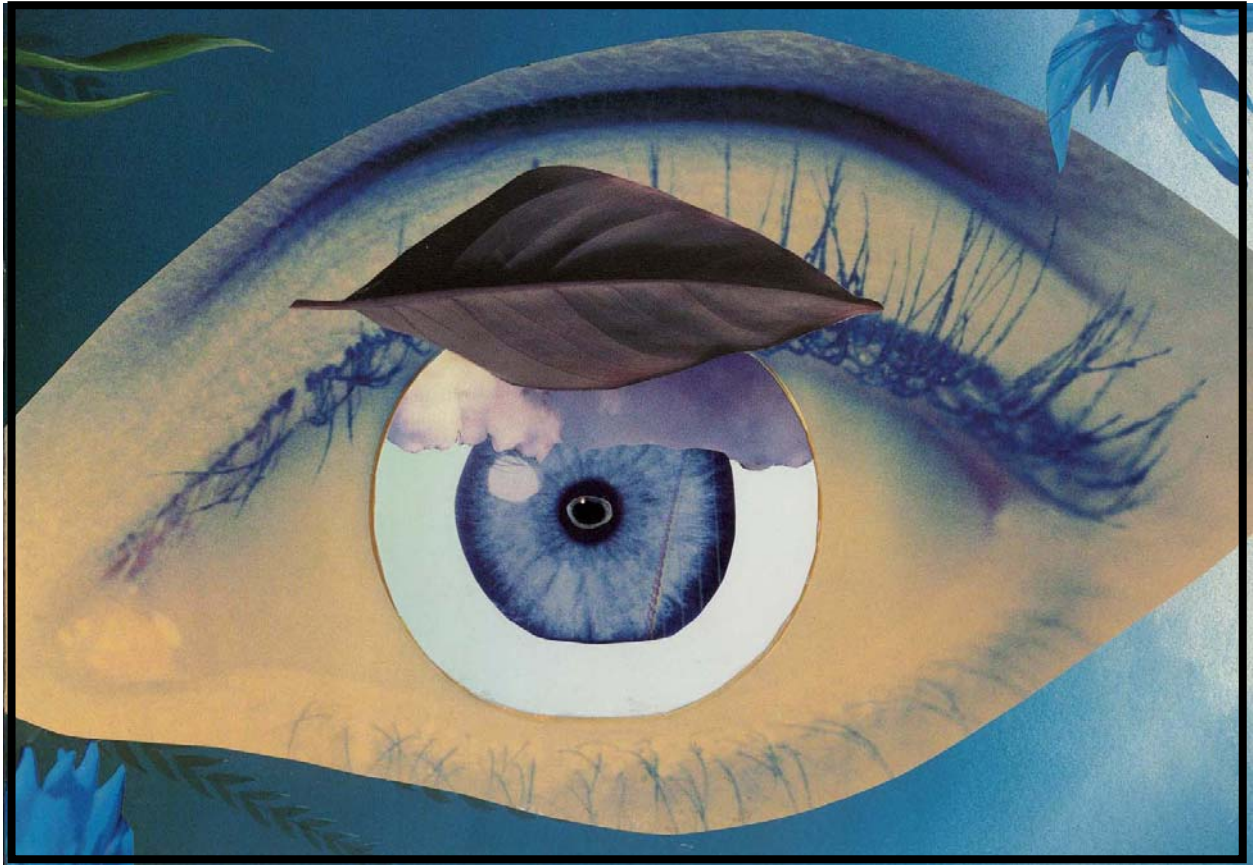
Mary Margaret Carlisle



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Eye Sea

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Future Tense

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Future Tense

**right
hand
pointing**



**the way you leave, even
then, wanting more**

Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Heartwood

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Heartwood

**right
hand
pointing**



**vines & ferns trailing umbra
like
moonlight
shadows
curtains rise & fall
like young lovers**

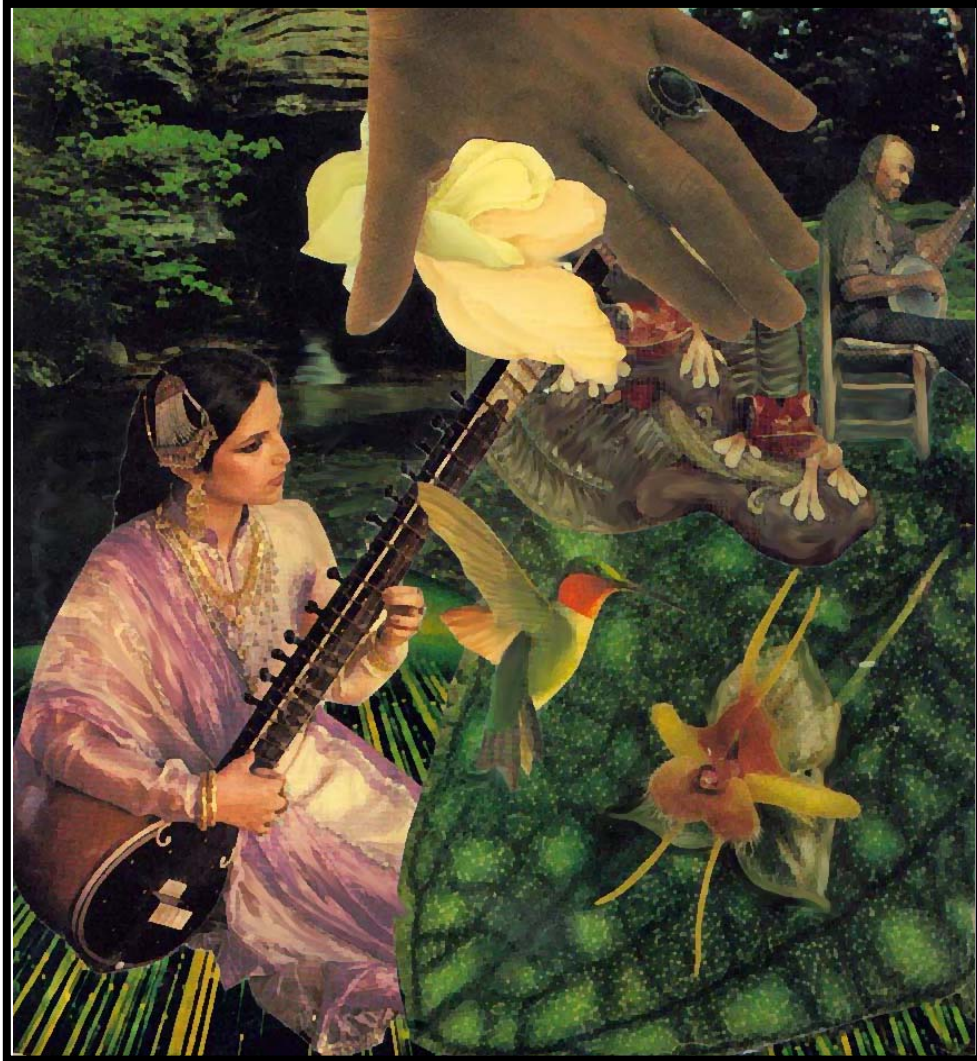
Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Heaven

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Hemisphere

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Idiom Savant

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Marina's Dream

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Marina's Dream

right
hand
pointing



air
when larva
breathes
floating like a
chrysalis
to its dear, roulette

let each hybrid and
harbinger go
even shipwrecked,
to the truth
of its terminus;

its green veranda.

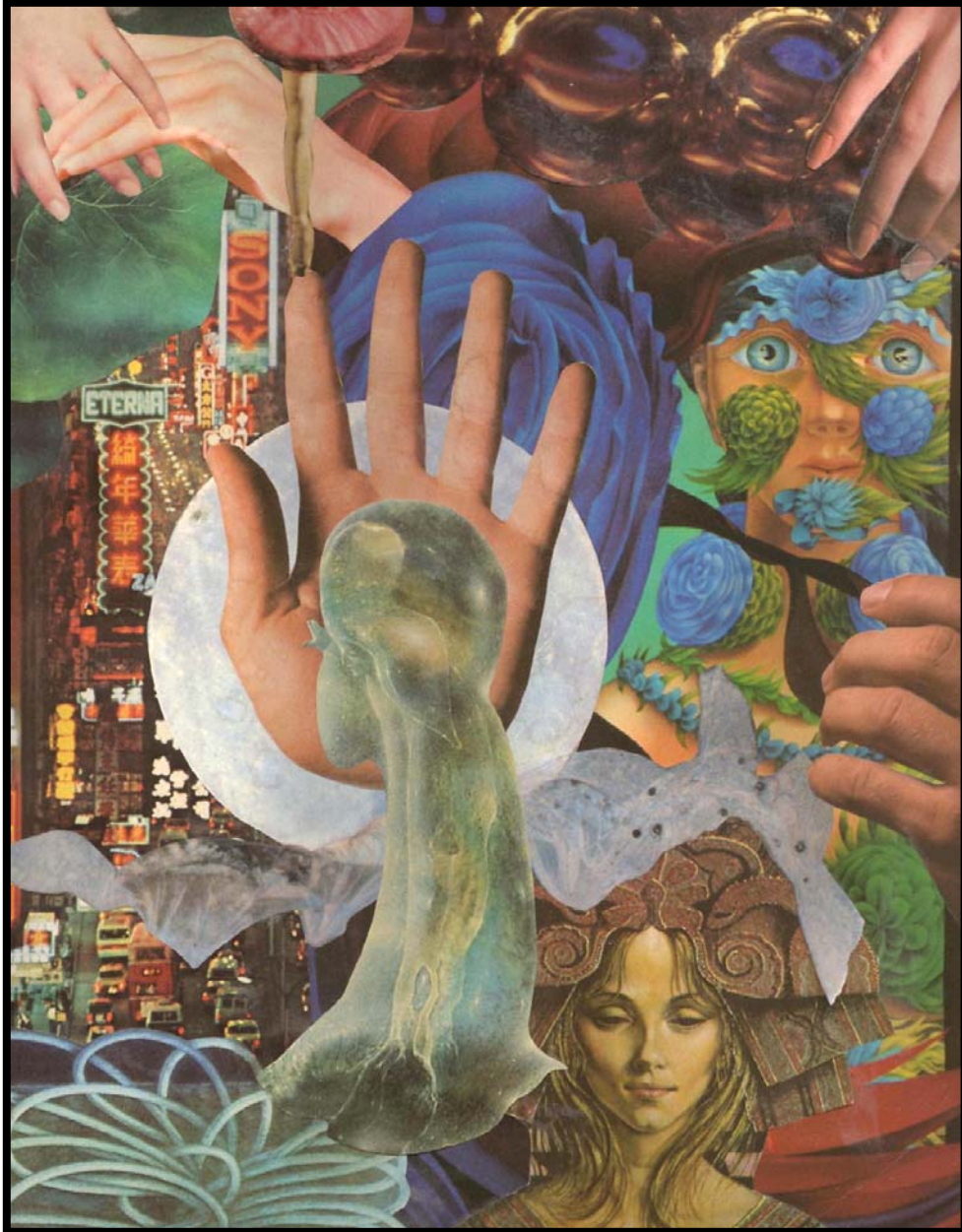
Peter Schwartz, first published
by *Ward 6 Review*



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Moonchild

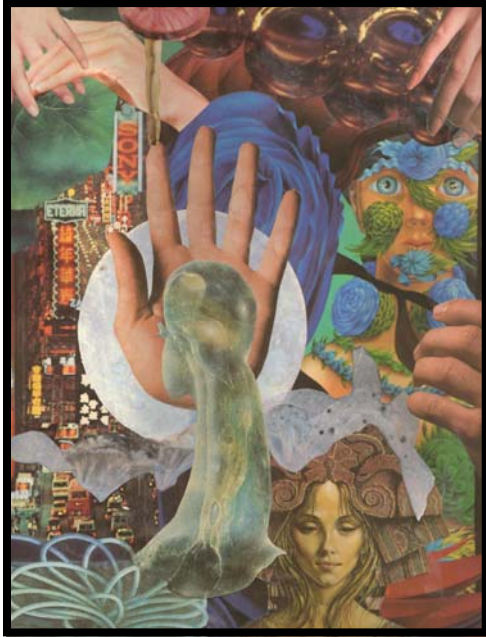
right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Moonchild

**right
hand
pointing**



**moon glow spotlight
& center stage
vocals of painter & palette
evening's cocktails
&
ear drums dancing**

Joseph R. Trombatore

**& What is the question
behind the question
as I
slide another card from my
elegant deck.**

**Stella Brice, from "Mother's
Punishment"**



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Offering

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Offering

right
hand
pointing



They die infused with the
smell of the open heart roses;
the beeswax candles burning
in the church; & the thick
glass
jars swooning with tuberose.

Stella Brice, from "Bloody
Marriage"

a trick of geometry & needle

Joseph R. Trombatore

zero season

this is the transplant season
pillars falling, pedestals rising
without an anthem

this blood pilgrim / that blood
pilgrim
the courier to these differences
too hurt to exit - locks

its tiny circadian vault
of wonders.

Peter Schwartz, first published
by *Ward 6 Review*



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Persephone

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Persephone

**right
hand
pointing**



**strangers
I would not ordinarily notice
run their fingers thru my hair**

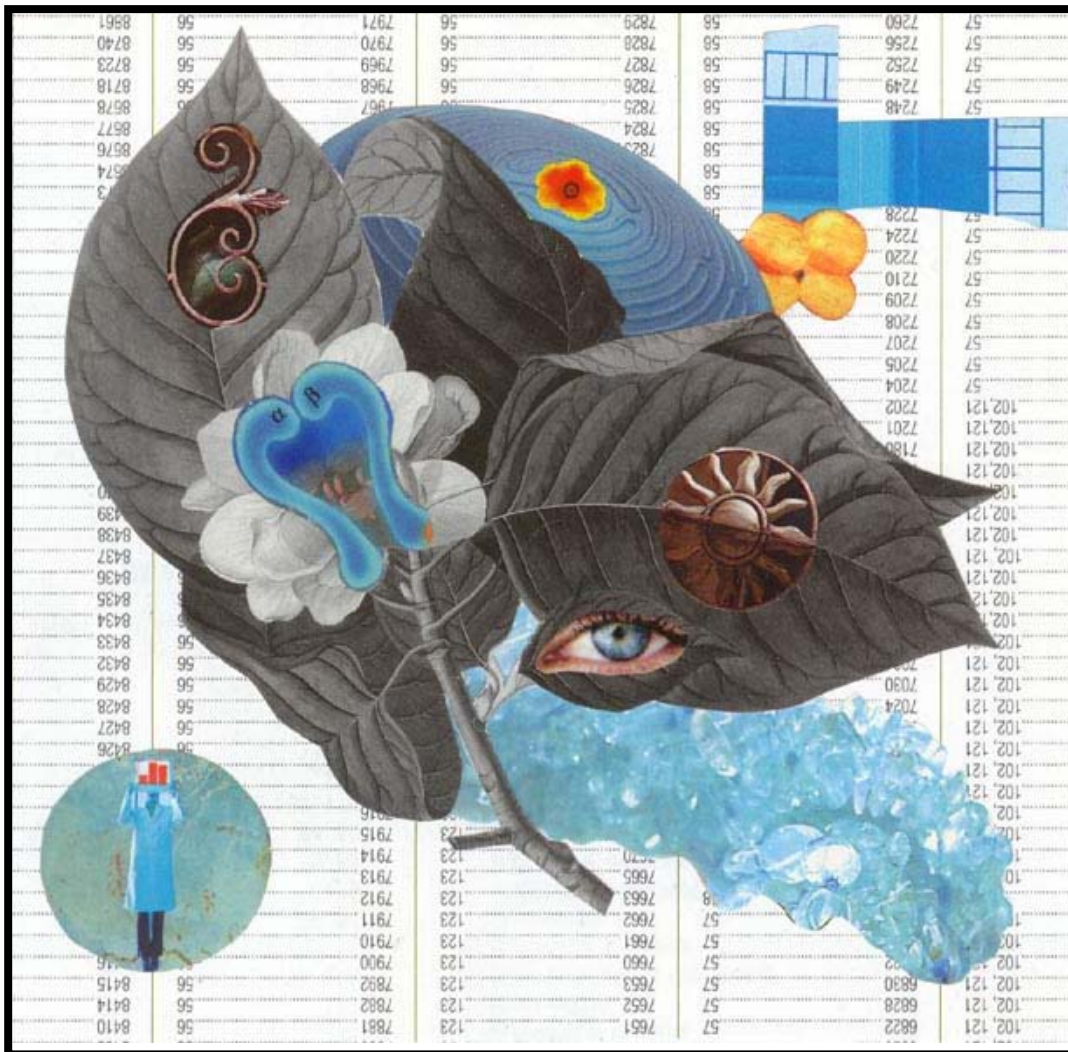
Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Plantlife

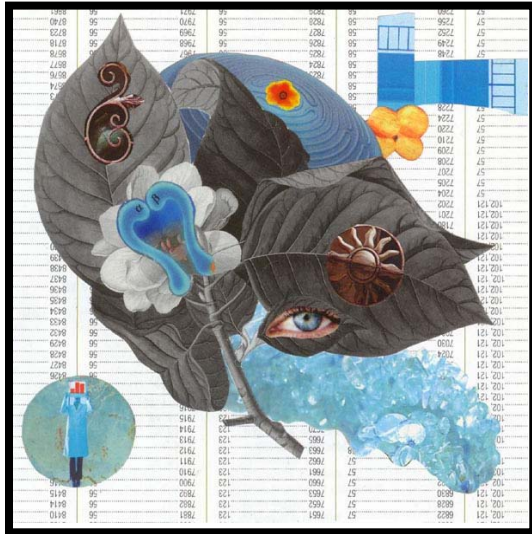
right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Plantlife

**right
hand
pointing**



**death is a language
in the leaves of seedlings
mottled whispers of a
wood moth
the palest shade of rain
after a thunderstorm's retreat**

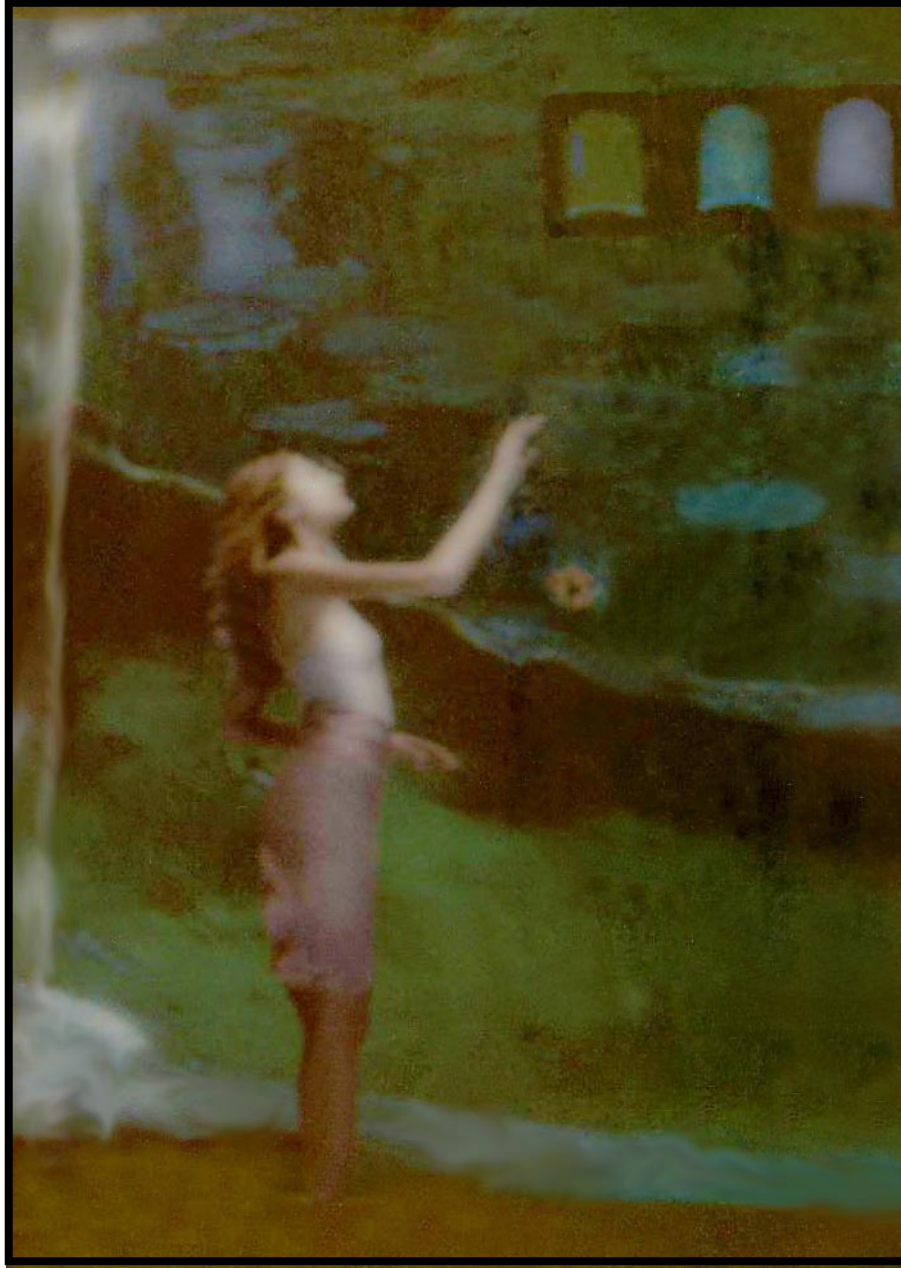
Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Poema

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Poema

right
hand
pointing



there is a painting in her
arms
growing like the wind
a small grasshopper
rubbing its wings to death
beneath the moon

Peter Schwartz, from a poem
first published by *FireWeed*

before the period
the question mark
when no one is watching
just turn into that last
blank page

Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Portal

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Portal

right
hand
pointing



I ask the mirror if it can smell
my
perfume. Yes, it says, like a
shaved
Japanese flower--& can
you smell mine?
Yes, I say, the completely
smooth water
of it. Yes I can smell
yours. Thank you.

Oh no, the mirror says,
thank you
for coming through
in pieces.

You will live in me until I
crack.

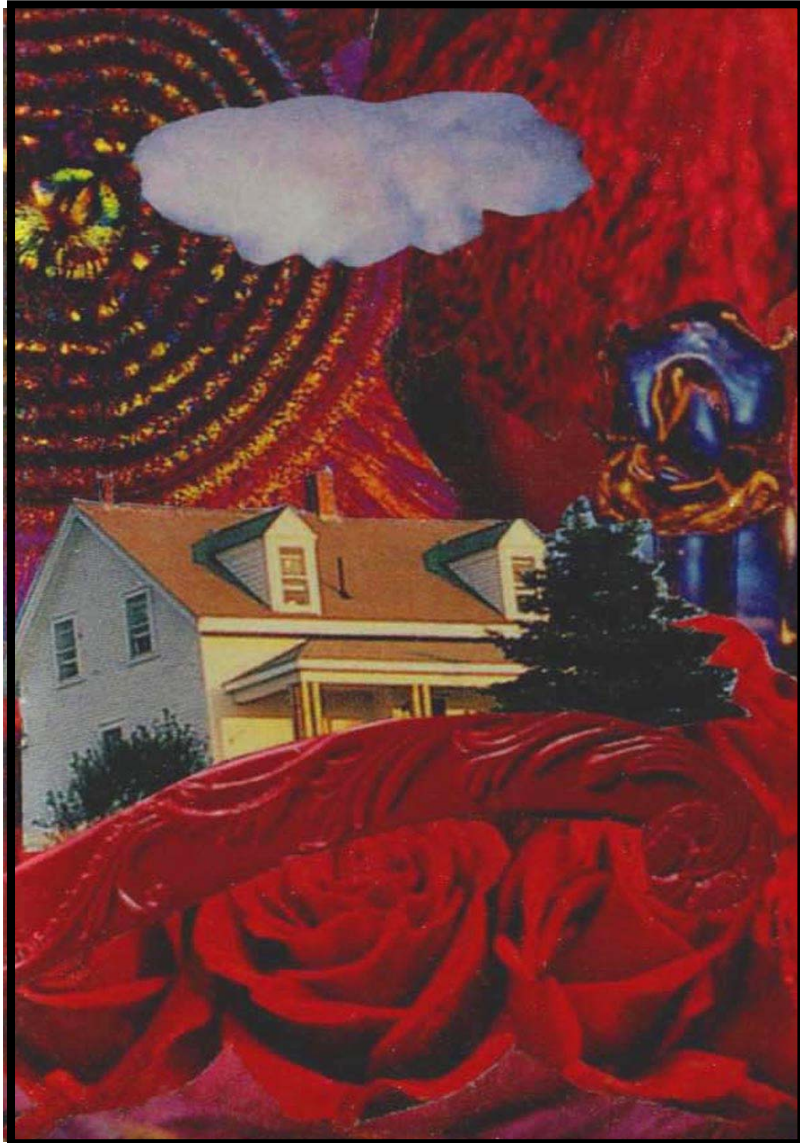
Stella Brice, from "You Should
Ask The Mirror What It Knows"



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Red, House

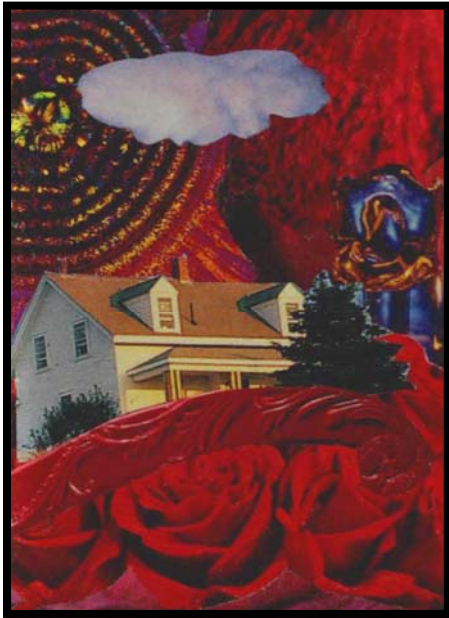
right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Red, House

right
hand
pointing



Her meticulously kept house
sits so ostensibly proper
and suburban, it hurts.
Its dormer windows jut bug-eyed,
so vigilant are they in keeping
the goodness of her taste,
so vigilant they're blind to the hill
on which the house is sitting,
the hill not only covered with
but comprised entirely of nothing
but blooming, blood-red roses
she's never noticed
cracking her foundation
and wafting their aroma
through her downstairs rooms,
up the stairs, and out
her open dormer windows
like gaudy prayers
shocking her perfect heaven
whose lonely god's a cloud.

Larry Thomas



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Sasulka

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Secret Languages

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Secret Languages

right
hand
pointing



It's a black & white movie
further on, Jack of Hearts, &
maybes
& crumbled pencil erasers.
white rose ember
crepe de chine. machine.
bamboo.

Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Slow Burn

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Strange Harvest

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Strange Harvest

right
hand
pointing



I listened to the night
dreaming
lost
beyond the haze of prisms
thru the blue panes of my
window
weeping

Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

The Good Fire

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

The Good Fire

right
hand
pointing



poverty

give me my 12 cuckoos worth
of haunted fleurons, nostalgia
to fix my haywire antennae
and be heard

from behind a curtain of
needles
where I bask in the toxic -
volatile, with amnesia
volatile, without

Peter Schwartz, *first published
by *42 Opus*

the window is open
a guitar is playing someone
across the street
& yes
I write my dreams upon the sky
like stars

Joseph R. Trombatore



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?

Valentine

right
hand
pointing



Carolyn Adams
what do you see?



right
hand
pointing

Carolyn Adams, writer, artist and editor, lives in Houston, Texas, and is a regular contributor to *Right Hand Pointing*. Her poetry, collage art and photography have appeared in numerous literary publications, both print and web-based.

Some recent credits are: *eye magazine*, *Amoskeag: The Journal of Southern New Hampshire*, *Pressed* (Taiwan), *The Weight of Addition: An Anthology of Texas Poetry*, *Common Ground Review*, *Foliate Oak*, *Aesthetica* (UK), *The Mad Hatters Review* and *Sein und Werden*, among others.

She has also assisted in editing and/or publishing the poetry periodicals *Curbside Review*, *Ardent*, and most recently, *Lily Literary Review*. Her poetry e-chapbook *Beautiful Strangers* was published in 2006 by Lily Press, and is available by request from the author.

