



**Thimbleletter No. 16,
April 2021**



Gale Rothstein, *A Facsimile of What We Imagine*,
2019, assemblage sculpture, 22 x 30 x 13 in.

View with Pastels

Hilary Sallick

Robin in the yard
keeps going regardless
making do

It lands on the railing
by the window
looks about considering

We do what we do
because we can do it

Its breast matches the tulips I've
been drawing orangey-red
dust of color of doing

Wind rises brightening light
downy feathers ruffled

Now the robin rides the swing
of spruce red through the green curtain
stirring swaying curtain



Gale Rothstein, *Never in the Land of Ever*,
2019, assemblage sculpture, 20 x 30 x 14 in.

What We Saw

Hillary Sallick

Walking by a pond today,
we were startled to see
a large green leaf raised like a sail
before the wind
and zipping across the water.

What creature was pushing that leaf?
What could it be up to? so merrily
swimming just under the pond's lush
surface, then vanishing deeper
with its green sign, leaving us
in hot sun waiting.



Gale Rothstein, *The Duplicious Gate*, 2020, assemblage sculpture, 21 x 24 x 10 in.

Sighting

Hilary Sallick

Yesterday I saw a bobcat thought I
saw as I crossed
a railroad bridge looked down
at tracks tall weeds on either side
and from among the stalks
a creature appeared wolf?
coyote? no a cat huge a bobcat!
light gray wild among the
weeds along the tracks winding
its way vanishing before
I could capture it with the eye
of my camera I stayed
searching that place looking
to see A train went by
I kept watching After a bit
a large house cat emerged plain
as day exploring the path languorous
It was a different creature not the one
I'd seen It had to be the same
creature



Gale Rothstein, *The End of a Marriage*,
2019, assemblage sculpture, 18 x 29 x 10 in.

Spice of Life

Steve Deutsch

My dad was infinitely better
with a knife and fork
than with hammer and nails.
And though his
do-it-yourself skills

were never the wonder
of the Western world
his hamburgers were
the talk of Hopkinson Avenue.
He worked his magic
on a small hibachi
on the fire escape—
his secret spice mix
secure in an old Hellman's jar.

Early each spring
he'd don his ragged Dodger's cap
and his consecrated robe,
draw the shades,
and prepare a fresh batch.
It was quite a ceremony.
He'd recount each ingredient three times
as if a cantor
singsonging a prayer—
holding each spice jar
to the kitchen light with reverence—
then mix them all together
with a wooden spoon
that had been in the family
since the time of King David.
"Pure gold," he'd assure me
with a wink.

He taught me everything I know
and even today I can't be
trusted with tools.

I'm never asked
to fix a leak,
caulk a backsplash,
or even change a lightbulb.
But a fire in my fancy gas grill
is cause for the neighborhood
to rejoice and noisily
pray for leftovers.
"Hamburgers," they murmur,
nudging one another
and applauding mightily
when I hold up
the legendary Hellman's jar.



le Rothstein

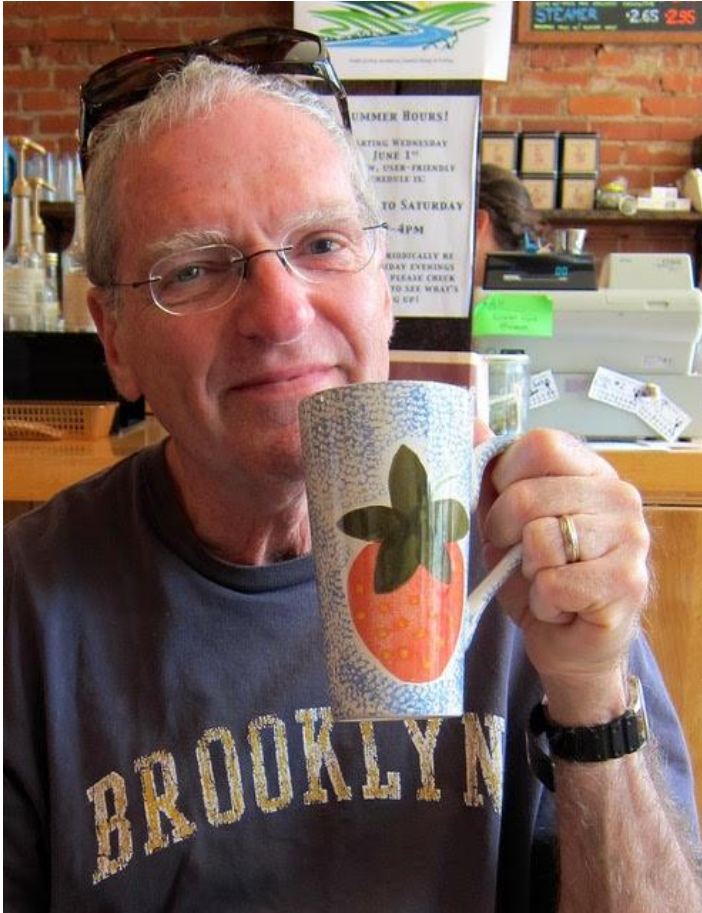
le Rothstein lives and works in the
enwich Village neighborhood of
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ards from the National Collage
iety, Manhattan Arts, Artsy
rk, and elsewhere. Rothstein's
k has been included in *Feral*
Journal of Poetry and Art, *Lumiere*
View, and *Artist Portfolio*
Magazine. In the 1980s and
0s, when Rothstein was a jewelry

designer, her work appeared in *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Glamour*, and elsewhere.

Hilary Sallick

Hilary Sallick is the author of *Ask the Form* (Cervena Barva Press, 2020) and *Winter Roses* (Finish Line Press, 2017). Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Lit*, *Poetry Review*, *Mom Egg Review*, and elsewhere. She teaches reading and writing to adult learners in Somerville, Massachusetts, and she is vice president of the New England Poetry Club. To learn more, go to hilarysallick.com.





Steve Deutsch

Steve Deutsch lives in State College, Pennsylvania. His recent publications have or will appear in *Muddy River Poetry Review*, *Ghost City Review*, the *Borfski Press*, and elsewhere. In 2017, he was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. His chapbook *Perhaps You Can* will be published in 2019 by Kelsay Books.

