

Editor's Note

The Capilano Review 3.30 called itself a "burning house" issue. Less than six months later, for every house still on fire, there's someone who's never been inside it parked out front fanning the flames. From Dana Schutz's painting of Emmett Till to the recent opening of the transmisogynistic and sex worker-phobic Vancouver Women's Library, white liberals continue to hoard power and space while posturing as progressive. If part of the violence of the fire is in its design — its devotion to borders that both impose and collapse difference — then any true alternative should probably recognize (and then smash) those lines, not conflate them.

My approach to this issue was to seek out work that responds to various conflagrations, with attention to plurality, because the difference between reifying lines and interrupting them can be pretty subtle. As I nervously wrote to one contributor, "I want to do my best to bust it up a little." Which is to say that I hope the diverse voices in this issue threaten some of the structures that group them together in the first place (including boring, institutional models of "diversity"!). As Dion Kaszas and Afuwa generously demonstrate, colonial demarcations are never invulnerable to rupture. Their project reminds us that possibility is material and embodied; that freedom may appear swaddled by violence, but relationships between bodies and land (or bodies and bodies) can and do disrupt oppressive formations: "Through the stitching together we are breaking those lines up." From Jennif(er) Tamayo's haptic guide to healing in and out of white supremacy to Gwen Benaway's cascading topography of a self too "unfinished" to bear containment, these pages are full of bodies reclaiming their own hinterlands. Here are modes of being that exceed trespass, where temporalities are shaped by lived experience and desire is never uncomplicated.

More than ever, I believe that offering solidarity while remaining invested in respectability is both disingenuous and useless, akin to politely asking fires to put themselves out. I hope this issue speaks to people who are interested in being good friends and good enemies, and never one without the other.

— *listen chen*