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LA



LOS ANGELES REVIEW OF BOOKS: THIS WEEK

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

A new special four-part series, "Speaking Substances," "considers the stories that might be told by unusual, sometimes nonhuman, but still-eloquent media," including [Hester Blum on ice](#), [Jamie L. Jones on oil](#), and [Kyla Schuller on bodies](#).

Siobhan Brooks recalls "a California carceral story" in this look at ["black women, mental hospitals, and public housing."](#) "During the 1950s, an era of strict gender roles, women could be committed to a mental hospital simply for deviating from the norm."

Robert Zaretsky marks [the 70th anniversary of Albert Camus's first, and last, visit](#) to New York City. "His experience was, in a word, absurd."

Don Franzen [interviews William C. Gordon](#), "a former

LARB AV



[In the latest edition of "Photographer Spotlight,"](#) **Michael Kurcfeld** profiles Paris-based Australian photographer **Vee Speers**. "For many, adolescence is a fraught, even harrowing chapter of life, a shaky bridge into adulthood that is

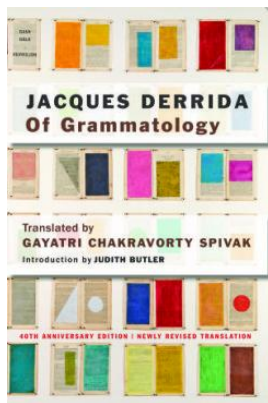
lawyer for underdog plaintiffs who turned to writing noir mysteries after a 40-year career before the bar."

Andrew Hoberek considers [the parallels between the firing of Melissa Click at the University of Missouri and the rise of figures of American anger, such as Donald Trump](#).

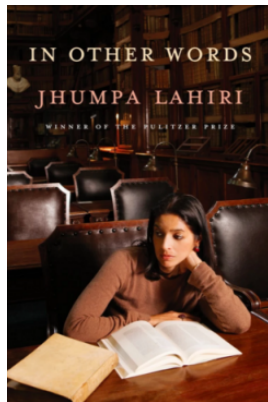
"The intensity of the reaction to Click can be explained, I think, by the coincidence of her critics' anger with three other forms of anger, separate but interrelated, that tell us a lot about the not very good place in which we find ourselves right now."

marked by abortive identity trials and the multiple wounds inflicted by a hard, indifferent world on fading innocence. ... Speers understood that she had been ill-prepared for that passage, and last year she addressed it in her series *Bulletproof*."

NEW REVIEWS




Geoffrey Bennington [reviews](#) the 40th-anniversary edition of **Derrida's** *Of Grammatology*, arguing that the Introduction, the Afterword, and the revisions to the translation "all represent significant steps backward."



Michael F. Moore [reviews](#) **Jhumpa Lahiri's** *In Other Words*, "the diary of Lahiri's engagement with the Italian language."




Dehn Gilmore [reviews](#) **Hannah Tennant-Moore's** debut novel, *Wreck and Order*, calling it an example of "slacker bildungsroman."



LETTERS FROM LANGSTON

From the Harlem Renaissance to the Red Scare and Beyond

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The advertisement for 'Letters from Langston' features a book cover at the top showing a woman and a man in a historical setting. Below the cover, the title 'LETTERS FROM LANGSTON' is prominently displayed. Underneath, a subtitle reads 'From the Harlem Renaissance to the Red Scare and Beyond'. A dark grey box contains a promotional offer: 'SAVE 30% W/DISCOUNT CODE 16W9178 >>'. At the bottom, the University of California Press logo and name are shown.

THE LARB RADIO HOUR on KPFK-FM



NEW FROM LARB CHANNELS



Jess X. Chen delivers [two micros](#): "The Resistance of the Angler Fish" and "The Day I Cracked Open Heaven."

The Philosophical Salon

Jill Casid critiques "[a state of foreclosure](#)" in the effort to close the Guantánamo Bay prison.

MARGINALIA

Art Remillard [interviews](#) **Father James Martin** about his book *Seven Last Words*.

The LARB Channels - which include *The Philosophical Salon*, *The Offing*, *Avidly*, *Philosoplant*, and *Marginalia* - are a community of independent online magazines specializing in literary criticism, politics, science, arts, and culture supported by the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

FEATURED ARTIST

Edith Beaucage (b. Quebec) currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She received her MFA from Otis College of Art and Design in 2010. Her upcoming solo exhibitions include Volta New York 2016 with Luis De Jesus Gallery. Beaucage's "Skipper" paintings invite you to follow a young swashbuckling couple in a topside adventure. Petula is a sailor - she sold all her belongings and now navigates the big salty. Her sea legs took her to the South Pacific. A femme of high spirits, she enjoys great conversations with aged tequila in her sailboat boudoir. She spends most of her time talking with her lover and shipmate - a philosopher from Denmark called Gudbjorn, she calls him Gud for short. Gud loves cutting wood, making wood ornaments, and thinking about how the world's populations is exponentially growing. Every afternoon Petula swims. Gud takes pictures of Petula day and night. They plumb the depths together. The featured image of this week's newsletter is her work *Atoll* (2016, acrylic on canvas, 30 x 40 inches; image courtesy of the artist and Luis De Jesus Los Angeles).

Want More LARB?



[On our latest show](#) we feature a recap of **Laurie's** recent trip to Broadway, including a review of the hit musical *Hamilton*. We also discuss the new documentary *City of Gold*, about legendary Los Angeles food critic **Jonathan Gold**, and talk with screenwriter **John Romano** about the late **Charles Dickens** novel *Our Mutual Friend*.

DEAR TV



Phillip Maciak [reviews](#) *The Americans, Season 4's "Pastor Tim."* "Three cultural events happened this month that we should have seen coming. First, **Zack Snyder** announced that he was working on an adaptation of **Ayn Rand's** *The Fountainhead*. Second, Disney announced it was making a fifth *Indiana Jones* movie. And, finally, finally, finally, *The Americans* used Soft Cell's "Tainted Love" to soundtrack a scene in which Philip strangles somebody to death."

CHINA BLOG



Anne Witchard [interviews](#) **James Bollen** about his new book *Wallpaper: The Shanghai Collection*, "an

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ironic gesture towards the materialism and consumerism that drives the ongoing destruction of Shanghai's domestic heritage."

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