

## EDITOR'S PAGE

One of the beautiful things about Cholla Needles is each edition has a series of twelve micro-chapbooks whose spine is figuratively pinned together by cholla needles. Whether the writers are describing roofers working in the hot sun, or gardeners composting to reincarnate, or train rides in foreign countries, they are bound together by the resiliency and tenacity of a desert plant that helps to sustain life.

I want to thank editor, Richard Soos, for making a place for us poets, writers, and artists and for inviting me to be a guest editor. A Cup of Dream Tea by Mitchell Washington, opens this edition of Cholla Needles, inviting us to sit and immerse ourselves. I am so excited to have you read the twelve micro-chapbooks from people of diverse backgrounds. Following is a cento (a collage poem made from the lines of other poems) stitched together from phrases and lines in this issue. I invite you to find your own favorite lines and create a cento.

### where sand began and ocean ended\*

A Cholla Needles Cento

water softens the soil where it gentles  
my roots hair like steaming coffee  
the truth about water is hidden  
inside of bodies a grey-hazed silhouette  
swollen pollen makes the difference  
between being and becoming i blow wild  
through a forest of past photos  
the weight of names press  
flower shadows into pages  
i love when night becomes charcoal  
ashes caught in the wind  
a celestial paper doll caught in the air  
hair weaved with braids and feathers  
in the music of wind chimes singing  
this is how we mesh our souls

I also thank Mike Vail, Greg Wyss, Mark Evans, and Chris Nelson for helping to fund the contributor's copies for each of our writers as well as helping to keep the lights on.

-Romaine

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\*Title edited since the publication.