

Helicon West and The USU Writing Center present

Born Frustrated

By: Darren Edwards

“You can do a hell lot more damage in the system than outside of it; that was the final irony I guess.”

- SLC PUNK

Bad Religion blared,
bursting from wall to wall
inside my parents garage
where we moshed for hours
before Seth sent me flying
landing on my ass next
to the gas can we used
to huff ourselves into dizzy
and spinning in circles
on my front lawn, feigned
rebellion against a society
we were too young to understand.

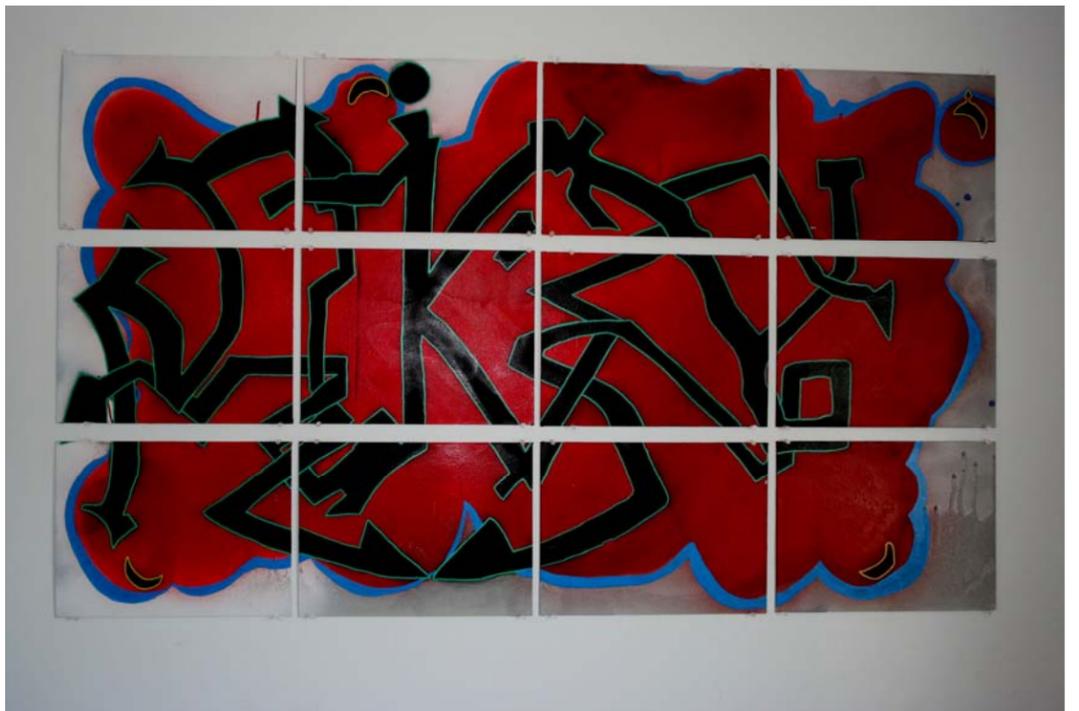


Photo courtesy of Darren Edwards

Reclaiming Alleluia

By: Elizabeth Benson

Four liquid onyx eyes aim at me as I pass two American Common Crows standing on an India-black granite headstone in Logan Cemetery. One launches into the air, wings unfurling, its tail snapping open like a geisha's fan. As it curves upward toward an overhanging Douglas fir bough, the sun reveals the subtle blend of black and deepest blue on outstretched wings. The crow disappears from sight, hiding behind drying needles and drooping pinecones. The other crow, left on a granite perch, calls to its companion. Once. Twice. Three times. Met by silence, the abandoned crow inches sideways on leathery talons, beak slightly open. Its wings shrug upwards then fold softly back again, wingtips overlapping in similitude of prayer. A five-cry guttural response, muted by leafy filters, drifts from a neighboring sycamore. Crows, gathered in foliage, on iron fence posts, and sweeping from grave to grave, wear their everyday work clothes, mourning clothes. Outfitted by nature, their presence here in the cemetery feels right, so we forgive them as they mate, shriek and slap the air with ebony wings.

Helicon West invites you to share our open mic nights every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM at Citrus and Sage, 130 North 100 East, Logan, Utah. For more information contact Star Coulbrooke at star.coulbrooke@usu.edu.

Sponsored by: The Helicon West Planning Committee and the USU Writing Center.
For more information on the USU Writing Center, log onto writingcenter.usu.edu.