

Thin Hardcover Artbook

Vice Versa | vol 3



David Estes

What would please me most, is to make photographs as incomprehensible as life.

William Klein



Kansas Ave.

Razed lots
the years flattened
by tornadoes
and urban
flight except for
that McDonald's
at the
corner or this
building where
she still
lives now
alone with a
phone book
opened
at her side
dialing strangers
she hopes
she may know.



Crescent Place

It will be measured as a smallish lot for a small ranch home
but now it is still a meadow
open at the edge of the frontier; the frontier I was learning
about from the much older kids.

Someone had bought Smarties and shared them
as little pills. We encircled our red wagons and started
digging for gold
but Billy (or maybe Bobby) found a German medal instead;
it had been buried by a neighbor, his souvenir
from the War.





Fall

Do you remember our family
visit to the Lincoln Memorial
just a few weeks after Nixon
waved farewell? How a young
man wearing a saffron robe
handed me a small green bible
then approached Dad asking
for a donation? And how Dad
appeared baffled but reached
for his wallet until I returned
the book insisting that I didn't
even want it? And how in all
the commotion you lost your
balance stepping back on the
high-rise marble stairs to fall
crumpling in the August heat?

Your knees bleeding dark onto the warm white-
stone.



Morro Bay

I recall Morro Bay in late-morning

the bird life, pelicans

and entitled seals below the pier

so loud I thought eventually I would tire

but I didn't;

so how are we not living there?

We continued on to San Simeon

where I ripped my jeans, significantly

on a barbed wire fence.

Huge elephant seals speckled the beach

sand-covered and still, boulders

until we neared

and then later we checked out the Castle.

David Estes received his BA in History from Cornell University and MFA in Sculpture from California College of the Arts. He has recently become interested in poetry and how it relates to making images; and vice versa.

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