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Foreword Review POETRY

The Collected Poetry and Prose of Lawrence Fixel

Lawrence Fixel
Gerald Fleming, Editor
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Ah, the prose poem, thought by the unsuspecting to be less challenging than poetry's other forms. But no: prose requires rare insight, imagination, and writing at its highest level. In the twentieth century, no one outperformed Lawrence Fixel.

> *The Place/The Name/The Child*
>
> *Get there if you can and see the land you once were proud to own.*
> *—W.H. Auden*
>
> *Childhood: another country. She remember the extraordinary size of an ordinary summer—the extended days dissolving into nights without number: a time without boundaries—and how suddenly it ended one morning with her mother's voice saying, "Time for school." All the strangeness of leaving the house—breaking one connection, as it were, before making another—and walking toward the school. The incredible distance that stretched out before her, block after block … But when she returns as an adult, walks those few blocks—so ordinary and compact—she wonders: How could it be? The question brings other reminders of her changed size and Status. There was the drawing she did one day in class: her parents seated at a round table, not looking at each other. On the back of the drawing—on an impulse she had scribbled these words: "When we grow bigger, adults grow smaller."*

MATT SUTHERLAND (July / August 2020)

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