

CONTRIBUTORS

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MATT BLACK is a documentary photographer and native of rural California whose work has been noted for its balance of visual intensity and social conscience. He's been the recipient of grants and awards from many institutions, including the National Endowment for the Arts, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Alexia Foundation for World Peace, and the World Press Photo Foundation.

CAROLYN DE LA PEÑA is Executive Editor of *Boom*, professor of American Studies, and Interim Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education at UC Davis. Her most recent book, *Empty Pleasures: The Story of Artificial Sweetener from Saccharin to Splenda* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010), examines the rapid proliferation of sugar substitutes in twentieth-century America.

LYNELL GEORGE is an LA-based journalist and essayist, covering the arts, culture, and social issues. Currently, she is an assistant professor of English at Loyola Marymount University, where she teaches writing and journalism. A former staff writer for the *Los Angeles Times* and *LA Weekly*, George is also the author of *No Crystal Stair: African Americans in the City of Angeles* (Verso/Doubleday).

LAURIE GLOVER coauthored *On the Road: California* (Interlink Press, 2011), a travel guide with narrative interruptions; she wrote the interruptions. Her work also appears in *Nimrod* and *ZYZZYVA*. Her current project, *The Lupine Year*, will recount her attempt to see every lupine species in California in bloom within one seasonal year.

GERALD W. HASLAM, professor emeritus at Sonoma State University, is the author of twenty books and the editor of eight, most recently *In Thought an Action: The Enigmatic Life of S.I. Hayakawa*. All his works are off-beat explorations of California; his current project is a biography of athlete Leon Patterson.

DAVID LAU is the author of the poetry collection *Virgil and the Mountain Cat: Poems* (UC Press) and the chapbook *Bad Opposites* (Spect

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NICKOLAS MARIO PERRONE is a graduate student in the history department at UC Davis. His research focuses on the intersection between labor and the environment in the American West, and cultural landscapes in California's built environment. He has an MA in Modern History from King's College, London.

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SCOTT VANDEHEY earned his Ph.D. in cultural anthropology from UC, San Diego. His research, based on extensive fieldwork in suburban communities surrounding San Diego, focuses on suburban citizenship and politics. He is currently investigating how sustainability issues and local citizenship interact. He teaches at Willamette University and Linfield College.

LOUIS WARREN is Executive Editor of *Boom* and W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western US History at the University of California, Davis, where he teaches California history, environmental history, the history of the American West, and US history. His current book project is an environmental and social history of the Ghost Dance of 1890.

ABBY WASSERMAN, *Boom's* Developmental Editor (vols. 1.2 through 3.2), is author of *Portfolio: Eleven Native American Artists* and coauthor and editor of *Praise, Vilification and Sexual Innuendo, or How to Be a Critic: The Selected writings of John L. Wasserman 1964–1979* and *Mary Tuthill Lindheim: Art and Inspiration*. She teaches creative writing in Mill Valley.