



**SEPT 2020**

# **ISOLATED IN CENTRAL PARK**

*Rachel Kellner*

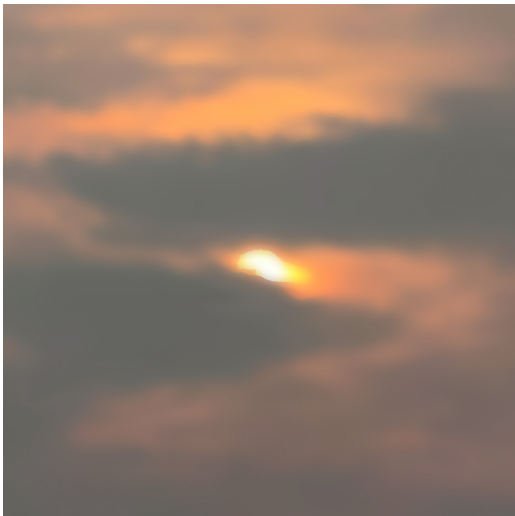
Here in the city I try to remain unattached. To jobs. To people. To any store that isn't corporate. In the summer, however, every surface becomes sticky. My arms stick to the strangers' elbows on the subways. My thighs adhere to the burning metal benches in Central Park. My lips are glued after finishing a chocolate ice cream cone. The soles of my shoes cling to the city. The city clings back.

*Photo: "City Cracks" by Fabio Sassi*

**Rachel Kellner** is a junior at NYU studying math and creative writing. She loves writing proofs and poetry and tries to learn new things in any subject every day. Her poetry has been accepted for print in the upcoming issues of the *Oakland Arts Review* and *Stonecrop Magazine*.

**Fabio Sassi** makes photos and acrylics putting a quirky twist to his subjects. Sometimes he employs an unusual perspective that gives a new angle of view using what is hidden, discarded or considered to have no worth by the mainstream. Fabio lives in Bologna, Italy.

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**SEPT 2020**

# WALLS

Sara Backer

After sunset we put up walls,  
check wires, replace fodder, light candles,  
wait for the burst of ignition, chant to  
spirits

*oh, lovely flames surround us  
with your heat and light  
protect us from virus through the night*

At dawn, we sweep burnt shells of insects,  
and sadly bury skeletons of stray animals  
seeking safety, too.

Art: "Wild Fire" by Roman Rivera

**Sara Backer's** first book of poetry, *Such Luck* (Flowstone Press 2019) follows two poetry chapbooks: *Scavenger Hunt* (dancing girl press) and *Bicycle Lotus* (Left Fork). Her poem "Fire Escapes" won a prize in the 2019 Plough Poetry Competition. Recent publications include *The Pedestal*, *Cider Press Review*, *Tar River Poetry*, *DMQ Review*, and *Slant*. She holds an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts, teaches at UMass Lowell, and lives in the Merrimack River watershed.

**Roman** is a wildlife photographer based in Boulder, Colorado. He admits that he hasn't photographed much wildlife recently, but he'll settle for autumn colors and looming skies.