

**Fence**, Vol. 8, Numbers 1+2

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What They Publish: Poetry and Fiction

Submission Guidelines: Fence will be using an online submission form sometime in Fall 2005. (*When we updated this market sheet in February 2006 they were still updating.*) Check website for updates. Until then, Fence will not be accepting any submissions. In general though, fiction submissions should not be more than 30 pages. In this issue though, most fiction pieces are around five pages.

Description of Publication: The magazine has an engaging look to it and a very clean layout and sharp font. The work is very good quality and usually experiments with form.

Amount of Prose Published: This issue contained 16 pieces of fiction, while previous issues usually have around 10 or 11.

Prose Reviews: *From Hot Breath* by Eric C. Aragon is a poetic and experimental story in an exotic setting. The story is a letter from Manco to Baby Fe', who is a former lover. There is not much to say about traditional plot, as this story simply relays instances of Manco's life, some real and some imagined, some about Baby Fe' and some about other lovers. The first line "I've decided to write you a letter even though I know you do not read," is a notion that is repeated throughout the piece and it's the main point of the loose structure.

This is a letter story, however not the typical type found in writing workshops. Aragon blurs the line between poetry and prose, sticking to imagery and bizarre turns in subject and form. The idea of the recipient of this letter never reading it is repeated throughout the story, sort of like a chorus to a song. While structurally chaotic, I still felt pulled to read the story beginning to end, although the end comes anti-climatically in the middle of a sentence. Sort of a cop out from a form and style that started strong.

*One White Night* by Josip Novakovich is a plain-spoken story in a domestic setting. The third person narrator is telling the story from the point of view of Steven, a forty year-old writer who is in Russia for a writer's conference. While discussing the Russian term "White Night" with a friend at a bar, Steven excuses himself and ends up pissing on a Russian church. He is taken away by the police and interrogated and degraded by a Russian police officer. He is released after paying the officer five hundred dollars.

As the first story in this issue, I hoped it would be a bit stronger than this. Novakovich does an excellent job of describing Russia to a reader who has never been there. His dialogue works well, too. It's a lot of humorous back and forth between the writer and the detective ("What have you written? I will search for you on Google!") However, whatever aims Novakovich had with this piece are lost on me. The fact that the officer and Steven discuss the disparity of wealth in their countries makes me think this was meant to be some kind of political piece. What the political statement was, I do not know.

Rating: I give Fence a 7 out of 10 for emerging writers. A lot of the contributors are previously published authors, but there are at least two unpublished authors featured. The work was of decent quality, however, I felt like the spectrum was too wide. Some pieces were brilliant, others sub-par.

