

Occurrence

The sound of our voices dissipates like a thin mist on that morning ten thousand small lives were ushered into vapor. We were surrounded by the ghosts of dead things, dead limbs, dead trees. A trip to the hospital solved nothing. Or so October's nurse told us. A faint beeping could be heard. Then it stopped. All this to say autumn was in our midst, winter looming in our immediate future.

Redshift

Mid-sentence, her demeanor changes. He should have known, should have seen it coming, the stem of the glass snapping like a thin bone in a hand. Another hand closing like a heavy-handed rhyme. The rhyme giving in to stone, and the stone ground to sand in an hourglass. All this in the minutes before dawn. All this in the moments to come.

Bio:

Bernd Sauermann was born in Hof, Germany, in 1961 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1969. He graduated from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, with an M.A. in English and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing (poetry) in 1993. Since leaving Louisiana, he's taught at Belleville Area College in Belleville, Illinois, and The Community College of Vermont in St. Alban's, Vermont; he is currently a professor in the Division of Fine Arts and Humanities at Hopkinsville Community College in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, where he teaches composition, literature, and film.

He's had (or will have) poems and stories published in *Connotation Press: An Online Artifact*, *The McSweeney's Book of Poets Picking Poets*, *McSweeney's*, *Southern Indiana Review*, *Anti-*, *New Orleans Review*, *Nimrod*, *Amelia*, *Indefinite Space*, *Ink Node*, *Conduit*, *Comstock Review*, *Poet Lore*, *The Round Table*, *Poetry Motel*, *Pegasus*, *Ship of Fools*, *The Kansas Quarterly Review of Literature*, *Posit*, *Mad Hat Review*, *Open 24 Hours*, and *Monadnock Writer* and many other publications. He has a chapbook entitled *Diesel Generator* out from Horse Less Press (2013), and a full-length volume, *Seven Notes of a Dead Man's Song*, out from Mad Hat Press (2014).