
Pro Rege

Volume 50
Number 2 *Fine Arts Issue*

Article 3

December 2021

August

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Recommended Citation

Dengler, Mary (2021) "August," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 50: No. 2, 5.
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August

Mary Dengler

August this year looks and feels like August
Any other, save for haze from fires out
West. Temps still burn the days, then cool
At night. Yards still shrivel brown in blight
Of draught, then stretch green fingers after
Rain, and lightening throbs against the sky
At night. Most people stare ahead in passing
By as if afraid of contact. Virus threatens
Variants, keeping masks in fashion just
In case the law dictates, as science puts out
Contradictory news, depending on the source.
And politics is theater, of course, as conflict
Draws the crowds and power-hunger fosters
Revolution talk, from secular Marxist chants
To quasi-religious Social Justice rants. We've heard
It all before, just wonder where it's taking us
This time, what old-new dream of progress if
We just erase or rearrange the past and present
Forms. We're used to changing norms, to threats
Of life-eliminating climate change and violent acts
Ironically called "peaceful." Now all talk of God
And his eternal laws is panned or even banned
As harmful myths and weapons of resistance
To whatever Utopian plan our leaders propagate
Today. Consider words of Solomon when navigating
Through the dark and wondering why your bark
Still flounders in its human efforts toward Shalom:
"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...."