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### **Two Poems by David Meischen**



### **Waterside at Mueller Lake Park**

Mallards bloom beside the reeds this morning  
while here along the trail, among the complicit  
shrubs, the butterflies smuggle pollen, and  
petals recall the shapes that bind us to them.  
A single drake wishes loudly for a cap less fraught  
with sheen—no creature wants such beauty, such

attention. Better to serve unnoticed  
like the breeze I feel behind me pouring  
its whispered refrain into a trembling sky  
while beyond the lake—wisps of dust furling,  
unfurling—solitude sweeps the pathway clean.

### Gleaning

Afterward, the Valkyries feasted, ravens tethered  
to a chassis abandoned on the riddled earthwork.

Beneath the oaks, gut-shot conscripts, thirsting,  
shadows heavy with heat, cicadas winding up

like castanets and grief not coming in on cue:  
no strings, no reeds, no tympani or brass to build

and bleed—this harvest done, the young men dead  
and gone. A stillness of stopped hearts. Hunger.

The taste of fatted flesh. Frangipane, cigarettes,  
brandy. What each wants last: the afterbone.

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### Art Information

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David Meischen has recent poems in *Borderlands*, *San Pedro River Review*, *Southern Poetry Review*, and elsewhere. His essay, "How to Shoot at Someone Who Outdrew You," has been selected for *Pushcart Prize XLII*. Co-founder of Dos Gatos Press and co-editor of *Wingbeats* and *Wingbeats II*, Meischen is also a fiction writer, with recent work in the *Evansville Review*, *Gettysburg Review*, and *Valparaiso Fiction Review*.

His first published short story appeared in *Talking Writing*; his story "[Agua Dulce](#) [5]" won the 2012 Talking Writing Prize for Short Fiction.

## Waterside at Mueller Lake Park

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Learn more about David Meischen at his website, [Meischen Ink](#) [6].

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