

how can you 'thematise' white?

talk about things that are white	<p>Hydrocele – torrin a. greathouse [poem] texas, december – isaura ren [poem] White Knuckles – Maris [song] Egg – Rachel Hock [short story] White Papers – Martha Collins [poem] Ekphrasis on My R****'s Wedding Dress – torrin a. greathouse [poem] the moon is a lesbian – Maddie Fay [poem] The Moon is Trans – J Jennifer Espinoza [poem]</p>
use symbolism that already exists for the colour white	<p>Three White Horses – Andrew Bird [song] texas, december – isaura ren [poem]</p>
discuss your experience with political whiteness	<p>White Justice – Alice Bag [song] Dark Skin, Whitening Mask – Lamyia H [personal essay] Declaration – Tracy K. Smith [poem]</p>
be 'meta' about the white of the page/canvas	<p>Hydrocele – torrin a. greathouse [poem] Declaration – Tracy K. Smith [poem] Melody – Mary Ruefle [poetry] love with you 1 – seosamh lily [illustration]</p>
use a formal practice that uses the colour	
burst our issue into colour!	<p>White Justice – Alice Bag [song] A Brief History of My Underwear – Gerard Wozek [personal essay] nyngordna – Kelly Williams [poem]</p>

[examples without links have quotes below]

notes on the work

Hydrocele – torrin a. greathouse [poem] (*Wound From The Mouth of a Wound*, milkweed editions, 2020, page 10)

explores different shades of white, through comparison to other tangible things (escapism)
gendered tint to her perception of the colour
crosses senses: the cold (tactile) has a sense of white
relates white of the page to the white of her body

texas, december – isaura ren [poem]

white object (snowflake) takes on both a) physical b) sociopolitical/verbal associations
simultaneously
metaphorises verbal assault into something physical; makes it fragile
metaphorises the body (similarly) as fragile

White Knuckles – Maris [song]

finds the whiteness in your life/inherent to your body

Egg – Rachel Hock [short story]

creates a conceit out of something white, twists it into something surrealist

White Papers – Martha Collins [poem]

brings a real thing into a linguistic/grammatical form
are verbs the ink of this white page of language?
abstracts made into 'white papers' (whispers, silence, absence)

Ekphrasis on My R***'s Wedding Dress** – torrin a. greathouse [poem]

tries to twist something white and beautiful into something disgusting and stained red: "For any metaphor I can put to it, the dress / is still beautiful."
metaphors/similes for the white: "Color like bitten bedsheets, color like a failed dove [...] or the color of concrete / that bleach & blood leave behind."

cw: sexual assault, f-slur

the moon is a lesbian – Maddie Fay [poem]

white thing (moonlight) metaphorised as lover
picks up on sensory experience

The Moon is Trans – J Jennifer Espinoza [poem]

white thing (moon) subverted from 'general knowledge'
relates moon to the body (white of bone – rib)

[Three White Horses](#) – Andrew Bird [song]

cw: death

white horse symbolising death: seeing white horses = a piece about facing death

[White Justice](#) – Alice Bag [song] [[lyrics](#)]

cw: racially-driven police brutality

colour *on* whiteness

picks up on the extent of colour involved in police brutality against Black people and people of colour: “Black clubs, blue collars / Blood red, silver dollars / You say justice is colorblind / I know you’re lying”

cw: real footage of police brutality, violence, weapons, ending of lives

question: compared to colour, what is white? canvas? nothing? obliquing?

[Dark Skin, Whitening Mask](#) – Lanya H [personal essay]

political whiteness and its decolouring/paling of skin colour

focuses instead on colour: burning brown skin, “deep toast brown” and “red”

[Declaration](#) – Tracy K. Smith [poem]

white space of page as ‘political white’ presence; space made into presence/white erasure

meta on white space/white erasure

[Melody](#) – Mary Ruefle [poetry]

white-out, instead of blackout

[love with you 1](#) – seosamh lily [illustration]

their skin *is* the canvas, including texture – their outlines/the outlines of their act are drawn within their skin-space (are their truly outlines to their act – does it span the page?)

(intense) colour is brought in *by* their act

nyngordna – Kelly Williams [poem] (*nyngordna*, V. Press, 2020, pages 31-2)

“Melt me into your silver backing / kind mirror, reflect / the colours of my veins / as I want them to be seen”

greyscale/silver, as opposed to white

bursting into colour

A Brief History of My Underwear – Gerard Wozek [personal essay] (*Closet Cases*, Et Alia Press, edited by Megan Volpert, 2020, page 5)

“tightie-whities” as oppressing queerness:

““You can never have too many ‘whities’, right?” I tried to answer my mother with a smile as I secretly lusted for tropical Hawaiian bikini-style shorts. Or neon orange and yellow thigh-rise briefs. Or multi-colored striped boxers, or low risers with a brightly embroidered monogram.”

“At seventeen, my attention shifted to men’s underwear ads for release.”

“a rebellious short period of going commando”: with no opportunity for colour, only escape from the white