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WHITE

White,
the salient color of night,
the east and west of human eyes,
the summits of ocean swells and bowling pins,
the bases of waterfalls and baseball diamonds.

White,
the exclusive color of Grecian summers, pensive,
spectral, in rows of sculpture by the hundreds;
the porcelain tinkling of chess pieces,
the sewing of surrender flags.

White,
the crusted color of mummies, insect and human,
the produce of silkworms and of fear,
the effect of quicklime in time of plague,
the priestly smoke of censers.

White,
the obligatory color of doves perched on clotheslines
under black clouds in backyards by railroad tracks;
the genuine simplicity of respectful observation,
the acceptance, not worship, of irony.

DOUGLAS RICHARDSON

Douglas Richardson was born on February 20, 1967, in Duluth, Minnesota, and was raised in Camarillo, California. He graduated from UCSB in 1990 with a B.A. in International Relations. He has lived in Los Angeles since 1992, where he has worked as an editor and paralegal. Douglas is managing editor for *poeticdiversity.org* and associate editor for *Gatsby Magazine*. His first book, Sugar Fish, will be released this month through The Sacred Beverage Press.