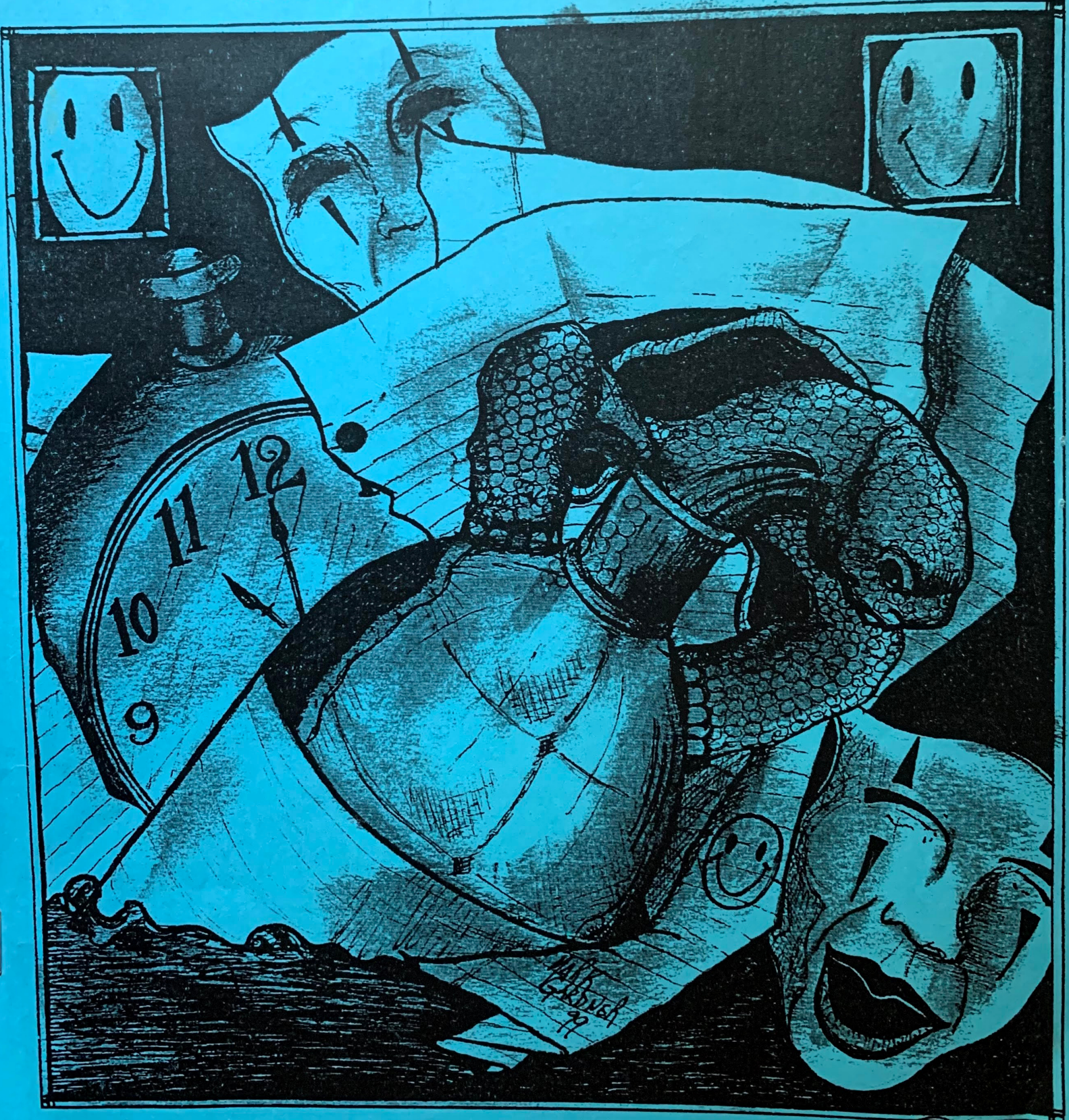


The  
Blindman's Rainbow

November 1999 Volume V Issue II



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## Hello Again.....

Well, it has happened. My website for the Blind Man's Rainbow is up and running, and there have already been a lot of hits. As I mentioned last issue, I will not be accepting on-line submissions. BUT... I welcome email questions. I also encourage people to send their email address so that I may reply to them via the web. This (obviously) uses less paper, and saves you postage and envelopes. The site has many links to other Zine pages- they are all really cool and have a lot of information. Often they include info. that missed print (because of space limitations) in the actual zine. The site is at:

[www.angelfire.com/on2/blindmansrainbow](http://www.angelfire.com/on2/blindmansrainbow)

I plan to scan in all of the Blind Man's Rainbow pages.....EVER..... and list the poets that were included in each one. Since I still have copies of most of them, I have decided to reduce the back issue price of all issues over a year old to just One Dollar! So, all of you who missed out on these issues can finally afford them! I should have the older issues scanned in by December.

Lastly, this issue, for the first time, also includes chapbook reviews. People are always sending me publications, and I never make the time, not because I did not want to! So, now I am making time. I even created a rating system! Wow, am I on top of things this issue.



## DOLL

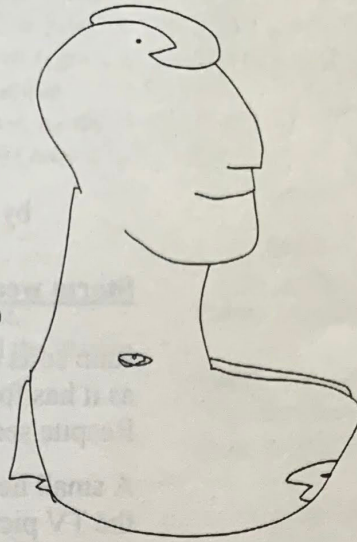
(after Old Woman and Doll,  
a Photograph by Kate Barton, 1974)

This is my child.  
I am its mother.

She needs to be held  
and I need to have the holding.

Now go away and let us rock and sleep  
in this old rocking chair together.

Joyce Odam, Sacramento, CA



John Clark, Indianapolis, IN

## HER MOTHER DYING

She was dying from before we knew her.  
Old news by the time we grew to enough  
to catch the words above our heads  
like baseballs  
lucky to catch one or two  
by accident  
So that, walking past her,  
blanket covered on the couch,  
it became as normal as her pills on the coffee table,  
to temper our adolescent giggles  
into whispers  
until well after we'd climbed the stairs  
and shut the door behind us.

The day she died  
we shopped together for black suits  
and giggled at the chest too big,  
the sleeves too short  
for our not quite finished bodies,  
the way teenage girls do  
and drank diet sodas together before going home.

After the funeral someone rolled a joint,  
we drank beers,  
talked about boys,  
smoked cigarettes and threw up in the basement  
near the laundry room  
where her clothes were still folded in neat piles.

And it was as normal as burying my best friend's mother  
on a sunny day in April  
before we turned eighteen.

by Mati Sicherer, Fair Lawn, NJ

## MOTHER EXPERIENCE

sitting over there  
smiling indulgently

her Mona Lisa mouth  
not saying a word

letting us talk about  
our embarrassments  
and our mistakes

old Mother Experience  
with her held advice

and smug-so smug  
with her experience

by Joyce Odam, Sacramento, CA

## HAVING ONCE DANCED

They are not the angels  
longing to be touched  
by wet dream little boys.

Not having smoothed baby oil  
on legs or breasts,  
imitating sweat, imitating desire.  
Not having touched themselves  
but to bathe or  
accidentally bumped a finger across  
a mound of hair in sleep.  
Pulling heavy bodies up from tired chairs  
after waking to find the TV still on,  
husband upstairs, children stirring in sleep,  
they eat chocolate bars in dark kitchens,  
chewing quietly, licking fingers clean  
and planning tomorrow's dinner.

Mall shopping, Saturday nail appointment,  
pulling tight pantyhose over thickening thighs,  
they keep the floor clean,  
remember doctor's appointments  
and pack carrots into lunches,  
looking past the laundry and this morning's dishes,  
night scents stirring something not quite remembered.  
And having danced once,  
they are not the dancers anymore  
but the sturdy floor beneath.

by Mati Sicherer, Fair Lawn, NJ