

[Home](#)

[Current Issue
\(Winter/Spring 2008\)](#)

[Autumn 2007](#)

[Summer 2007](#)

[Spring 2007](#)

[Winter 2007](#)

[Autumn 2006](#)

[Summer 2006](#)

[Spring 2006](#)

[Winter 2006](#)

[Fall 2005](#)

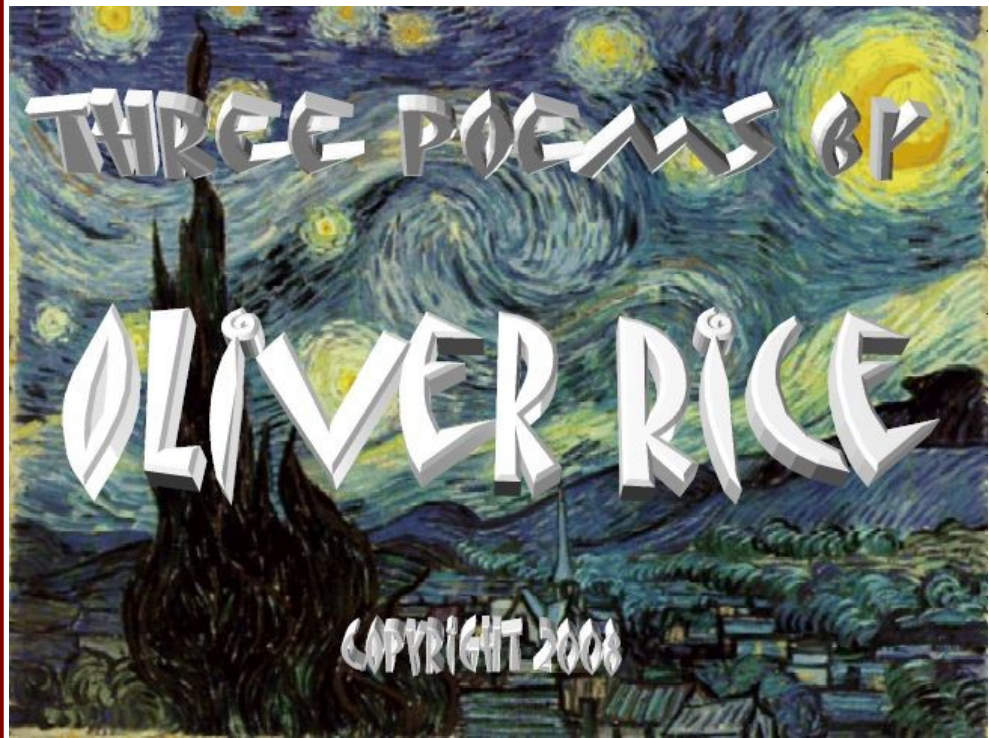
[Summer 2005](#)

[Editor's Note](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[SNR's Writers](#)

[Contact](#)



Airliner

How phenomenal,
although less so than a horse.
With what equanimity soars
and descends to mere Earth,
although with what uproar, what tempest.
How ingeniously counterfeits the wind,
defies caution and gravity,
although liable as any sparrow.
What technology,
although not more cunning, more progressive
than the artisans of the millennia,
ilk of Daedalus, of Henry Ford.
Although of its millions of component parts,
half are rivets.

Darkness, Says Karbacher's Fantasy

On a cot
in a hostel at Worms,
city of the Nibelungen,

in a sleeping bag
behind a butte
in Apache country,

under a mosquito net
on a roof in Algiers,

listening for unfinished conversations.

Perhaps Randomly, Obliquely

It is a neighborhood of frugal, declining houses
on frugal plots, with grudging street lights
and competitive parking --- vintage urban sprawl,

strewn with ironies and consequences,
with rumors and truths
that can save or ruin a life,

with the unfinished business,
the detritus of the deceased,

morning, afternoon, evening waiting
for the sum of their behaviors
who perhaps randomly, obliquely perceive
that they are the very agents of their ethos,

who, on their footroutes,
bearing privacies,
useful fictions,

encounter shades of their earlier selves,

a dailiness that is merely so,

bearing ethnicities,
frailties,
consolations,

observe the enigmas in the faces,

the implications between the words.

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Oliver Rice has received the Theodore Roethke Prize and was twice featured on Poetry Daily. His poems appear in three recent anthologies: Ohio Review's *New and Selected*, Bedford/St. Martin's *Introduction to Literature*, and Random House/Billy Collins' *180 More*, also available on a Library of Congress Web site. His poems have appeared widely in journals and anthologies in the United States, as well as in Canada, England, Austria, Turkey, and India. His book, *On Consenting to Be a Man*, has been published by Cyberwit, a diversified publishing house in the cultural capital Allahabad, India, and will be available shortly on Amazon.