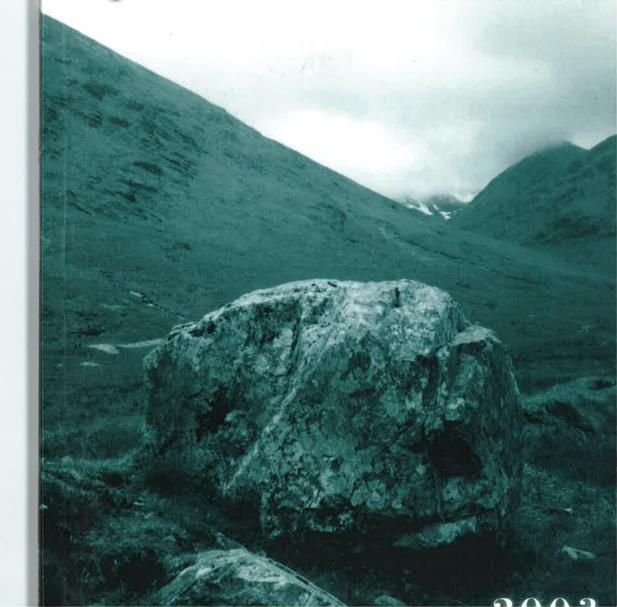
SQUAT VALLEY REVIEW



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## Praise

Hari Bhajan Khalsa

Rolled out

assembly line

packed

in tins

date stamped

shipped

pantry stacked

until

hunger

drives me

to the shelf

to plunge

the blade

release

the aroma

scoop

the insides

fill my belly

satiate

doubt.

## Danger Signs and Their Red Ribbons

Melissa Cabnmann

I drink tamarind juice at the Salt Sea, and have a mud bath at Ein Gedi. A health to your little head, an old woman says in a not-quite-dead language. Her eyes are heavy with tapestries, and it's like seeing a card table I recognize, as if it's me at the handwashing station where Israeli tourists place napkins on their heads, respect for the swaying patriarch. His daughter's midriff shows as she carries cold cereal to breakfast, her oversized Star of David making a shadow in shabbos milk. Even rap she listens to at the pool is Jewish. I imagine her pretty orange T-shirt after the bus explodes and I'm sick with love for this place, and its outrageous mistakes from territories to twist-off red wine and rough toilet paper. The beach in Tel Aviv is cordoned off with danger signs but when I make a wrong turn passing "Nablus" where are the red ribbons? I take pictures of a grown man with sideburns swinging like a girl's braids and the narrow vein where the sage hid from the Romans. Only there's no sage. Just a spigot and a rock covered with candle wax and orange peels. As men in fatigues grow smaller in my rear view mirror, remember: these are my haystacks, my checkpoints. This one is me, on my knees in a soaked dress, trying to mop up the ocean from the bathroom floor.