

Finalist, Poetry

Perspective  
By April Strader

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My mind is an ocean  
vast and deep

Many species of aquatic life  
living in unison in my ocean

small and large moving  
and stationary

Tides change and currents swarm  
Consistently in motion

Sometimes it makes me sick  
routines ease the nausea

Fishing for information  
state of the art equipment helps

Repetition is key  
muscle memory for my mind

Losing patience with myself  
Losing patience with the world

Lack of understanding in society  
because I don't look different

If only they could see inside .....

Frustration .....,

Intelligence .....,

and Insecurity .....