



This is out of the horror movie
(The Bird Honker1 what a title!)
you haven't seen but a bird
terrorizes citizens in the middle
of night
a family wakes up
asking "who is honking that horn?"
Scene: someone peeks through the window
the audience knows it is the bird
(blame it on the trailer
for giving too much away)
the bird's perspective
that others are endangered
this bird acts like a camera filming

it has to be one someone causing this crisis
how could I as a spectator be part
of this?

Note:

1

we don't want to see the bird
until at least Act Two that there is a real danger
but we already in the last act even
we don't want to see the bird
until at least Act Two that there is a real danger
but we already in the last act even
as the camera is showing enough of the scene
we still won't believe until we see the bird
we need to actually see the bird
as if we can just run to the mountains
for safety

~ Dennis Etzel

Poet Dennis Etzel and artist Lora Jost are currently collaborating on a project about climate change. This poem and drawing were shown together in the exhibit *Heating Up: Artists Respond to Climate Change* in 2016, held at the Percolator Gallery in Lawrence, Kansas.

Lora Jost is a freelance artist in Lawrence, Kansas, working in mosaic, collage, and scratchboard. She teaches *Imaginative Drawing* at the Lawrence Arts Center, and is interested in art as a resource for social change. She recently helped facilitate a series of educational and cultural events on climate change, sponsored by the USDAC Lawrence Field Office and LETUS, called, *Heating Up: Artists Respond to Climate Change*.

Dennis Etzel Jr. lives with Carrie and the boys in Topeka, Kansas where he teaches English at Washburn University. He has an MFA from The University of Kansas, and an MA and Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies from Kansas State University. He has two chapbooks, *The Sum of Two Mothers* (ELJ Publications 2013) and *My Graphic Novel* (Kattywompus Press 2015), and two books, *My Secret Wars of 1984* (BlazeVOX 2015) and *Fast-Food Sonnets* (Coal City Press 2016). His work has appeared in *Denver Quarterly*, *Indiana Review*, *BlazeVOX*, *Fact-Simile*, *1913: a journal of poetic forms*, *3:AM*, *Tarpaulin Sky*, *DIAGRAM*, and others. He is a TALK Scholar for the Kansas Humanities Council and leads poetry workshops in various Kansas spaces. Please feel free to connect with him at dennisetzeljr.com.