



Volume 16
Issue 1
2021

Pandemic

Keith Schwager

Masks tight.
Noses raw.
Breaths against glasses.
Ears fatigued and sore
from banding.
Hair frayed, wet
against hot necks.
Hands dry,
obsessive,
clean.

Lost breaths.
Chasing time,
settings,
drips,
and pronations.
Lonely donnings
and doffings.
Slow eye contacts
behind plastic shields.

Hearts working and
fatigued as
voices between the
interned and well.
Deaths,
and recoveries
forgotten in repetitions of
yesterday
and tomorrow.

About the Poet

Keith Schwager is an emergency medicine physician at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.