



## BACKYARD

Kevin Yan, Class of 2015

# SIDEWALKING

Benjamin Brownell

There are some things you can't explain  
And for all of this, you must disconnect  
There can be no frozen heart, whispered emotion, or empathy suspect  
Because if you slow dance with razors on your right  
You get lasers to your left  
Plastic fists attached to fragile wrists  
Where digits on the draw stitch 6 figures into that classic modern day twist  
Let's build it perfect  
Let's make it grand  
A thousand priceless statues  
And a sunset on your quicksand

Because in this world if you let them  
do wrong, then they will  
But if you stay strong and love your enemy,  
then it is time to heal.

Out of control like auto-pilot  
Where mirrors on my breath reflect the sound of silence  
Planned projects and political alignments  
A trick so good they could sell pride back to a pack of lions...  
So we landscaped the environment  
By paving wrong ways into the development  
Like every signature in cement  
Is proof of the alliance  
And yet we still speed up to red lights  
Just to slow down for compliance

This is sidewalking uncomfortably  
A blueprint apocalypse for your own private metropolis  
Where central systems sail away on sinking ships  
We can save the root but have to clip the tip  
And every generation confides in each other  
Because every generation lies to one another  
So we march urgently toward that promise of normalcy  
Collecting coupons along the way just to afford the surgery

And these are some things I had to explain  
Like this peace in my heart after turbulent times  
Like this piece of art after so many cold starts  
Never stop whistling your tune and instigating breezes  
Stop all those who spit bully rank teases  
Flex against dark hearted squeezes  
Walk with humility and shun greed for all that it seizes  
Because in this world if you let them do wrong, then they will  
But if you stay strong and love your enemy, then it is time to heal.

*Benjamin Brownell works at the FSU College of Medicine IT Help Desk and enjoys spending time with his family,  
helping others with technology, and watching baseball.*