

**WORD** &  
Writers and Artists in Dialogue  
*image*  
2024

October Gallery Exhibition

Word & Image

*A Dialogue Between Writers and Artists*

Exhibit-Thursdays–Sundays

October 3-26 | 12-5pm

Free and open to the public

## A Feast of Fried Clams



THE CLAMMER BY STAN PETERSON IN RESPONSE TO WORDS BY PHYLLIS MANNAN

*After Li-Young Lee, "From Blossoms"*

From driving to Long Beach at 4 a.m.,  
walking far out to water's edge,  
dimples and tiny holes in packed sand  
marking each burrow,  
from bent knees, hunched  
shoulders, digging with our hands,  
come slick, oval razor clams  
we wash, shuck, and clean.

From naked white meat  
dipped in egg and cracker crumbs,  
browned in a black skillet,  
the butter bubbling like surf,  
comes a bounty of fried clams  
served on this blue Fiestaware plate.

O, to love something cold and slippery  
caught with your own hands,  
to eat not only the clam  
but the gray sky, the sand,  
to taste the ocean  
in crunchy golden flesh,  
the necks a little chewy  
but sweet joy in the crumbs.