

December 2008

The Menstruating Men

Matt Zambito

Follow this and additional works at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate>

Recommended Citation

Zambito, Matt (2008) "The Menstruating Men," *Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal*: Vol. 7: Iss. 2, Article 23.
Available at: <https://orb.binghamton.edu/harpurpalate/vol7/iss2/23>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). It has been accepted for inclusion in Harpur Palate: a Literary Journal by an authorized editor of The Open Repository @ Binghamton (The ORB). For more information, please contact ORB@binghamton.edu.

Zambito: The Menstruating Men

THE MENSTRUATING MEN

Matt Zambito

puncture their penises with conch shells
and shuttle into the sea, dripping a trail toward
the surf. With waves waist-high, they pray, they

sigh and sigh. Salt burns, big
hands rising above their minds. Losing
some of themselves to something a cut above—

like pain, which tears off our eyelids, or the sea,
which swallows us like liquid God—
is the only thing with any hope (forget soap)

of cleansing. Otherwise, they're the shell, washed
and slosed up on the shore by the accident
of ocean and moon, echoing the currents

for no one until a trembling fist lifts them shoulder-high
and slams them down onto the most tender flesh.