

## Fine Arts IV

By Gary Beck

Contemporary artists  
learn techniques of the masters  
in college classrooms  
and academic studios  
providing materials  
included in tuition.  
Students are exposed  
to art history,  
tantalizing them  
with success stories  
of artists at auction  
who sell for high prices,  
money the seal of approval  
for another trophy  
hung on the wall,  
unnoticed after a week.

## Nostalgia

By Gary Beck

Dissatisfied people  
unhappy with poor choices,  
lost opportunities,  
aimlessly drifting,  
often return  
to place of birth,  
sentimentally sad  
they don't find answers  
why things went wrong.

## Bewildered

By Gary Beck

The successful assault  
on the middle class  
by the servants of profit  
the fondlers of power,  
isolates many  
struggling to cope  
after loss of homes, jobs,  
not understanding why  
they have been separated  
from security,  
too confused for action  
that corrects injustice.

## Idle Moments

By Gary Beck

Midtown plazas  
change the pace  
of city traffic,  
subtracting haste  
from work rush,  
allowing intervals  
of relaxation,  
observation  
of the swirling tribe  
of somewhere bound  
urgent of arrival  
before final departure.

## Portrait V

By Gary Beck

Hedge fund operator  
travels to his mega-yacht  
in his limousine,  
tinted windows shutting out  
frightened faces of the jobless  
worried about their next meal,  
while he coos to his trophy wife  
about the next billion.

**Gary Beck bio:** Gary Beck has spent most of his adult life as a theater director, and as an art dealer when he couldn't make a living in theater. He has 11 published chapbooks and 1 other accepted for publication. His poetry collections include: Days of Destruction (Skive Press), Expectations (Rogue Scholars Press). Dawn in Cities, Assault on Nature, Songs of a Clerk, Civilized Ways (Winter Goose Publishing). Perceptions and Displays will be published by Winter Goose Publishing. His novels include: Extreme Change (Cogwheel Press) Acts of Defiance (Artema Press). Flawed Connections has been accepted for publication (Black Rose Writing). His short story collection, A Glimpse of Youth (Sweatshoppe Publications). His original plays and translations of Moliere, Aristophanes and Sophocles have been produced Off Broadway. His poetry, fiction and essays have appeared in hundreds of literary magazines. He currently lives in New York City