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An Interview with Derek Mong

The winner of The Missouri Review’s 2006 Editor’s Prize for Poetry, Derek Mong, discusses art and inspiration, from Classical culture to assault weapons.

Although born in Portland, Oregon, Derek Mong was raised outside Cleveland and educated at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. He has a brother living on the Island of Kauai, parents in Washington State and extended family spread from Dallas to Berkeley. Currently he lives in Ann Arbor, where he attends the University of Michigan’s MFA program and teaches. In 2005 he was given a Hopwood Award for a poetry manuscript in which “To an Older Sibling, Miscarried” appeared.... [His poetry feature in the Spring 2006 issue] is his first publication.