

# California

Catch the ribbons of starlight as they run between your fingers and into the pavement  
All-American spotlight burning holes through a hung sheet in the neighbour's backyard

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sacred host we honour the forefathers and martyrs

all the firestarters, the patron saints, that waits table after table

crying to be more stable to be able to label a career that does not

rocket then careen, behind the screen, of life unseen, playing on

always on a loop. we toast to drink a bevvy of levied

most holy lacrimost, to boast, roast, ghosting in hopes

eventually to be free from jump-ropes, from being noped

next to the plots of titans, and of their stars buried.

To dream of that scene but swap that actor for me

oh spirit with laureled letters and lights lead me on

## Bio

Ethan Burke is a Northern Irish person with autism. Through studying English with Creative Writing at Leeds Beckett University Ethan not only gained an increased appreciation for poetry, but likewise the possibilities that the form and structure of poems can be used to express, as much as just their contents. This exploration of more non-traditional styles and the ability to explore lateral thinking and association was the main draw to concrete poetry and other more experimental forms, allowing him to jump from concept to concept without any of the more traditional limitations found by other forms of poetic structure.

## Abstract

A single poem from the larger anthology of *Poetic Map of Imagimerica*, a collection of fifty poems. Each poem of this collection is based upon a state of the United States of America. Starting from Maine and ending at Hawaii. Each poem begins with a two-line acrostic of the state's abbreviation code, separated by an asterisk (mimicking a star that would be found in the blue corner of the American flag) followed then by a larger acrostic of the state's official capital, in this case Sacramento. These poems explore the idea of the conceptual United States and the psychogeographic space in which they exist, exploring a space without ever truly being there physically.