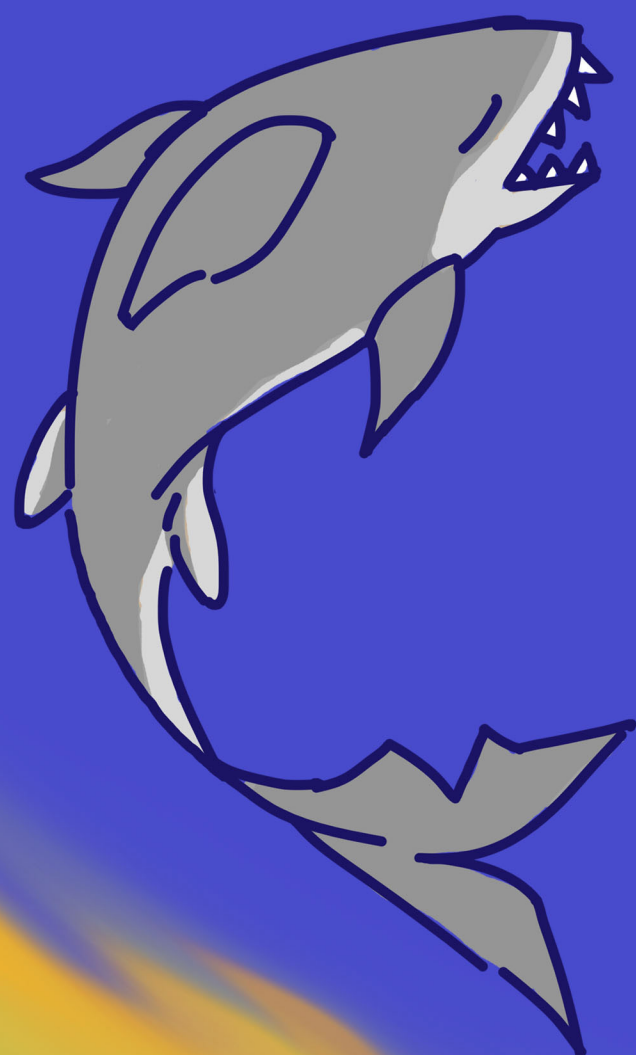


# Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park

## *Shark's Teeth*



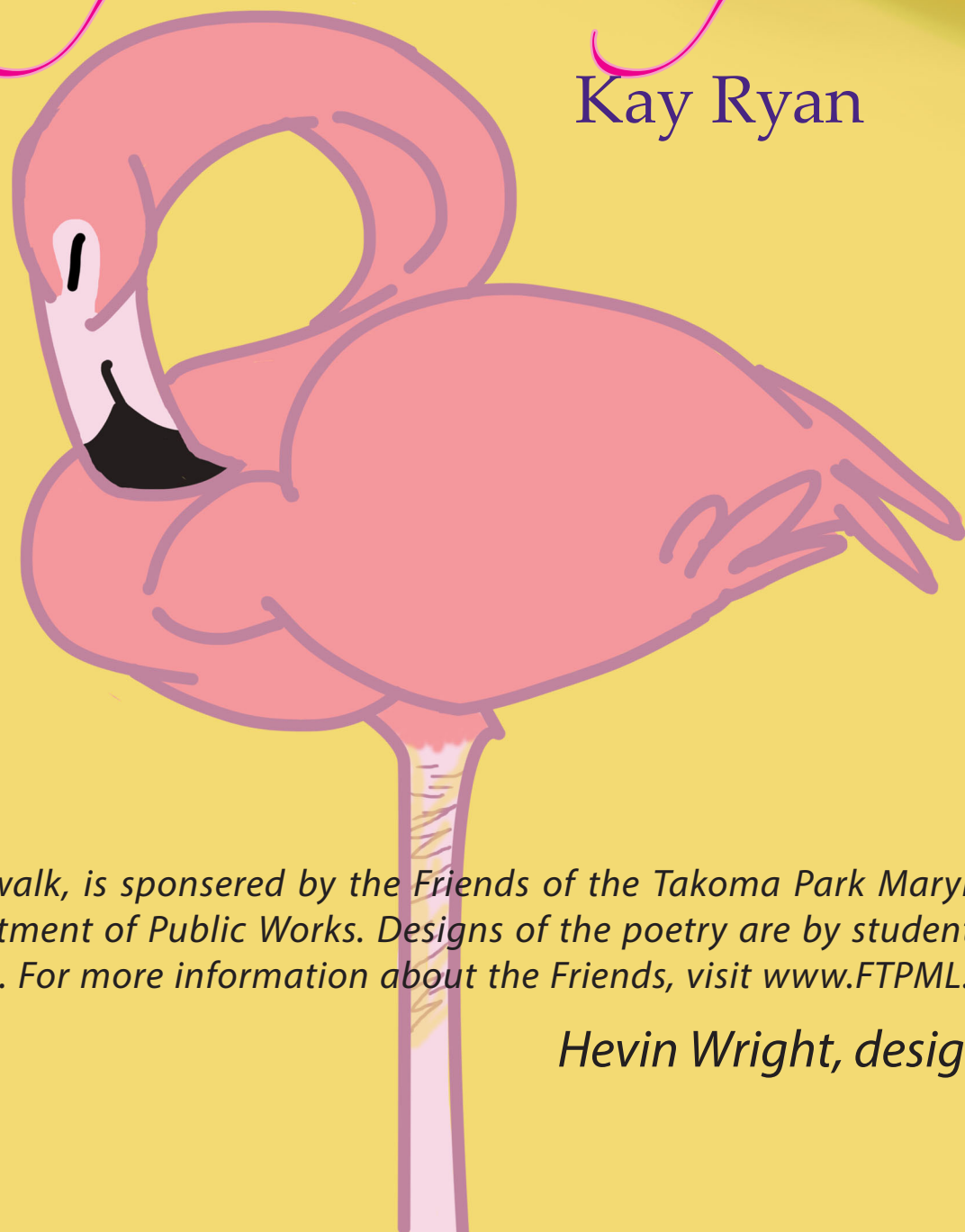
Everything contains some  
silence. Noise gets  
its zest from the  
small shark's-tooth  
shaped fragments  
of rest angled  
in it. An hour  
of city holds maybe  
a minute of these  
remnants of a time  
when silence reigned  
compact and dangerous  
as a shark. Sometimes  
a bit of a tail  
or fin can still  
be sensed in parks

Kay Ryan

Wherever the flamingo goes,  
she brings a city's worth  
of furbelows. She seems  
unnatural by nature—  
too vivid and peculiar  
a structure to be pretty,  
and flexible to the point  
of oddity. Perched on  
those legs, anything she does  
seems like an act. Descending  
on her egg or draping her head  
along her back, she's  
too exact and sinuous  
to convince an audience  
she's serious. The natural elect,  
they think, would be less pink,  
less able to relax their necks,  
less flamboyant in general.  
They privately expect that it's some  
poorly jointed bland grey animal  
with mitts for hands  
whom God protects.

## *Flamingo Watching*

Kay Ryan



*Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park, an urban poetry walk, is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library with assistance from the Takoma Park Department of Public Works. Designs of the poetry are by students at the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College. For more information about the Friends, visit [www.FTPML.org](http://www.FTPML.org).*

*Hevin Wright, designer*