

ELIZABETH KNAPP

CAN AMERICA'S DEMOCRACY BE SAVED?

Whenever I feel like an outsider
looking in, I draw a circle around myself
with imaginary chalk & pretend
I'm the center of the universe. Maybe
the question is not can *it* be saved,
but can *we*—we who can't distinguish
between human & AI, truth & conspiracy,
an automatic rifle & a stunt gun on the set
of a B-list movie that was never meant
to be loaded, never meant to be fired,
never meant to kill the cinematographer.
Maybe a better question is how can we
save ourselves from ourselves when
we're holding both the gun & the target?