



**THE LITERARY REVIEW**

**Fairleigh Dickinson**

*Year End Report*

**University**

2016-2017

**TLR**

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# Introduction

Fairleigh Dickinson University has been publishing *The Literary Review* (also known as “TLR”) since Peter Sammartino founded the quarterly journal with Charles Angoff and Clarence Decker in 1957. The inaugural issue included the following mission statement: *The Literary Review* “seeks to encourage literary excellence and its appreciation by a wider audience and to further cultural exchange among the peoples of the world. It is hospitable to young writers of promise and to those whose reputation is established. Poetry, fiction, sketches, plays, imaginative essays concerning literature—all are welcome from those who have something of value to say and are capable of saying that something well.” True to its promise, that first issue included original work by great American writers E.E. Cummings, Langston Hughes, and William Carlos Williams. Sixty years on and 10,250 individual pieces later, we reiterate our promise to publish the best new fiction, poetry, and prose from a broad community of international writers and translators, both emerging and established whose distinguishing commonality is literary quality and an urgency of voice and artistic conviction. This past year has proved to be an extraordinary demonstration of TLR’s ongoing commitment and achievement in the global world of literature, as well as a vibrant part of the FDU arts community.

# Mission Statement

The Literary Review publishes a professional, well-regarded international literary journal that enhances the public profile of Fairleigh Dickinson University as an institution of excellence in the fine arts and humanities, exemplifies FDU’s deep and historical commitment to supporting world literature in American culture, recruits undergraduate and graduate students to the Creative Writing programs, and serves the student population of FDU with professional experience in the broadest aspects of their publishing career goals. One of the nation’s oldest continually publishing literary magazines since 1957, *The Literary Review* also represents one of FDU’s most robust legacy endeavors.

*TLR doesn’t just print. TLR engages. TLR thinks with me. TLR opens my mind. TLR opens my heart.* — Katherine Willingham, poetry contributor, *Uncle*

**TLR**

# Overview

This past year, we've published amazing new work from writers all over the globe, *and* collaborated extensively with emerging young writers from FDU's Creative Writing programs who are just starting out on their publishing careers. We've published four issues, representing almost a thousand pages of new writing and writers from over sixteen different countries (not including the U.S.). We've created and staffed a new editorship, dedicated to social media outreach with fantastic results. We've converted to an upgraded circulation database, and continue our circulation strategic plan for subscription management and growth. We've brought on new editorial staff, each new member recruited from amongst our phenomenal FDU alumni community. We've brought TLR to conferences, festivals, and workshops; built new distribution relationships with independent bookstores, and distributors. We've piloted a new, expanded undergraduate internship program that makes our already popular internship even more valuable to graduating Creative Writing majors.

## TLR's Unit Objectives:

- Recruitment to FDU's creative writing programs
- Providing graduate students with professional opportunities in literary publishing
- Providing undergraduate students with professional experience
- Engaging and cultivating the creative writing FDU alumni community
- Increase TLR name recognition and build the publication reputation of TLR and an FDU education in the literary community
- Reach more readers through broader circulation, website, and digitization
- Publish a high-quality international literary journal people want to read



Gloria Beth Amodeo (FDU, BA 2009), former TLR Intern and then Online Editor and Julia Ann Van Middlesworth (FDU MFA 2011) working at the TLR table at the Brooklyn Book Festival

# New Team Members



**LISA VOLTOLINA GRGAS, ASSISTANT PROSE EDITOR** Lisa Voltolina Grgas MS, CCRP is a SoCRA-certified Institutional Review Board (IRB) analyst with over nine years experience as a clinical researcher at Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, OR. Recent research has appeared in *The Journal of Autism Spectrum Disorders* and *Toxins*. In addition to her clinical research, Lisa is a poetry reader at *TinHouse*. Before relocating to Portland, Lisa was the Executive Assistant to Lisa Gallagher, then the Vice President and Publisher for William Morrow, Harper Collins Book Publishers, and completed an internship at Donadio and Olson Literary Agency in NYC. She has also read for *Tiferet Journal*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, and *In Posse Review*. Her creative work has most recently appeared in *Web Del Sol Review of Books*, and *Fractal*. Previously, Lisa served as TLR Assistant Poetry Editor, and in August will be promoted to Associate Poetry Editor. [FDU BA '06 / FDU MFA '17](#)

**JESSICA MARTINEZ, TLR SHARES EDITOR** is a writer from Queens, New York. In addition to her work with *TLR*, she has just joined the staff of *Serving House Books* as the financial manager and an associate editor. Jessica has spent most of the last 9 years teaching preschool at Discovery Programs in Manhattan. She currently lives in Honesdale, Pennsylvania. [FDU MFA '17](#)



**AMINAH ABUTAYEB, ASSISTANT POETRY EDITOR** Certified from the University of Cambridge in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), Aminah also teaches English to grades five through eleven at Scholars and Leaders Academy in Clifton, New Jersey. She is also at the Writing Center at William Paterson University, where she tutors undergraduate and graduate students. Aminah earned her Bachelor's degree in English Writing with a minor in Philosophy in 2015 from WPU. Her poetry has been published in *Philadelphia Stories* and *Common Ground Review*. [FDU MFA '17](#)



**LETISIA CRUZ, TLR SHARES EDITOR** is a Cuban-American writer and artist living in Miami, Florida. Her writing and artwork have recently appeared in *Ninth Letter*, *The Acentos Review*, *Gulf Stream*, and *Moko Caribbean Arts and Letters*, and her chapbook *Chonga Nation* was selected as a finalist in the 2016 Gazing Grain Press Poetry Chapbook Contest. She serves as Resident Artist at Petite Hound Press and earns a living as a marketing coordinator for a local engineering firm. [FDU MFA '14](#)

## PROMOTION

**Heather Lang** ([FDU MFA '14 / '17](#)), formerly Associate Poetry Editor and Online Managing Editor, will be joining **Jessie Vail Auffy** ([FDU MFA '13](#)) as World Literature Editor

Heather and Letisia at the Associated Writers Program Conference



# Masthead

**Editor,** Minna Zallman Proctor (MFA faculty)

**Poetry Editors** Craig Morgan Teicher and Michael Morse

**Fiction Editor** Justin Taylor (MFA visiting faculty)

**Editors-at-Large** Renée Ashley (MFA faculty) and René Steinke (FDU faculty)

**Managing Editor** Kate Munning

**Editorial Coordinator** Louise Dell-Bene Stahl (BA 1987)

**World Literature Editors** Jessie Vail Auiery (MFA '13) and Heather Lang (MFA '14/17)

**Books Editor** Cory Johnston (MFA '14)

**Associate Editors** Nina Ball-Pesut (MFA), Ryan Romine (MFA '12), Tim Waldron (MFA '14)

**Online Editors** Letisia Cruz (FDU MFA '14) and Jessica Martinez (MFA '14)

**Editor Emeritus** Walter Cummins

**Assistant Editors** Aminah Abutayeb (MFA), Lisa Grgas (MFA), Briana McDonald (FDU MFA), Amanda Ramirez (BA/MFA)

**Editorial Interns** (FDU undergraduates) Danielle MacConnell, Gabriella Shriner, Christina Sobszak, Maiasia Grimes, Matthew College, Zachary Heffner, Katrina Elwertowski



World Literature Editor, Jessie Vail Auiery and TLR Shares Editor Letisia Cruz at the O, Miami Poetry Festival 2017. Courtesy *Miami Daily News*

**Readers:** Mariella Aponte (MFA), Anthony Ausiello (MFA), Hayden Bergman (MFA), Robin Calcagnetti, Natalie Cannon (MFA), Cara Cavall, T. Nicole Cirone (MFA), Flower Conroy (MFA), Andrea Cox (MFA), Kimberly Coyle (MFA), Ceyda Demirbulakli (BA/MFA), Maria Denoia, Patty Keefe Durso (FDU faculty/MFA), Abby Eckert (MFA), Amelia Fisher (BA), Rogan Kelly (MFA), P. Joshua Laskey (MFA), Lars Lichtenfeld (MFA), Tammara Lindsay-Scrivens, Danielle MacConnell (BA), Isabel Mader (MFA), Abby Maguire (MFA), Marina Marcello (MFA), Chad Meadows (MFA), Nicole Melleby (MFA), Adrienn Mendonca-Jones (MFA), May Nasr (MFA), Maxine Patroni, Maria Poulatha, Cassie Pruyn, Colleen Quinn (MFA), Glenn Schaefer (MFA), Rob Sobel (MFA), Dan Stockman (MFA), Dana Stokes (MFA), Ian Stone (MFA), Ginger Thomason (MFA), Paul-Victor Winters, Anne Harding Woodworth (MFA)

*All indicated degrees and faculty positions are FDU*

# News, Honors, and Press

## IN THE NEWS

Studio 360 (NPR/PRI) with Kurt Andersen interviewed TLR contributor **Osama Alomar** and cited *The Literary Review* in the on-air introduction. TLR'S *FIGHT* issue received a four-star review from **The Review Review** (TLR: Winter 2016). Exchange ad for TLR posted in BOMB magazine (circulation 32,000)

## EVENTS

TLR **Editors Launch Party** at Housing Works Bookstore Café, August 2016, featured Rachel Sherman, Craig Morgan Teicher, Justin Taylor, and Renée Ashley. **No, You Tell It!**—a switched up reading series run by MFA '14 alum Kelly Jean Fitzsimmons was selected to appear at the **Associated Writers Conference** in Washington DC this past March. Featured readers included TLR Editors Minna Zallman Proctor, Heather Lang, Jessie Vail Aufiery. Proctor also appeared in another panel about website redesign with TLR website designer Bud Parr. The AWP Conference had over 12,000 attendees. TLR created a unique letterpress art-poem poster featuring the work of MFA faculty H.L.Hix, ran a successful table staffed by most of TLR's editorial staff and MFA alum, and collected autographs and testimonials from over 95 contributors. In October, TLR teamed up with *Helen A Literary Magazine* for Viva Las Vegas!, a reading/launch event at The Writer's Block in Las Vegas. We exhibited at both the Queens and Brooklyn Book Festivals this past year.

## HIGHLIGHT NEWS ABOUT EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Editor **Minna Zallman Proctor** has three forthcoming publications: Translation from Italian of ***These Possible Lives*** by Fleur Jaeggy (New Directions, July 2017), from which she read at The Gansevoort (NYC) with Susan Bernofsky (TLR contributor and guest MFA faculty) for New Directions. Proctor also appeared at Book Culture (NYC) in March for New Directions to celebrate the bookstore's 20th anniversary. Proctor is the co-writer with Bethany Beardslee on ***I Sang the Unsingable: My Life in 20th Century Music*** (University of Rochester Press, September 2017). Proctor will be launching a new collection of original essays in September 2017 entitled ***Landslide***. Proctor is a judge in the category of Best Literary Magazine in the CLMP Firecracker Awards 2017.

Poetry Editor **Craig Morgan Teicher** published a new collection of poetry, *The Trembling Answers* (BOA Editions, March 2017). His poetry was also featured this spring on the Academy of American Poets website. He discussed small presses and the poetry business with FDU creative writing students in April and with TLR contributor **Rachel Zucker** on her podcast, Commonplace. Teicher's short story "The Child Runs Away" was featured on *Agni* online.



# News, Honors, and Press, *continued*

Fiction Editor **Justin Taylor** published a feature piece in *Harper's Magazine* on the Icelandic writer Halldór Laxness and a review of Joy Williams new book *Ninety-Nine Stories of God* in the *New York Times Book Review*. Taylor was the Booth Tarkington Writer in Residence at Butler University this past year. Over the summer, Taylor and poetry editor Michael Morse will present *TLR* to students at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival.

Editor Emeritus **Walter Cummins** had a piece anthologized in the collection *Aging: An Apprenticeship* (Red Notebook Press, April 2017). Assistant Editor **Briana MacDonald** had stories published in *Glassworks Magazine* and in *The Cardiff Review*. Assistant Editor **Amanda Ramirez** was hired as an Assistant Editor at Simon & Schuster. *TLR* Books Editor, **Cory Johnston**, appeared in New York at a Catapult masterclass, speaking about the ins and outs of getting published. *TLR* Online Managing Editor **Heather Lang** was chosen by the readers of *Desert Companion* as Las Vegas' Best Local Writer or Poet, and was published several times on her local NPR Station (on air and online).

*TLR* Contributor **Tina Cane**, who appeared at our summer Big Blue Whale launch party at Housing Works Bookstore Café, was named Poet Laureate of Rhode Island. Contributor **Sally Wen Mao** was featured on PoemoftheWeek.org, alongside *TLR* reviewer **Alex Crowley's** piece about her book. Former *TLR* assistant editor **Elizabeth Jaeger's** short story "Burn" was published by *Inside The Bell Jar*. Poetry Daily (circulation: 110,000) republished Melissa Stein's poem "Zero" (*TLR*: Summer 2016). Verse Daily republished *TLR* poems from **Melissa Stein, Gretchen Marquette, and Mira Rosenthal**. Last year's feature on William Bronk by Daniel Wolff was discussed in a *Paris Review* Daily.

**Best American:** Brenda Shaughnessey's "But I'm the Only One" (*TLR*: Fall 2014) appeared in *Best American Poetry 2016*. Susan Thornton's "Border Crossing" (*TLR* Summer 2015) appeared in *Best American Mystery Stories 2016*. Nick White's story, "The Lovers," (*TLR*: Fall 2015) was an honorable mention in *Best American Stories*, and both Chris Arthur (*TLR*: Spring 2015) and Peter LaSalle (*TLR*: Fall 2015) were honorable mentions in *Best American Essays 2016*.

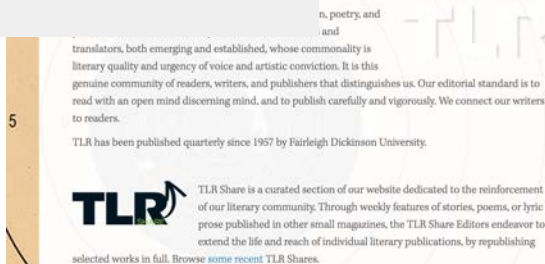
Rachel Sherman, Craig Morgan Teicher, Tina Cane, Justin Taylor, Renee Ashley at the *TLR* Summer launch event in New York City



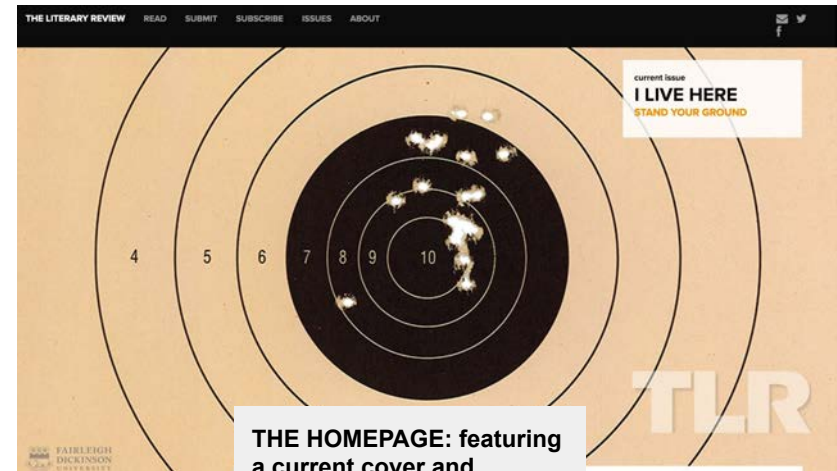
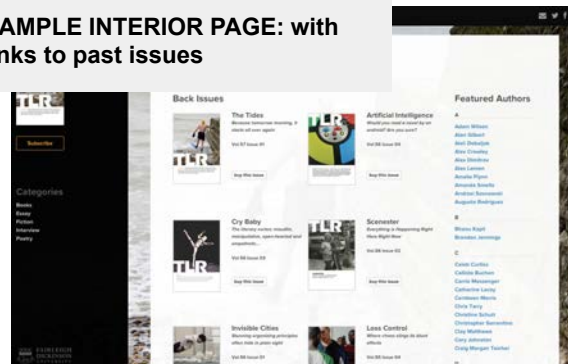
# WWW.THELITERARYREVIEW.ORG

Spring of 2013, we launched a **totally redesigned TLR website**. We've been working since then with Bud Parr of Sonnet Media, an expert developer of web design for literary publishers, to perfect a contemporary, responsive website that focuses on our primary activities: publishing great writing, selling subscriptions to TLR, accepting submissions, attracting writers to creative writing programs at FDU, and creating a literary hub for an expanding network of readers, writers, and fellow publishers. The website was designed to publish each day only full text literature, from the TLR archives and from other literary magazines (online and print) so that curious readers have a place to go to read. Once a week we also publish reviews of new books of poetry, literary translations, and work from smaller independent presses. Our primarily text format, as well as our community driven republishing schedule makes our site unique among literary magazines. The Community of Literary Magazines and Small Presses, an independent advocacy nonprofit, gave our website its highest rating in an annual review and included TLR in its 2017 AWP panel on Redesigning Your Literary Website.

**ABOUT US: with multiple hyperlinks to FDU main page and the MFA website**



**SAMPLE INTERIOR PAGE: with links to past issues**



**THE HOMEPAGE: featuring a current cover and clickable links to FDU**

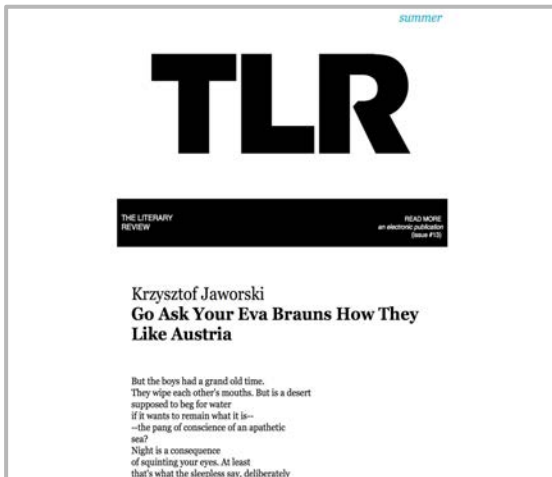
average **5,500** monthly visits:

## TRAFFIC STATS

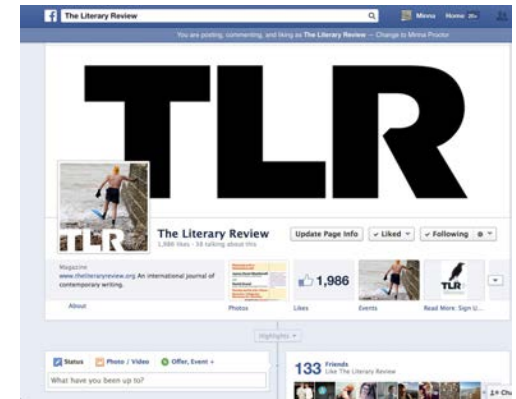
- All time traffic = 304,382
- Highest traffic in one day = 919
- Clickthroughs to Submissions = 8,790
- Clickthroughs to FDU = 1,282
- Clickthroughs to MFA at FDU = 1,027
- Clickthroughs to social media = 1,104
- Clickthroughs to retail = 534
- Clickthroughs to newsletter sign up = 535
- Visits to Subscribe page = 4,652
- Completed new subscriptions = 332

# Social Media, Newsletter, and Submissions

**READ MORE:** Our monthly newsletter, Read More, goes out to **6,000 subscribers** and has a **25% average open rate**, which is astronomical for an email newsletter. Each newsletter features just one poem or short story, full text, from a recent issue. It is a simple approach to expanding the reach of our publication, but we have found it to be one of our most successful projects.



**Social Media:** Our Facebook page has 3,800 likes; and Twitter has 1,700 followers. We update our social media daily with announcements about contributor events and publications, posts from the TLR website, news about members of our editorial board, invitations to TLR events, and the publication of a new issue. **Social media is a primary driver to the TLR website**, second only to native word searches.



**SUBMISSIONS:** *The heart of our readership is made up of emerging writers and aspiring contributors. We have received 1,800 unsolicited submissions this year. About 10% of the work we publish is selected from these submissions. We pride ourselves on publishing a high rate of extraordinary new writers from the unsolicited submissions, and consider that profile to be a recognized niche in the literary marketplace.*

**TRAFFIC:** 30% of our traffic is referred from other literary websites. Here are some of the sites that link to ours: Listed or linked from: Web Del Sol, New Pages, Lithub, World Newspapers, Poets and Writers, Tin House, New Pages, The Review Review, National Book Critics Circle

# Collaborating with Academic Programming at FDU

One of TLR's ongoing objectives is to collaborate with the Creative Writing Department to prepare the students for a professional life in the literary marketplace, and to cultivate a vibrant, invested alumni community. For the MFA students, TLR represents a unique opportunity to read for, intern at, and get editorial fellowships with an international literary magazine. This year:

- There are over 50 current and former FDU undergraduate and graduate students on the masthead of our latest issue.
- Seven undergraduate students had semester long, for-credit internships in the TLR office.
- Two talented MFA students were granted second-year GA positions to work as Assistant Editors on the TLR Masthead.
- Two more MFA students were hired as paid interns at the Assistant Editor level
- A Dual-Track third year MFA student was hired as a paid intern at a Managing Editor level
- TLR gave a masterclass on publishing and submitting to literary journals at the MFA summer residency (August 2016). A similar masterclass was presented to the undergraduate publishing class in Spring 2017
- TLR Editor, Minna Proctor, collaborated intensely with MFA director, René Steinke, on the marketing and advertising strategy for MFA program recruitment, and TLR internships have been highlighted in the undergraduate program's recruitment campaign.
- Proctor has also been involved in the faculty committee for the proposed FDU School of the Arts. She is currently collaborating with Professor Ann Huser on developing an Introduction to Marketing Class for Students in the Arts.
- This spring, four remarkable undergraduate interns participated in a unique editorial initiative. As Assistant Guest Editors for the 60th Anniversary Issue, Maiasia Grimes, Matthew College, Zachary Heffner, and Katrina Elwertowski, combed the entire TLR archives and selected pieces to be reprinted in the anniversary issue under the theme, How Artists Respond to "Their Political Moment." These students not only researched and developed the theme, but are being supervised through the whole editorial process, including communicating with authors and estates, navigating permissions, and writing their own editorial introductions. This issue is slated to appear in the fall.

# TLR 2017 Internships: Experiences and Professional Preparation

“

**Maiasia Grimes** (TLR Undergraduate Intern, Fall 2016 & Spring 2017)

Working as an intern at TLR has been a real confidence booster for me. Through the magazine I was able to learn more about the worlds of publishing and writing and start to trust more deeply that after graduation there will be places for me to do what I love (and make a living). It gave me perspective and the chance to take on responsibilities that, instead of being tied to a grade or my GPA, are tied to what I'm most passionate about. I couldn't be more thankful for my time there. [CLASS OF 2017](#)

**Zachary Heffner** (TLR Undergraduate Intern, Spring 2017)

Working at TLR has given me a closer look at the "behind the scenes" action of a literary magazine. Through the varied work given to me, I have gotten a clearer understanding of the processes by which publications such as this one keep on ticking. I look forward to working with them further in the future, and I am excited to learn even more going down the road. [CLASS OF 2019](#)

**Katrina Elwertowski** (TLR Undergraduate Intern, Spring 2017)

Being a part of TLR has made me feel not just like I have my finger on the pulse of the literary community but that I am a blood cell pumping through its veins. I get to be an active participant in a culture that is as academic as it is artistic. Through the scope of literature, the world has never felt more vast and simultaneously intimate. [QUEST 2018](#)

**Matthew College** (TLR Undergraduate Intern, Spring 2017)

I have greatly enjoyed working at *The Literary Review* and consider it one of the most vital learning experiences of my time at Fairleigh Dickinson. By learning how a literary magazine is actually put together as well as invaluable information about the writing world I now feel far more capable of reaching success in my post college career. [CLASS OF 2017](#)

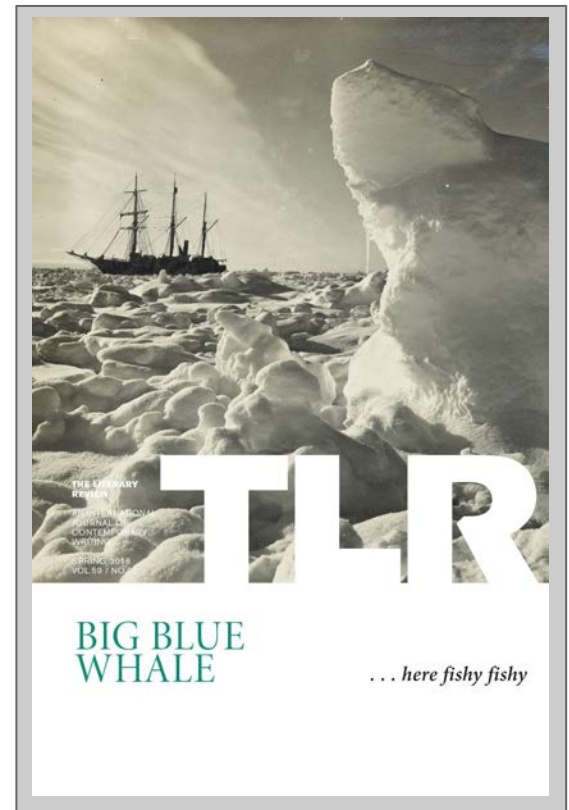
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# Issues: Big Blue Whale

SPRING 2016

*For their scope, songs, mystery and mythology, ferocity and vulnerability, whales have inspired writers from Melville to William Steig. Once you start thinking about whales, you find them (or echoes of them) everywhere. The theme of the Big Blue Whale struck us as both inevitable and irresistible.*

— *From the Editor's Note by Minna Zallman Proctor*



- Ingrid Nelson's short story from this issue, "Fluffy the Cat," was made into a short film.
- Acclaimed novelist Idra Novey, whose translation from Iranian appears here, will join the MFA faculty in Summer of 2017.
- Rhode Island Poet Laureate, Tina Cane, contributed poems from the Letter for Elena Ferrante series which were included in a book by the same name, published this past spring.
- MFA Guest Faculty Rachel Sherman contributed to *Big Blue Whale* with her story "Intervention," which was featured at last summer's Editor's Event at Housing Works Bookstore Café

# Issue: Heaven

SUMMER 2016

*What is heaven but an antithesis to the chafing discomfort of living? What, but everything life is not? Not fleeting, but permanent. Not disappointing, but fulfilling. Not marred, but whole. Not estranged but part of all life again, and of nature.*

*From the Editor's Note by Jessie Vail Aulfery*



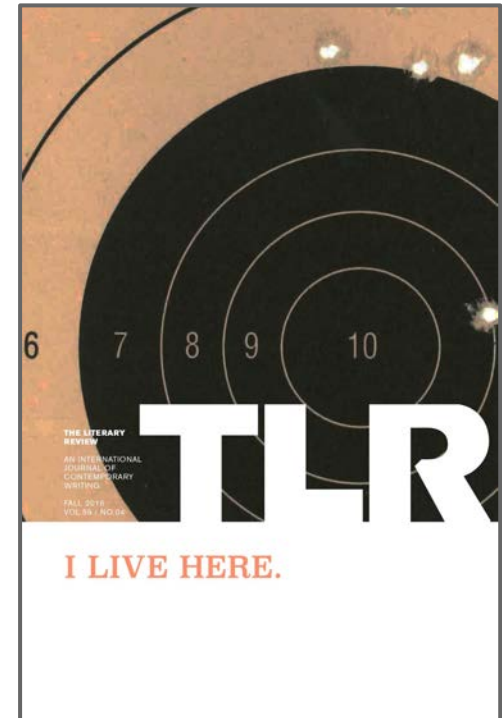
- Award-winning poet, Olivia McCannon, whose poem, “Do Boys Turn into Butterflies?” is included here was a guest author at the MFA Wroxton residency in Winter 2016
- This issue includes six translations from six different countries: Argentina, Italy, Mexico, Spain, France, and Vietnam.
- Return contributor Jody Azzouni, whose charming story, “For the Love of Leprechauns” appears in this issue, is also a world-regarded philosopher who teaches at Tufts University.
- Two poems from this issue were selected for republication on Verse Daily and Poetry Daily—by Melissa Stein and Gretchen Marquette

# Issue: I Live Here

FALL 2017

*This issue, more than any before it, has also been subject to outside influences. Over the past year, I found it harder and harder to think of “I live here” as dissociated from “stand your ground.” The question of territory—over land, one’s body, one’s privacy—started to feel argumentative rather than metaphysical. ...In the last month before we went to production, we had an astonishing presidential election, from which we learned vividly that we live in a divided country. It is perhaps that very deep sense of division that leads me to think “I Live Here” is a theme about diametric opposition and its disruptions.*

*From the Editor’s Note by Minna Zallman Proctor*



- This issue features a hybrid essay poem contribution from returning contributor and WAMFest guest artist, Daniel Wolff
- Special art-poem poster for this issue was created in collaboration with Soho Letterpress. It features a reprint from H.L. Hix’s book-length poem, *American Anger*
- This issue includes contributions from award-winning poet, Mary Ruefle and critically acclaimed novelist Yannick Murphy.

# Issue: Uncle

WINTER 2017

*The issue we're putting before you is about family and power struggles, about playground tactics, and world domination. Uncle is about newlyweds and the presidential election, about what shakes you up and what you settle for. There are no families without grudges and regrets, almost none of which can't be settled by a deathbed. First love has echoes of psychosis—we might as well say it out loud because it's true. Old love is some magical balance of surrender and secrets. Time outlasts politics and our world, this world, is bigger than a clock. That's why Uncle starts with poetry about CNN and ends with love songs so old and shrouded that no one knows who wrote them.*

—From the Editor's Note by Minna Zallman Proctor



- Cover art by Magnum photographer, Chris Steele-Perkins.
- Uncle contributor Jesse Lee Kercheval won the prestigious 2017 Tupelo Press Dorset Prize, judged by fellow TLR contributor Ilya Kaminsky.
- Contributions to this issue include work from Italy's eminent writer, Fleur Jaeggy, and the highly-regarded Croatian-Canadian writer and public intellectual Josip Novakovich.
- This issue includes a remarkable debut story from the young writer Taylor Lannamann. TLR prides itself on publishing the work of new writers alongside that of marqué writers with international status.