

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

P **PLOUGHSHARES**
AT EMERSON COLLEGE



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A Message from Editor-in-chief Ladette Randolph

This time last year, we were within reach of fully endowing our payments to writers, and this year, we are pleased to announce that we have met our goal. Thanks to your incredible support, we have raised \$1.53 million for The Ploughshares Anniversary Fund, surpassing our initial \$1.5 million target. We couldn't have achieved this without every one of you, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity, which will have a lasting impact on the lives of writers.

We are delighted to share that in the past year we have compensated writers a total of \$52,420 for their outstanding work. Contributor Gothataone Moeng, author of *Call and Response*, shared what publication in Ploughshares meant to her:

As an emergent writer from Botswana, reading literary journals such as Ploughshares keeps me connected to a greater literary community, by introducing me to a great number of upcoming and established writers and keeping me connected to literary trends and thematic preoccupations by writers publishing in the US. Throughout my many years of attempting to become a writer, Ploughshares has been a lodestar, a journal whose high standards and literary quality I could aspire to. It gave me immense pleasure to have my short story 'When Mrs. Kennekae Dreamt of Snakes' accepted for publication in the Summer 2022 issue. Having work published in such a prestigious and important journal has been pivotal to my career, as it has given me the respect and seriousness with which I wish my work could be taken.

A Message from Editor-in-chief Ladette Randolph (continued)

Your generous support for Ploughshares has ensured that we will keep our promise to pay writers for their work. Acknowledging the worth of our writers in this way enables us to attract and publish the best new literature possible. Knowing we can continue to pay our writers gives us enormous confidence even as the publishing industry faces continued paper shortages and rising production costs. Despite the financial challenges of these additional costs, we are heartened by indicators of growth: The 2023 Emerging Writer's Contest was one of our most successful, second only to the 2020 contest, and our social media presence has grown to 110,000. We saw a 34% jump in digital subscription revenue, which allows us to satisfy the preferences of our readers and to remain flexibility in our ability to reach our international subscribers.

As we reflect on year 2023, we would be remiss if we also didn't acknowledge the valuable contributions of our longtime managing editor and blog editor, Ellen Duffer. As many of you know, in March of this past year, after almost a decade of service to Ploughshares, Ellen accepted an exciting new job. While we miss her, we're thrilled that Olivia Carey has stepped into the role, joining me, Allison Truj, Ning Ma, and the dedicated Emerson College students who help us carry on the valuable work of Ploughshares. We remain committed to the pursuit of literary excellence, and, as we hope the issues in this past volume year make explicit, we continue to provide a home for diverse voices and a platform for the transformative power of words. Because of your generous support, we continue to nurture the literary community and create an enduring impact on writers and readers alike. Thank you for being an integral part of our journey.

SUMMER 2022

Guest-Edited by Jamel Brinkley



“I ended up with a clutch of work that, to my ear, sang with what Lorca calls 'a scorched throat,' forms of eloquence that lean into trouble instead of away from it.”

JAMEL BRINKLEY

from his introduction to the Summer issue

FICTION BY: Maria Anderson • Alexia Arthurs • Marian Crotty • Ben Fergusson • Rav Grewal-Kök • Arinze Ifeakandu • Dana Liebelson • Gabriel Louis • Gothataone Moeng • Lauren Morrow • Iheoma Nwachukwu • Analía Villagra • Vernon Wilson

NONFICTION BY: JP Gritton

COVER ART BY: Anna Valdez

FALL 2022

Edited by Ladette Randolph



“She alone knew how to read the minute vibrations that a subtle smile, a turn of the head, a pressed-thin lip generated in the warp and weft of a long marriage.”

E. K. OTA

from her story "The Paper Artist," winner of the fifth annual Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction

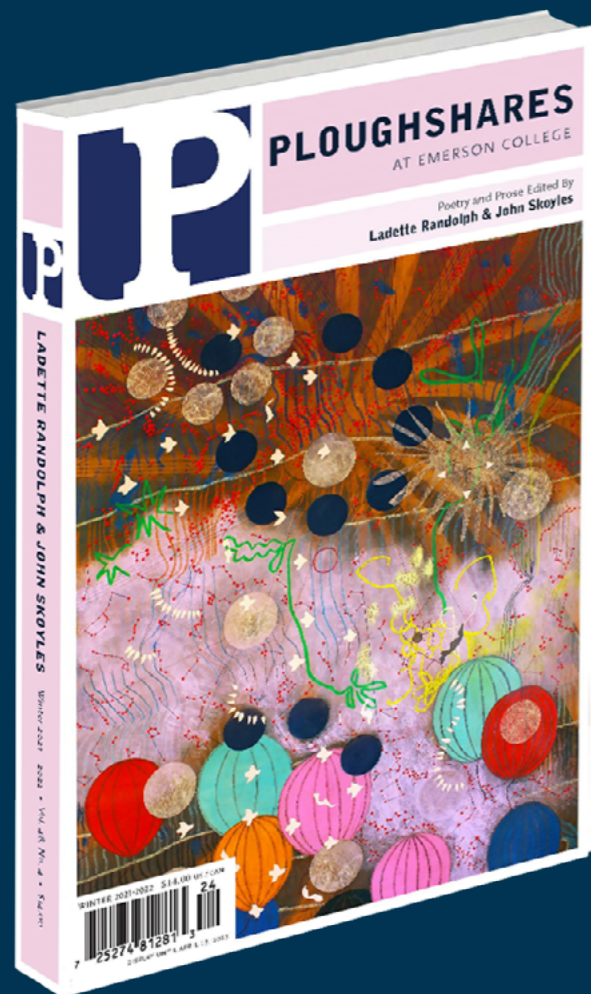
FICTION BY: Micah Perks • E. K. Ota • Frances de Pontes Peebles • John Fulton • Jung Yongjoon, Bruce and Ju-Chan Fulton • Ben Stroud • Aisha Bhoori

NONFICTION BY: Marco Katz Montiel • Emily Waples • Daniel Peña

COVER ART BY: David Thuku

WINTER 2022-2023

Edited By Ladette Randolph & John Skoyles



"We like pain and chaos so much; it entertains and enervates, so we feel as big as planets, but then we're exhausted and collapse in front of the TV, laughing together at silly things to start again the next day."

CARMEN GIMÉNEZ SMITH

from her poem, "THE HOLIDAYS," in the Winter Issue

FICTION BY: Natalie Bakopoulos • Sven Birkerts • Serkan Görkemli • Alice Jolly • Kashona Notah

NONFICTION BY: John Balaban • Sarah M. Brownsberger • Kirsty Gunn • Lily Lloyd Burkhalter • Mimi Schwartz

POETRY BY: D.M. Aderibigbe • Keith Althaus • Katie Berta • Nathan Blansett • Bruce Bond • Chen Xianfa, Martyn Crucefix, Nancy Feng Liang • Cara Dees • Edison Dupree • Stuart Dybek • Sara Elkamel • Nick Flynn • April Freely • Kate Gaskin • Carmen Giménez Smith • Nora Hikari • Luci Huhn • Christina Hutchins • Melissa Fite Johnson • David Kirby • Maureen Langloss • You Li • Zach Linge • Cate Lycurgus • Deshawn McKinney • Jenny Molberg • D. Nurkse • David O'Connell • Charles Rafferty • Shirley Stephenson • Matthew Sumpter • Ginny Threefoot • Donna Vorreyer • Jim Whiteside • Keith S. Wilson

COVER ART BY: Tiffanie Delune

SPRING 2023

Guest-Edited by Alice Hoffman



“No one else could tell you these stories or create these poems; they are unique, full of heart, and surprising. They are voices that will shake you up, anger you, tell you the truth, make you believe.”

ALICE HOFFMAN

from her introduction to the Spring issue

FICTION BY: Molly Aitken • Jai Chakrabarti • Mirri Glasson-Darling • Mary Gordon • Jennifer Haigh • Miles Harvey • Ann Hood • Victor LaValle • Mimi Manyin • Candice May • Courtney Sender • Lavanya Vasudevan • Jessamyn Violet

NONFICTION BY: Ann Hood • Mihaela Moscaliuc

POETRY BY: Diane Ackerman • Tess Gallagher • Benjamin S. Grossberg • Elizabeth L. Hodges • Maria Hummel • Danusha Laméris • Amanda Moore • Karina van Berkum

COVER ART BY: Helen Zughuib

THE PLOUGHSHARES BLOG

42,682+

PAGE VIEWS PER MONTH

3:53 MINUTES

AVERAGE TIME ON PAGE

FEATURED ESSAYS IN FY22:



THE LITERARY HISTORY OF MORGAN LE FAY

by Jessica Hines

3,613 page views



HIDDEN MOTHER'S MATERNAL HAUNTED HOUSE

by Miyako Pleines

1,566 page views



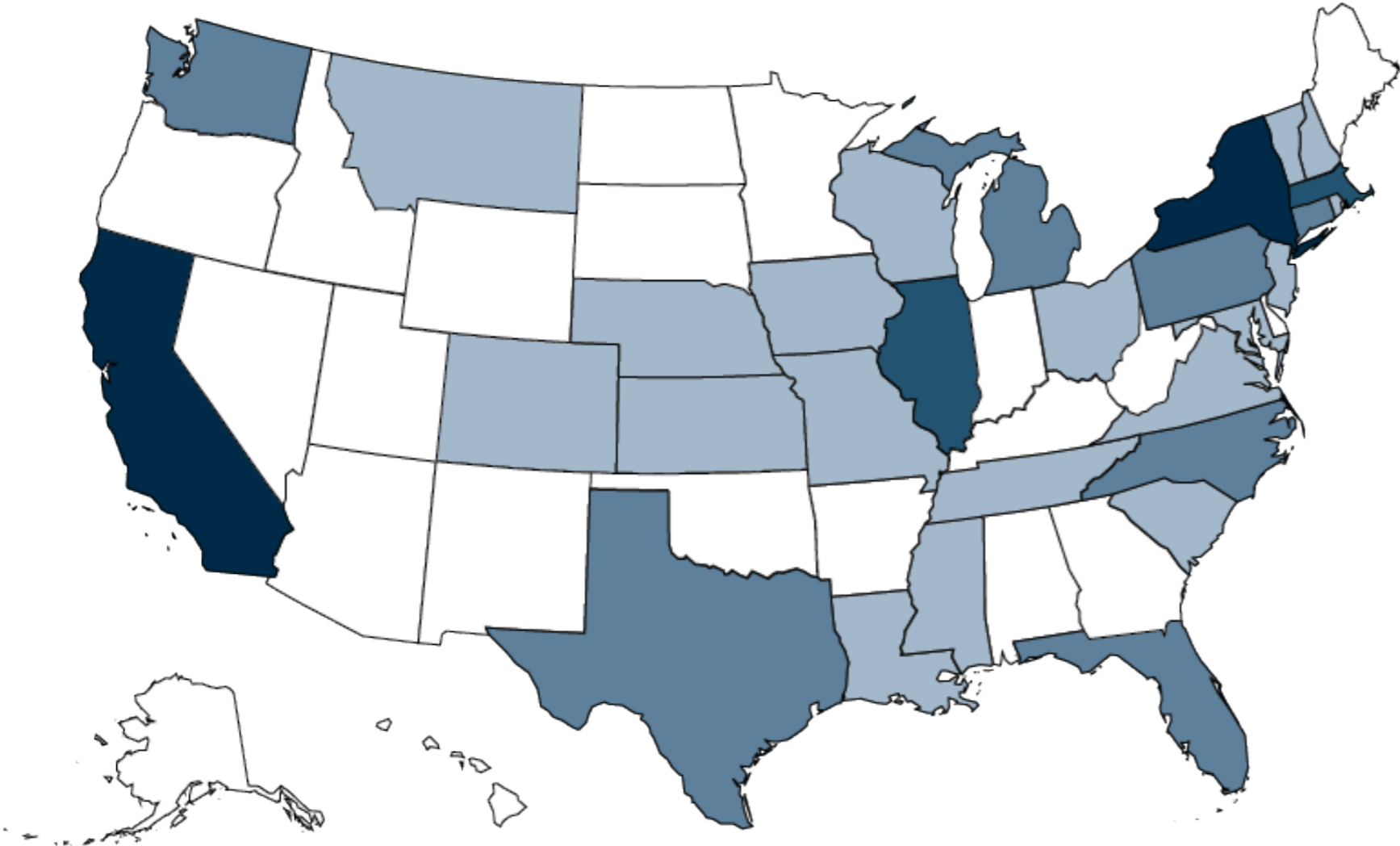
THE BIOPOLITICAL BODY OF CONVENIENCE STORE WOMAN

by Meg Horridge

1,460 page views

CONTRIBUTORS

This map represents this volume year's contributors to Ploughshares.



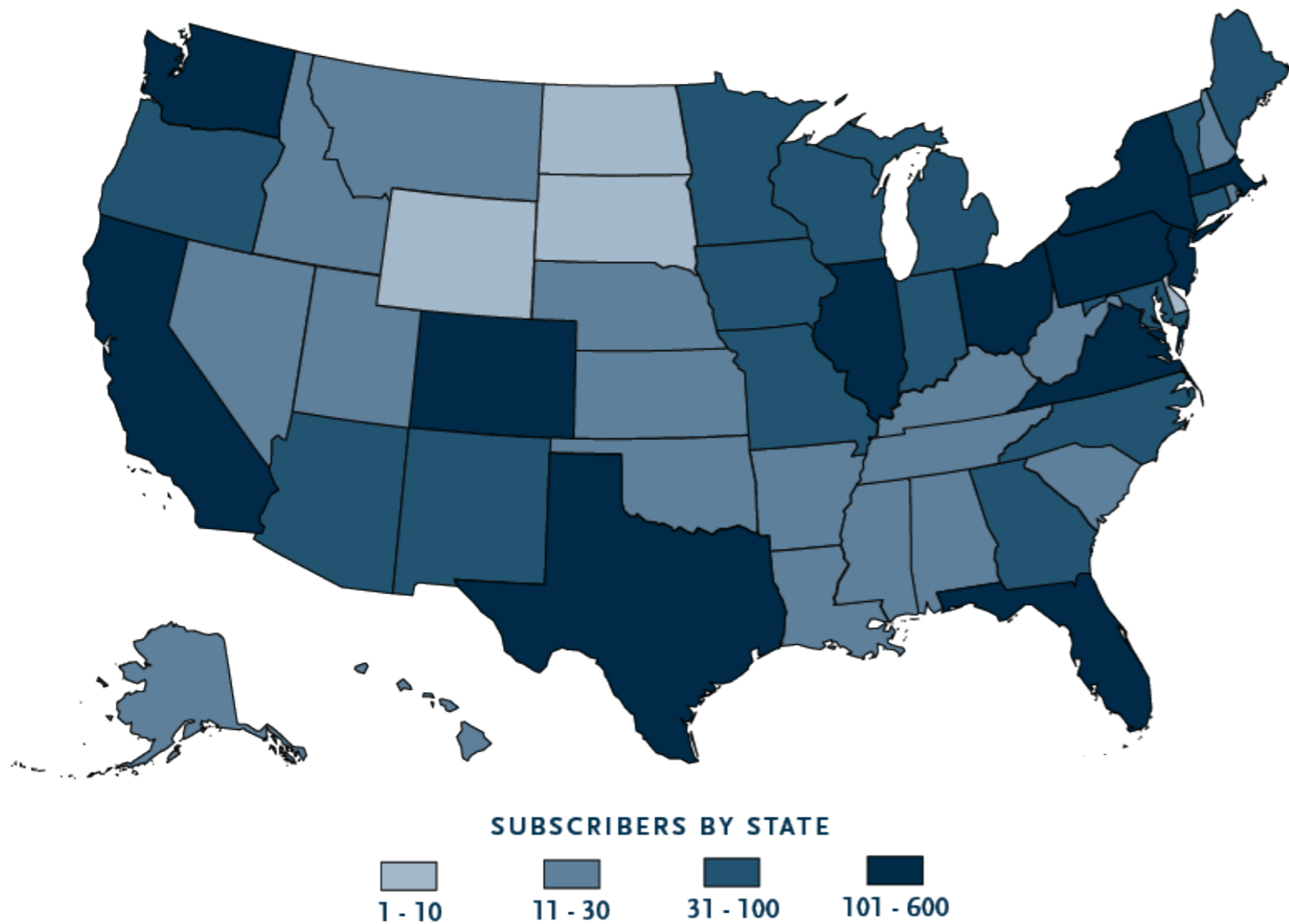
CONTRIBUTORS BY STATE



- OTHER COUNTRIES:**
- Canada
 - Egypt
 - France
 - Germany
 - Israel
 - Scotland
 - United Kingdom

SUBSCRIBERS

This map represents all current subscribers to Ploughshares.



OTHER COUNTRIES:

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Canada | Italy |
| Egypt | Japan |
| France | Kenya |
| Germany | Marshall Islands |
| Israel | New Zealand |
| Scotland | Norway |
| India | Philippines |
| Netherlands | Romania |
| Sweden | Serbia |
| Saint Lucia | Singapore |
| Czech Republic | South Africa |
| Australia | South Korea |
| Brazil | Spain |
| Belgium | Switzerland |
| China | Taiwan |
| Cyprus | Thailand |
| Denmark | Tunisia |
| Estonia | Turkey |
| Greece | Ukraine |
| Hong Kong S.A.R., China | United Arab Emirates |
| Ireland | United Kingdom |

AWARDS & PRIZES

This past year, we were pleased to announce the winners of our annual prizes, awards, and contest. We're thankful to the patrons who make these awards possible, and grateful for the writers that share their work with us. Congratulations to our winners!



CHRISTIE HODGEN

"Bush v. Gore"

winner of the Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction



KASHONA NOTAH

"Bettie Page and Jimmy Free Bird"

winner of the Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction



LARA EGGER

How to Love Everyone and Almost Get Away with It

winner of the John C. Zacharis First Book Award



CATHERINE KIM

"Mache/Mary"

Emerging Writer's Contest Fiction winner

selected by Amelia Gray



MEGAN VALLEY

"Painstaking Preservation"

Emerging Writer's Contest Nonfiction winner

selected by Danielle Geller



GIOVANNAI ROSA

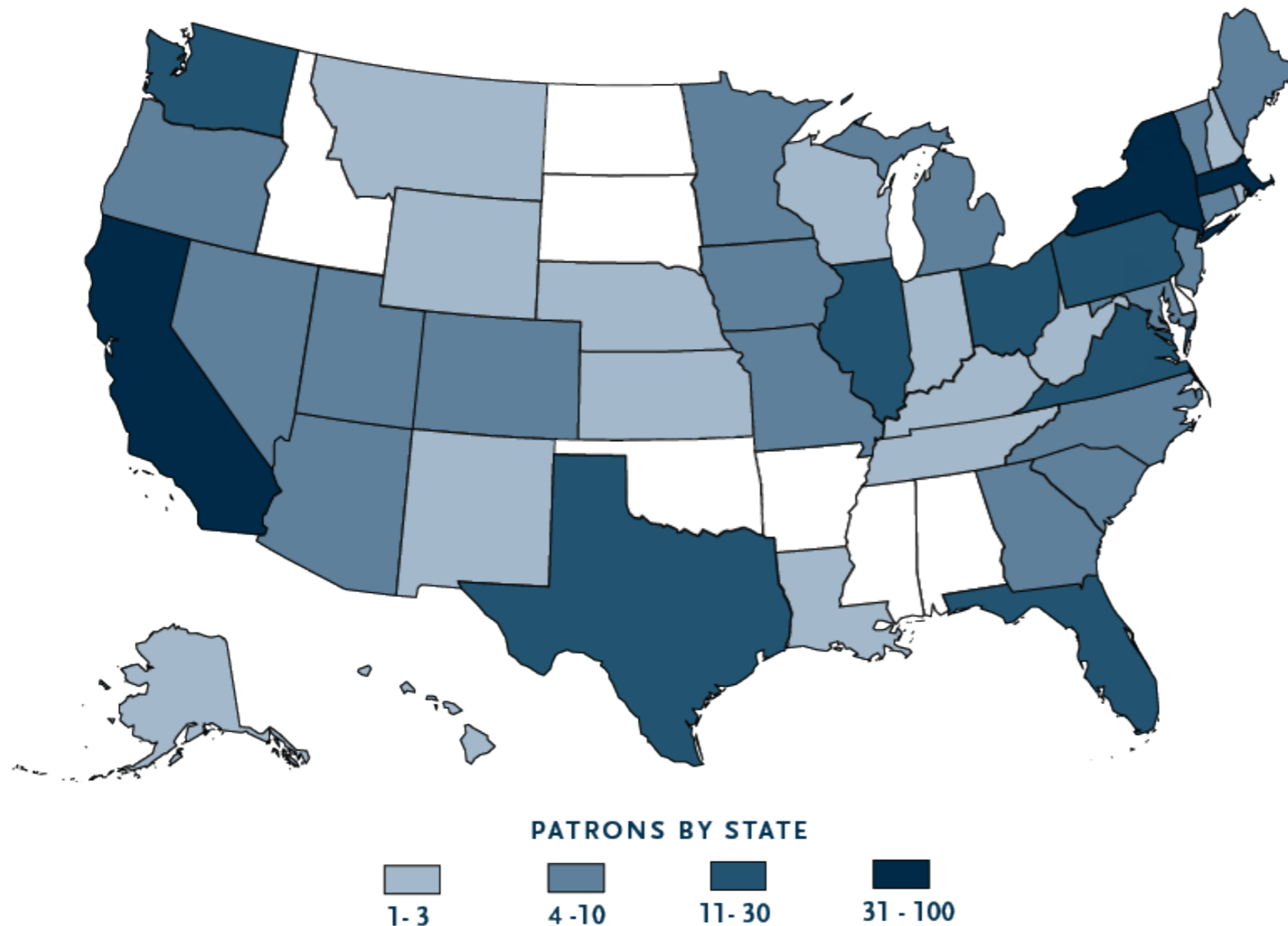
"untitled sugar poem"

Emerging Writer's Contest Poetry winner

selected by Chen Chen

PLOUGHSHARES PATRONS

This map represents all donors to Ploughshares in the past year.



OTHER COUNTRIES:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- France
- Haiti
- India
- Israel
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Ireland
- Spain
- Turkey
- Russia
- Sweden
- Poland
- Switzerland
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom

PATRONS

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Hunter C. Bourne III,
The Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction
The Green Angel Foundation,
The Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction
Marillyn Zacharis, in memory of Robert E.
Courtemanche,
John C. Zacharis First Book Award

EDITOR'S CIRCLE (\$10,000+)

Timothy Carey

PUBLISHER (\$5,000+)

Jill Karp

PATRONS (\$1,000+)

Carol David and Joel Marcus
Craig Donegan
Tom Perrotta
Elizabeth Rea
Elizabeth Rea, The Dungannon Foundation

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Jon Donner
Robert L. Fairchild
Sharissa Jones
Joan Parrish
Michael Randazza
Rachael Solem
Trink and Ernie Schurian
Stephen Thompson

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Emily and Ken Elliott
Allen Mears
Diem Nguyen
Gary Soto
Joanna Samson
Jerome Weinstein
Stephen M. Reitz & Elizabeth J. Evans

READERS (\$125+)

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Edward Cardoza
Philip Carter
Kathleen Hill
Hilda Raz
James Rickman
Steven Schwartz
Janet Silver
Elizabeth Wright
Norman James
Marc Frons
John Morgan
Margaret Gibbons
Lisa Hoelzer
Mary Duggan
Doris and Richard McGuire
Jean Waggoner
Kristen R. Kish
Susan DeWitt Davie
Peter Levitt

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POETRY EDITOR

John Skoyles

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

Ning Ma

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

Lauren Hunt and Basia Siwek

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Claire Robertson

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Nicollette Tanzi

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Kit Haggard

BLOG COPY EDITOR

Kellyn Eaddy

LOOK2 EDITOR

David Weinstein

SENIOR READERS

Emily Avery-Miller, Sean Cho A, Jana-Lee Germaine Balish, Will Gibbons, Mark Keats, Joanna Post, Suzanne Reeder, Sarah Wheeler, Constant Williams & M Jaime Zuckerman

Emerson College students are a critical part of Ploughshares' operations. In fiscal year 2023, Ploughshares trained 13 Emerson students for roles in the publishing industry. We appreciate their hard work and dedication, and look forward to watching their careers grow.

CONNECT

To donate, visit <https://www.pshares.org/donate>.

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