

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

PLOUGHSHARES
AT EMERSON COLLEGE

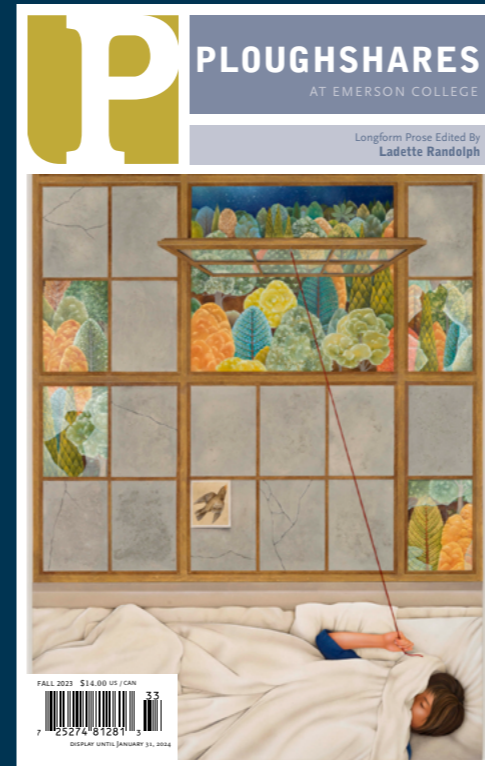
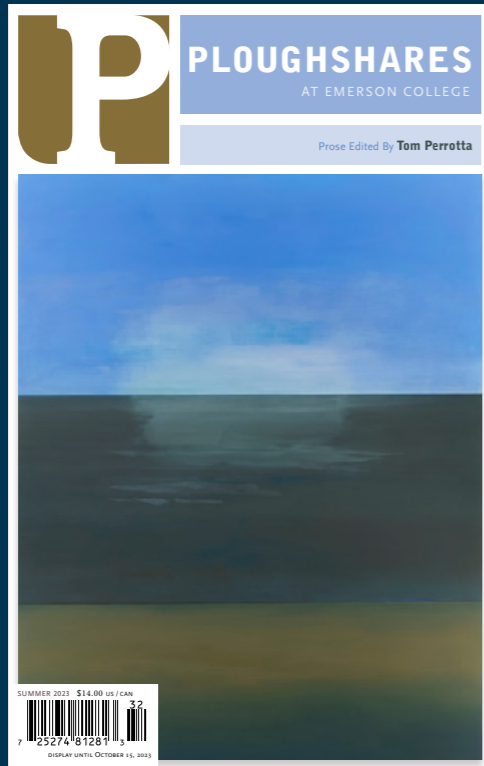


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A Message from Editor-in-chief Ladette Randolph

Last year at this time, we celebrated reaching our \$1.5 million endowment goal. We are thrilled to have achieved such a remarkable milestone, and extend our sincere gratitude to you for your dedicated support.

Thanks to your crucial help this year, we were able to disburse a record \$59,573 to directly compensate writers for their work. Spring 2024 contributor January Gill O'Neil shares:

"When I first arrived in the Boston area, I did a short stint as a reader for Ploughshares. Back in the day, poems and stories arrived in envelopes. . . . As a young writer, it was thrilling to see how a magazine like this was run. It gave me a sense of the high quality work that gets accepted, and it gave me something to strive for. It took me many drafts and many years to find my poems on the pages of Ploughshares. It's still a thrill to get such a hefty book in the mail and thumb through the issues with so many emerging and established writers telling their stories, making their voices heard."

We are not immune to the adverse effects of inflation and the disruption of global distribution channels; however, we can continue to find creative ways of addressing the escalating challenges faced by the entire publishing industry—rising printing and mailing costs, persistent paper shortages, and rising labor costs—because of your generous contributions to Ploughshares' endowment, which strengthens our budget and ensures our writers are paid even in tough times.

If Ploughshares' donors are our superpower, another not-so-secret reason for our success is the contribution of the talented Emerson College students who each semester diligently support us in advancing our goals and widening our reach on a local and worldwide scale.

We look toward the future with confidence, busily reading submissions for our 2025 guest editors: poet/memoirist Peggy Shumaker (Spring) and novelist Victor LaValle (Summer). We're always excited to see how each of our guest-edited issues take shape.

As the world around us continues to change, we know that writers are hard at work creating "tomorrow's classics today," documenting through the literary arts what many of us believe is the most enduring record of the human experience in a particular time and place. We're so grateful we can offer those diverse voices a powerful platform and continue to play a not insignificant role in publishing work that will have a long-lasting impact on how future generations understand this time. Thank you for being a fundamental partner in Ploughshares' mission.



Ladette Randolph
Editor-in-chief ■ Ploughshares

SUMMER 2023

Guest-Edited by Tom Perrotta



“It’s risky to reread a book that you loved. People change as they grow older; things that moved you in the past don’t always speak to you in the present.”

TOM PERROTTA

from his introduction to the Summer issue

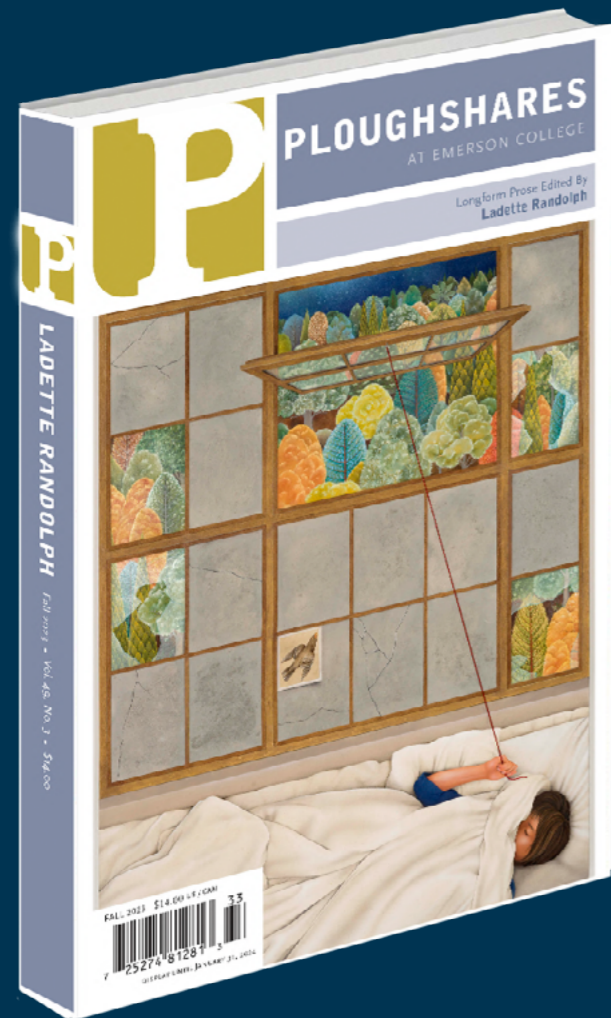
FICTION: Ea Anderson • Tom Bailey • Olufunke Grace Bankole • Lauren Cassani Davis • Monica Crespo • Andres Dubus III • Marianne Leone • Fabio Morabito • Diem Nguyen • Patrick Somerville • Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan • Sara Truvert • Jess Walter • Eva Warrick

NONFICTION: Mark Dow • Victoria Gannon • Jen Trynin

COVER ART: Byron Kim

FALL 2023

Edited by Ladette Randolph



“Yet I wondered: Was I any closer to becoming the person I wanted to be, back when I first set foot in the dusty interior of the Studio of Lucidity, back when I first fondled The Invisible Valley longingly in that Beijing bookstore?”

AUSTIN WOERNER

from his story “As Big as You Make It Out to Be” in the fall issue

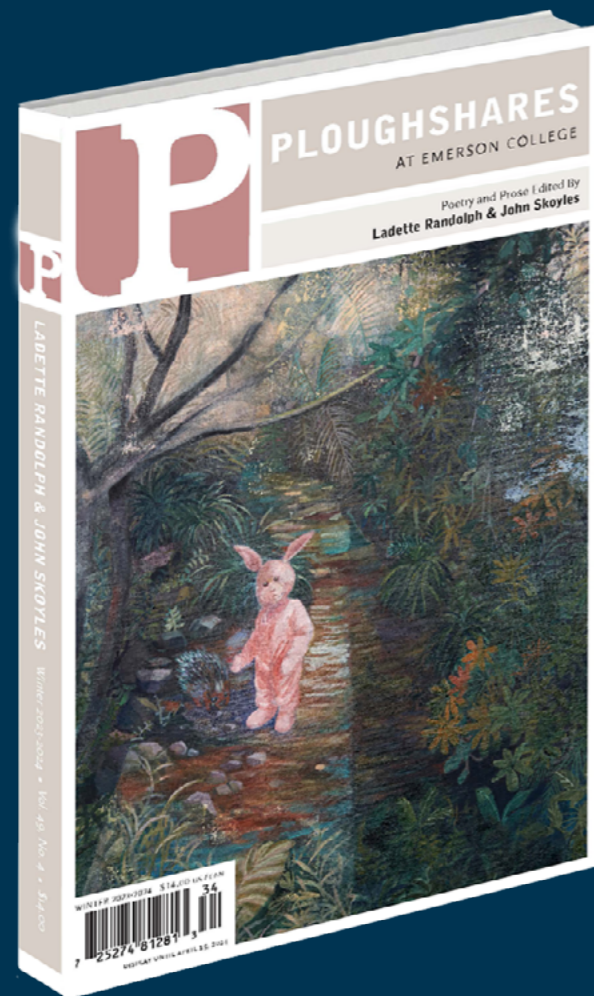
FICTION: Parul Kapur • John Keeble • Diane Hinton Perry • Jim Shepard

NONFICTION: Anthony David • Wiam El-Tamami • Nafis Shafzadeh
• Jamie Lyn Smith • Austin Woerner

COVER ART: Arghavan Khosravi

WINTER 2023-2024

Edited By Ladette Randolph & John Skoyles



“Tomorrow, I will write another version of this story, the one where everyone eventually dies, but before that happens, they live to decide whether or not to tell the tale.”

J LAZAR

from her essay “The End of What We Know,” winner of the Emerging Writer’s Contest for Nonfiction

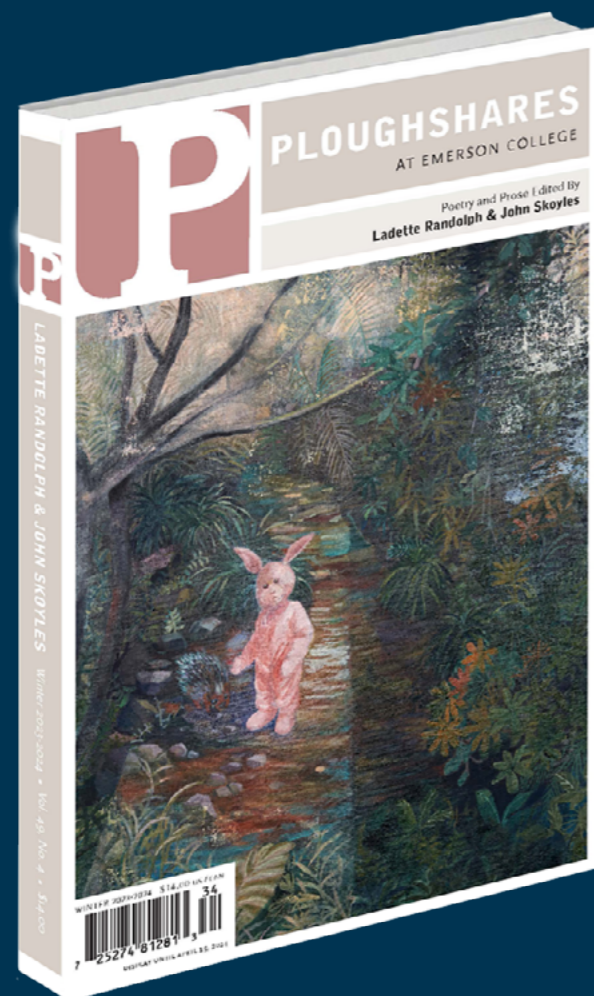
FICTION: Richard Bausch • Kenneth Calhoun • Mary Granfield • Nahal Suzanne Jamir • Andrew Porter • Ian Stansel

NONFICTION: Mimi Dixon • Carol Keeley • Jesse Lee Kercheval • J.D.Mathes • Sarah Twombly

LITERARY CARTOON: Annie Weatherwax

WINTER 2023-2024

(continued)



POETRY: Stephen Ackerman • Jamaica Baldwin • Ariana Benson • Emma Bolden • John Brehm • Paola Bruni • Mary Lou Buschi • Gerald Costanzo • Colin Criss • Mary Dean Lee • Jehanne Dubrow • Rebecca Morgan Frank • Nicholas Friedman • John Gallaher • Majda Gama • Joshua Garcia • Reginald Gibbons • Sydney Goggins • Sarah Green • Lisa Beech Hartz • Marie Howe • Kirum Kapur • Katie Kemple • Abbie Kiefer • Hilary King • Christopher Kondrich • Melissa Kwasny • Robert Wood Lynn • Amanda Moore • Matthew Nienow • John Okrent • Cate Peebles • Stephanie Ellis Schlaifer • Ananya Kanai Shah • Gordon Mitchell Smith • Lolita Stewart-White • Samn Stockwell • Ryan Vine • Jesse Wallis

EMERGING WRITER'S CONTEST: Logan Klutse • J Lazar • Mengyin Lin

COVER ART: Virginia Lo

SPRING 2024

Edited by Laila Lalami



“Literature shows us that good and evil live inside all of us, that language can be more than slogans, that several seemingly contradictory ideas can be true at the same time. Literature is also, above all, a pursuit of what beauty we can find in our troubled and violent world.”

LAILA LALAMI

from her introduction to the Spring issue

FICTION: Nathan Blum • Emily Doyle • Francisco Goldman • Nina McConigley • Jamila Minnicks • Tommy Orange • Andrew Porter • Ehsaneh Sadr • Cal Shook • Jane Smiley • Terese Svoboda

NONFICTION: Farah Abdessamad • Ellie Eberlee • Tochi Onyebuchi • Hannah Rose Roberts

POETRY: Mosab Abu Toha • Dorsey Craft • Kevin Dublin • Barbara Hamby • Nathalie Handal • Vandana Khanna • Khaled Mattawa • Campbell McGrath • January Gill O’Neil • David Romtvedt • Martha Ronk • Emily Schulten • Rob Shapiro • Jaz Sufi • Othuke Umukoro • Connor Watkins-Xu

COVER ART: Sierra Montoya Barela

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming issues of Ploughshares



Fall 2024, a longform prose issue edited by Ladette Randolph, will be published in October 2024.



Winter 2024-25, a poetry and prose issue edited by John Skoyles, will be published in January 2025.



Spring 2025, a poetry and prose issue edited by Peggy Shumaker, will be published in April 2025.



Summer 2025, a prose issue edited by Victor LaValle, will be published in July 2025.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Over the past year, we are proud to announce the winners of our annual prizes, awards, and contests. We are deeply grateful to the patrons who make these awards possible and to the writers who share their outstanding work with us. Congratulations to all our winners!



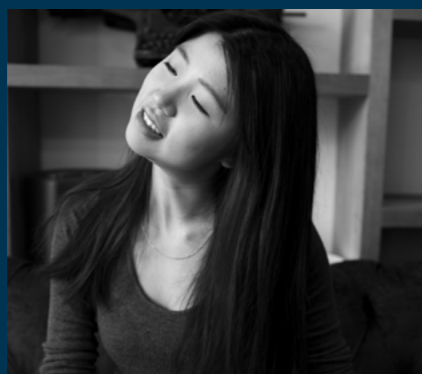
E. K. OTA
“The Paper Artist” • Winner of the
Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction



MOLLY AITKEN
“Thresholds” • Winner of the
Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction



CLAIRE LUCHETTE
“Agatha of Little Neon” • Winner of the
John C. Zacharis First Book Award



MENGYIN LIN
“No prairie fire can destroy all the weeds.”
Emerging Writers' Contest Winner, Fiction
selected by **Gish Jen**



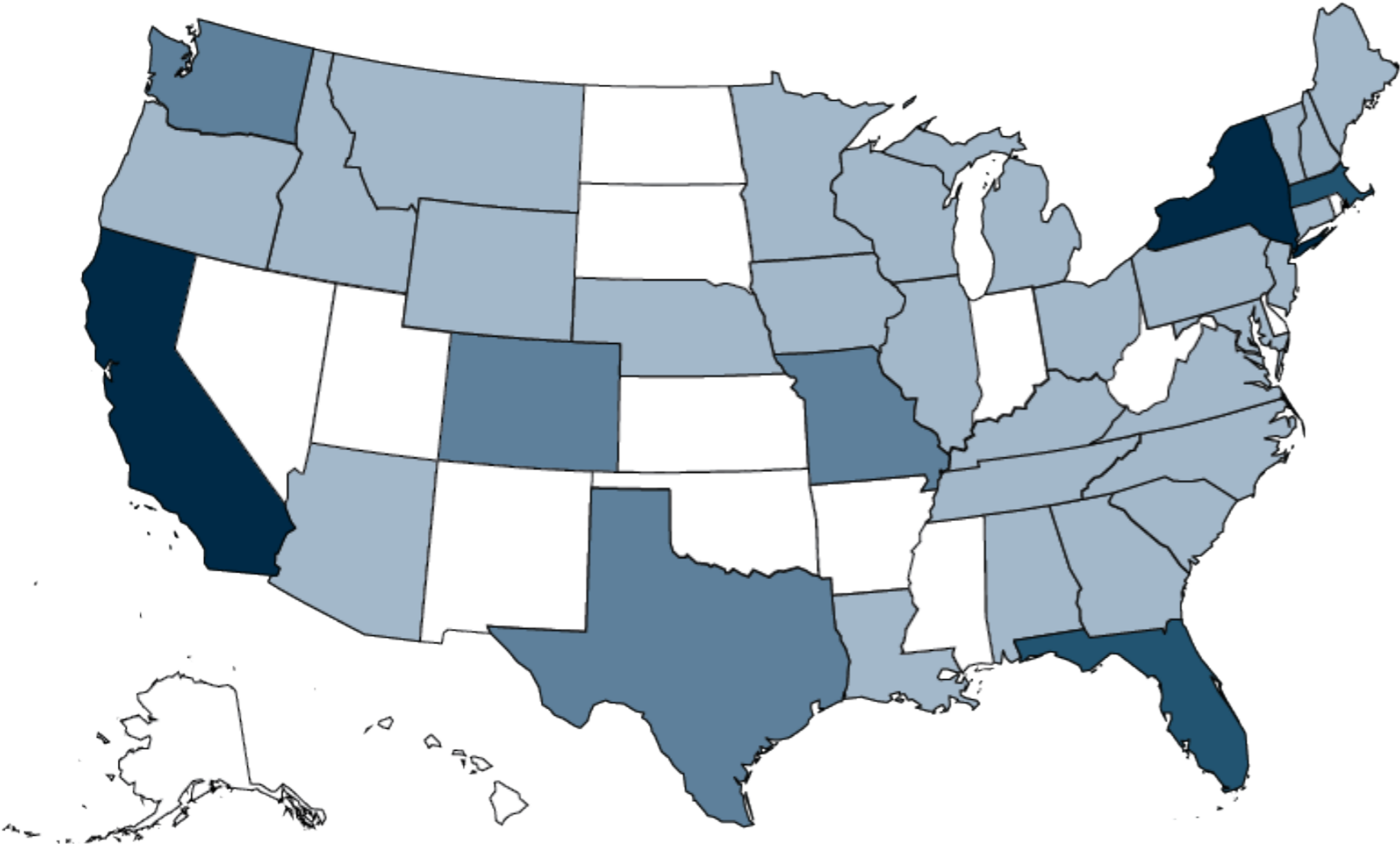
J LAZAR
“The End of What We Know”
Emerging Writers' Contest Winner,
Nonfiction, selected by **Meghan O'Rourke**



LOGAN KLUTSE
“Bronx Operating Room” and “Learning of Con-
spiracy Theories that 'the Portal to Hell Resides
Beneath the Denver Airport'”
Emerging Writers' Contest Winner, Poetry
selected by **Sandra Cisneros**

CONTRIBUTORS

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



CONTRIBUTORS BY STATE



OTHER COUNTRIES:

Canada
Egypt
France
Germany
Hong Kong S.A.R., China

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+)

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PUBLISHER (\$5,000+)

Jill Karp

PATRONS (\$1,000+)

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Tom Perrotta
Elizabeth Rea, The Dungannon Foundation

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Joan Parrish

Pamela Painter
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Trink and Ernie Schurian
Stephen Thompson

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Barry Thornell
Thomas Hanold
Allen Mears
Diem Nguyen
Janet Silver
Joanna Samson
Margaret Gibbons

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Philip Carter
Robert Carreon
Stuart Dybek
Anisa Gandevivala
Laura Green

Lisa Hoelzer
Norman James
Kristen R. Kish
Venkatesh Murthy
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Peter Rossetti
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Jerome Weinstein
Melissa L. White

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POETRY EDITOR

John Skoyles

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Allison Truj

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR BUSINESS & DEVELOPMENT

Ning Ma

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Jessie Metcalf, Basia Siwek, & Yitong Wang

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Claire Robertson & Ciera Miller

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Kit Haggard

LOOK2 EDITOR

David Weinstein

SENIOR READERS

Sean Cho Ayres, Abby Manzella, Jana-Lee Germaine Balish, Will Gibbons, Constant Williams, & M. Jaime Zuckerman

Emerson College students are a critical part of Ploughshares' operations. In fiscal year 2024, Ploughshares trained 12 Emerson students for roles in the publishing industry. We appreciate their hard work and dedication, and look forward to watching their careers grow.

CONNECT

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