

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

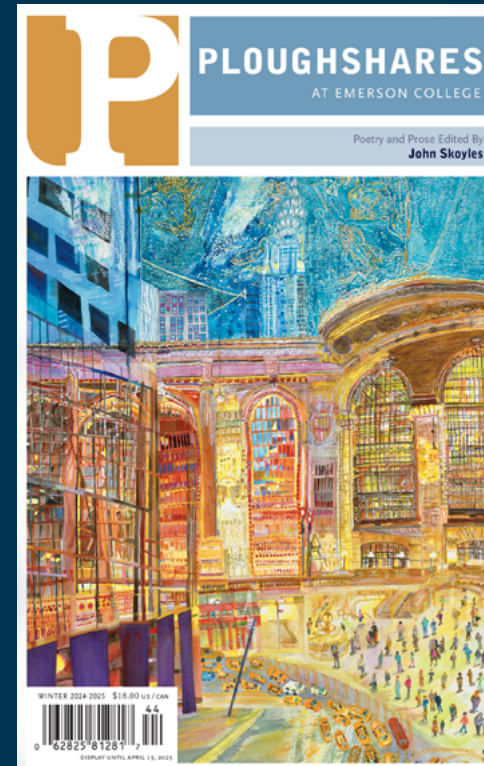
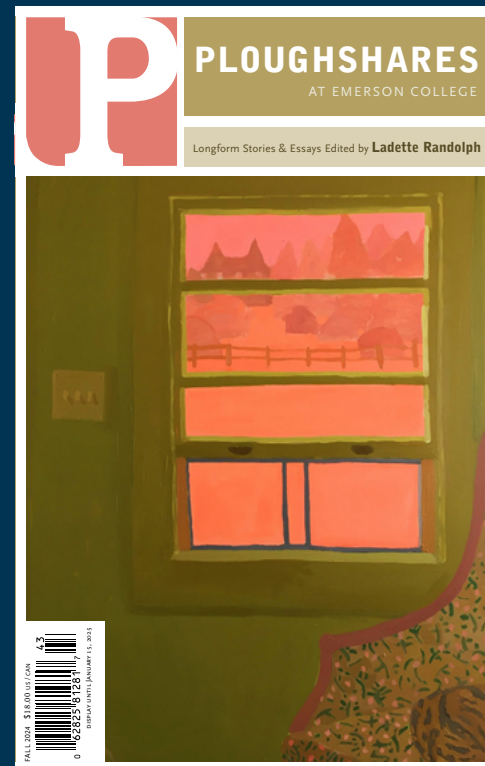


Table of Contents

<u>A Message from Interim Editor-in-chief John Skoyles</u>	3
<u>Issues from FY25</u>	5
<u>Looking Ahead</u>	11
<u>Events</u>	12
<u>Internal Awards & Prizes</u>	13
<u>External Awards & Prizes</u>	14
<u>Patrons</u>	15
<u>Staff</u>	16
<u>Connect</u>	17

A Message from Interim Editor-in-chief John Skoyles

As many of you know, Ladette Randolph retired as Editor-in-chief on February 1st after 17 years. Her accomplishments are legion. She developed a vibrant website; instituted a writer-friendly Submission Manager; led a rebrand and created the Solos and Longform series; advocated for and created two new full-time positions to ensure our internal success; created a lively blog; and, thanks to your support, reached a \$1.5 million dollar endowment goal.

A lot has happened since then.

Most importantly, a national search concluded successfully with the appointment of Jenny Molberg as our new Editor-in-chief. Jenny has an exceptional portfolio. She has edited *Pleiades: Literature in Context* for the past seven years and has published three books of poems, several of which first appeared in *Ploughshares*. She will join the journal as Editor-in-chief and Emerson College's Writing, Literature and Publishing Department as Professor beginning in August.

I've had the pleasure of serving as interim EIC since Ladette's retirement. As its longtime poetry editor, I was completely at home with the journal, but what I did not expect was the enormous boost in circulation in just a year's time. Over the past twelve months, we've gone from 3,000 to over 5,000 subscribers! And the increase in the volume of submissions is also astounding. We usually receive 1,000 submissions a month, but since we've opened on June 1st, we have over 2,500 submissions in just a few weeks.

None of this could have been possible without you. At a time when the arts are being marginalized, *Ploughshares* continues to thrive thanks to your dedicated support.

Living here in New York, I have met admirers of the magazine at event after event: from Symphony Space, where actors read three stories from the annual O. Henry Awards (two of them from *Ploughshares*), to the Whiting Award ceremony (featuring one

Ploughshares contributor), to a meeting of the National Book Critics Circle. In an interview with *LitMag News*, I was asked how to account for the journal's longevity. My answer was that in over 54 years, there have been just three editors—DeWitt Henry, Don Lee, and Ladette Randolph—and 108 guest editors representing a variety of disciplines, backgrounds, and tastes. Our hallmark combination of stability and variety has kept *Ploughshares* interesting; readers are always surprised by the mix of literary stances and the resulting editorial choices in a given issue, but know that no matter what, they can count on finding excellent new work in our pages.

What is so heartening to all of us on staff is to receive enthused responses to our letters of acceptance. The following comes from an emerging writer who appeared in our Spring 2025 issue:

I grew up reading *Ploughshares*. Even before I was old enough to drive, my parents would drop me at bookstores that carried lit mags and I would always sit and read through issues. This is how I knew about Emerson College. I can still remember the awe I felt reading through the issues at that age, wondering how words could be arranged in such a way. Even today, I am amazed at the quality of the work in *Ploughshares*.

I'm sure you are cheered as we are by her words, especially as your financial support is directly responsible for providing the platform for writers like her.

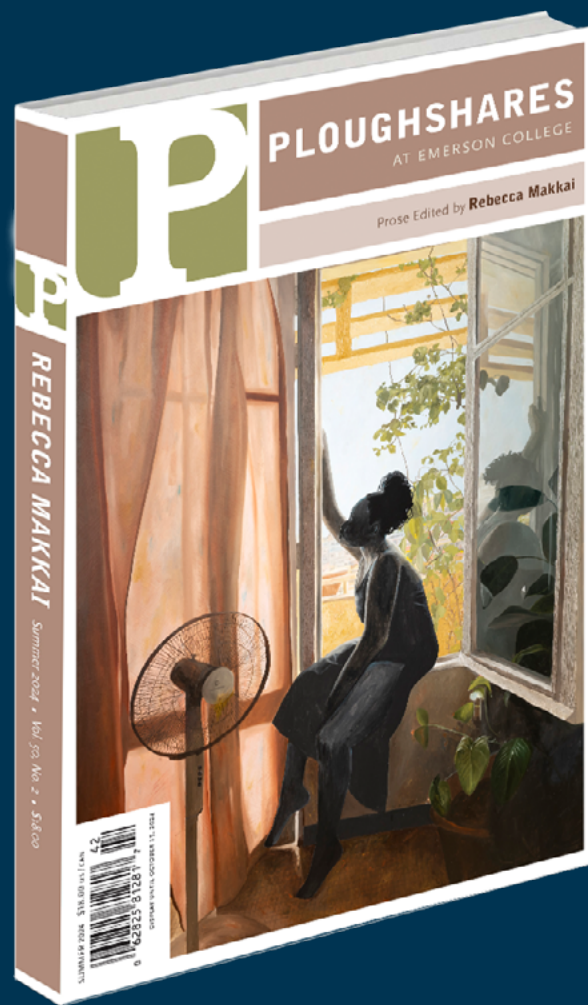
Thank you for being essential to our continuing ability to thrive.



John Skoyles

SUMMER 2024

Guest-edited by Rebecca Makkai



“The world of journals became the literary landscape for me. I didn’t dream of publishing a novel or giving a reading the New York but of getting one of those little bios in the back of *Ploughshares*.”

REBECCA MAKKAJ

from her introduction to the summer issue

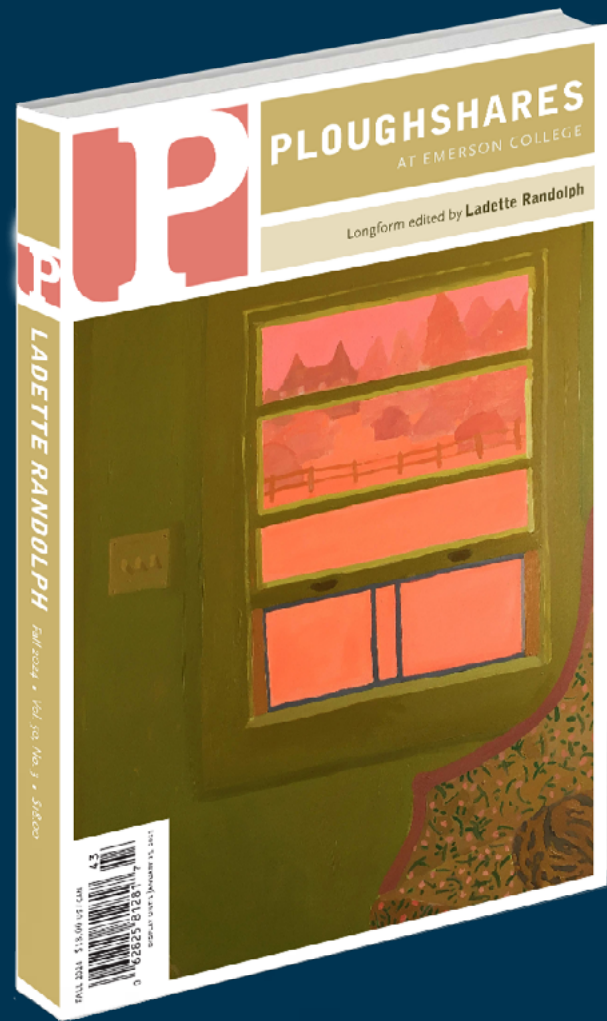
FICTION: Dur e Aziz Amna • Molly Anders • Ramona Ausubel • Joy Deva Baglio • Drew Calvert • Diana Cao • Jane Delury • Janice Furlong • Tim Horvath • Juan Martinez • Khaddafina Mbabazi • Peter Mountford • Randy F. Nelson • Vere Heath Nelson • DK Nnuro

NONFICTION: Susan V. Meyers • Suzanne Roberts

COVER ART: Elladj Lincy Deloumeaux

FALL 2024

Edited by Ladette Randolph



“The daydreamer drifts, but
the writer dives in and casts
about, extracts.”

SHUCHI SARASWAT

from her essay “Sink & Mirror” in the fall issue

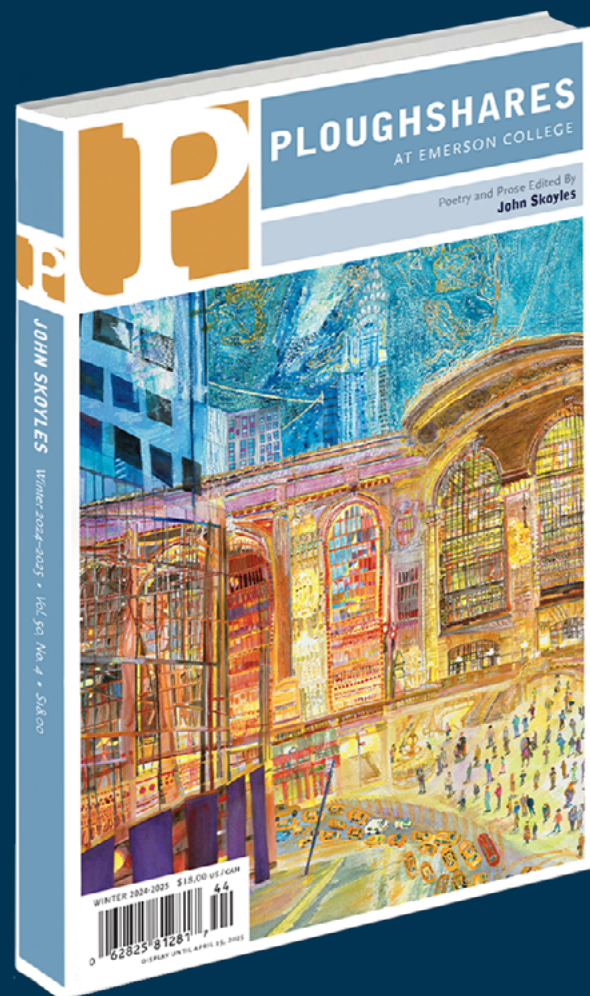
FICTION: Andre Dubus III • Benjamin Hoffmann • Aiysha Jahan • Joy Notoma •
Jen Silverman • Richard Stock • Daniel Taylor

NONFICTION: Gretchen Ernster Henderson • Shuchi Saraswat

COVER ART: Sophie Treppendahl

WINTER 2024-2025

Edited By John Skoyles



“A painter who taught studio art began every one of his classes by writing on the board: Clarity and Surprise. That phrase could stand as my editorial guideline.”

JOHN SKOYLES

from his introduction to the winter issue

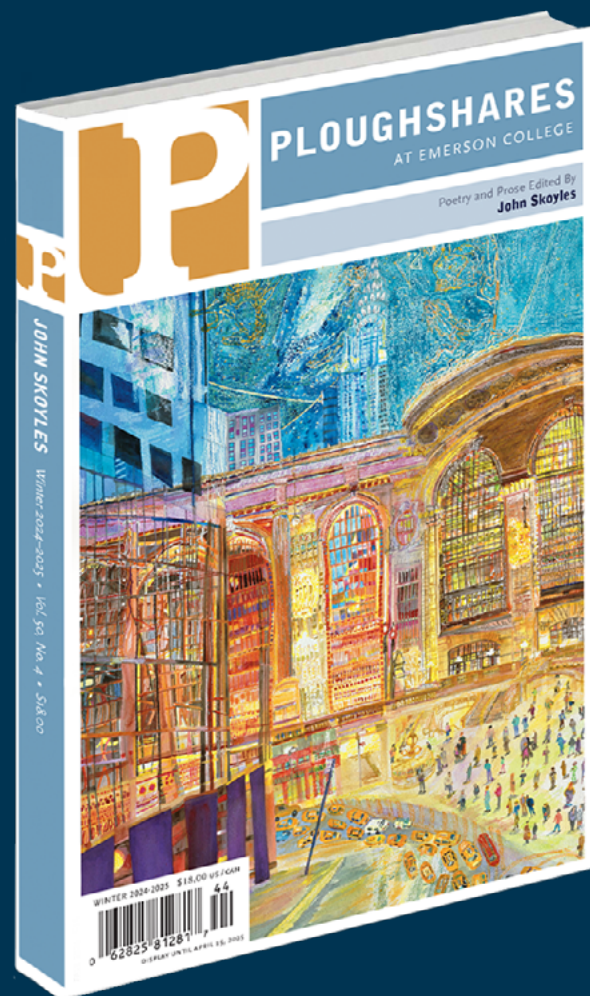
FICTION: Charles Baxter • Miranda Cowley Heller • Eliot Fox • Tom Noyes • Valerie Sayers • Joan Silber • Gábor T. Szántó (trans. Marietta Morry and Walter Burgess) • Malerie Willens

NONFICTION: Allan Miller

(continued on next page)

WINTER 2024-2025

(continued)



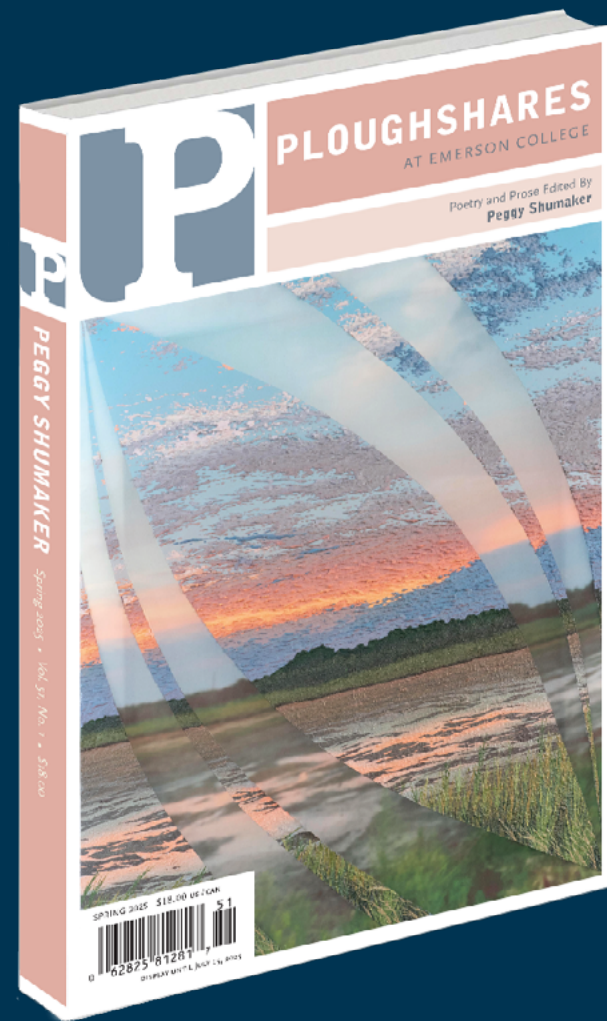
POETRY: Rafael Alcides (trans. Pablo Medina) • Kellam Ayres • Justin Balog • Craig Burnett • Alex Chertok • Zachary Cotler • Margarita Cruz • Stuart Dybek • Ansel Elkins • Ori Fienberg • Emily Fragos • Jeffrey Harrison • Bob Hicok • Taylor Light • Timothy Liu • Rasaq Malik Gbolahan • Leslie McIntosh • Nancy Mitchell • Rosalie Moffett • Malena Mörling • Jarrett Moseley • Alexandra Napier • D. Nurkse • Maya Pindyck • Alafia Nicole Sessions • Ron Slate • Matthew Buckley Smith • Daniel B. Summerhill • Tola Sylvan • Alison Thumel • Mehrnoosh Torbatnejad • Jessica Traynor • Pádraig Ó Tuama • Craig van Rooyen • Phillip West

EMERGING WRITER'S CONTEST: Susan Bartolme • Andy Chen • Billy Lezra

COVER ART: Olive Ayhens

SPRING 2025

Guest-edited by Peggy Shumaker



“We need, more than ever, language that expands human perception, that opens us to the broken world.”

PEGGY SHUMAKER

from her introduction to the spring issue.

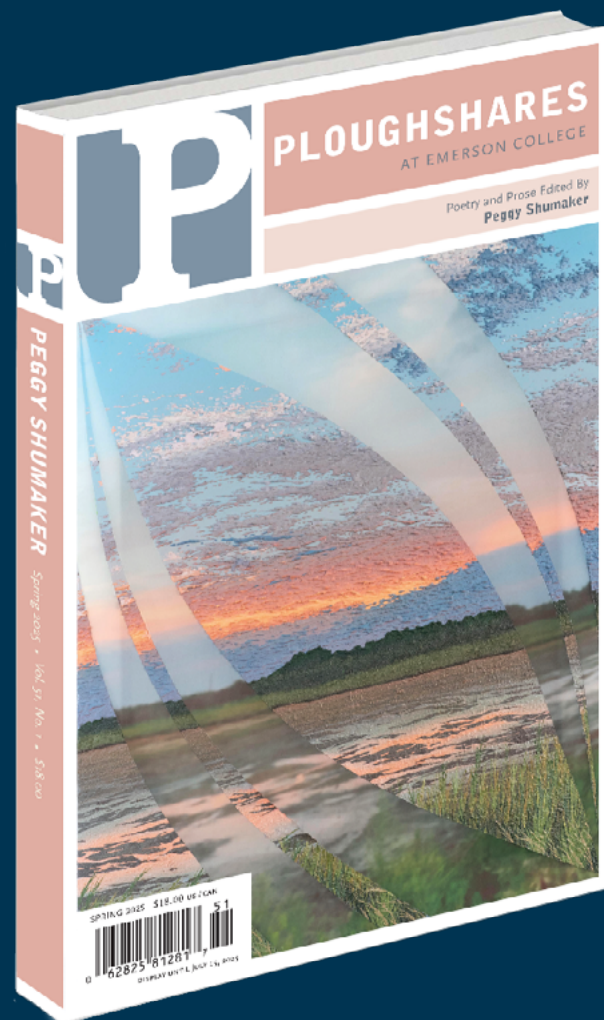
FICTION: CB Anderson • Nathan Blum • Cynthia Gralla • David Ryan • Marjorie Sandor • Mark Spragg • Analía Villagra

NONFICTION: Barrie Jean Borich • Corinna Cook • Kate Carroll de Gutes • Diane LeBlanc • Dinah Lenney • Sonja Livingston • Hannah D. Markley • Brenda Miller • Dinty W. Moore • Lia Purpura • Elizabeth Sims • Jen Soriano • Janna Wagner

(continued on next page)

SPRING 2025

(continued)

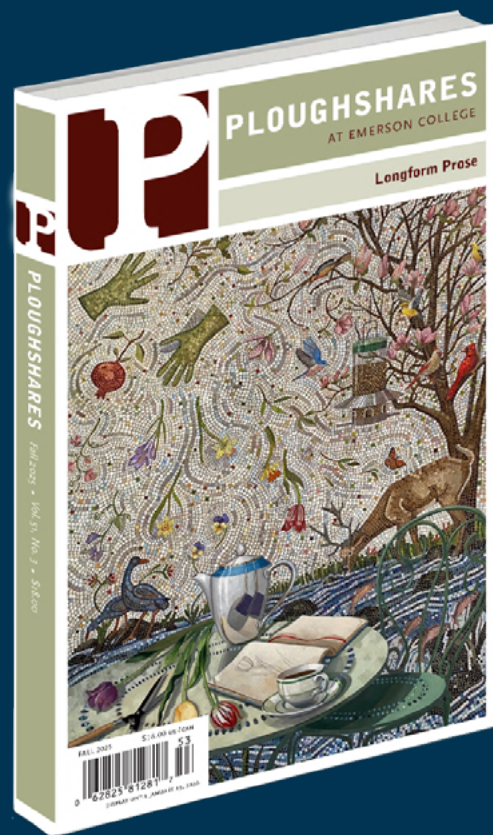


POETRY: Kelli Russell Agodon • William Archila • Rick Barot • Lory Bedikian • Jocko Benoit • Elizabeth Bradfield • Fleda Brown • Susan Campbell • Madelyn Chen • Jeanne E. Clark • Kevin Clark • Lindsay D'Andrea • David Daniel • Oliver de la Paz • Brian Komei Dempster • Stuart Dybek • Leila Farjami • Kevin Goodan • Alison Hawthorne Deming • Tannin • Sean Hill • Jane Hirshfield • Cynthia Hogue • Erin Coughlin Hollowell • John Hoppenthaler • Kimberly Johnson • L. A. Johnson • David Keplinger • Lena Khalaf Tuffaha • Mari L'Esperance • Douglas Manuel • Cleopatra Mathis • Jennifer Militello • Mirabai (trans. by Chloe Martinez) • Susanna J. Mishler • Naomi Shihab Nye • Triin Paja • William Pitt Root • Hilda Raz • Susan Rich • James Richardson • Alberto Ríos • Nicholas Samaras • Lis Sanchez • Tim Seibles • Elaine Sexton • Maurya Simon • Frank Soos • Nicole Stellon O'Donnell • Brian Tierney • Pamela Uschuk • Emily Wall • Mai Der Vang • Annie Wenstrup • Robert Wrigley • Felicia Zamora

COVER ART: Saskia Fleishman

LOOKING AHEAD

Upcoming issues of Ploughshares



Fall 2025, a staff-edited longform prose issue, will be published in October 2025. Cover art by Barbara Kassel.



Winter 2025-26, a staff-edited poetry and prose issue, will be published in January 2026. Cover art by Mary Royall.



Spring 2026, a poetry and prose issue edited by Annie Finch, will be published in April 2026. (Photo by Val Schaff)



Summer 2026, a prose issue edited by Justin Torres, will be published in July 2026.

EVENTS

Launch parties, markets, and festivals we attended in FY25



Former Editorial Assistant Itzel Acosta at our Winter 2024-2025 launch party at Trident Bookstore in Boston, MA



Managing Editor Rachel Dillon and Art Director Allison Truj at the Brooklyn Poetry Society Holiday Market in Brooklyn, NY, with former Guest Editor Terrance Hayes.



Managing Editor Rachel Dillon and Editorial Associate Jessie Metcalf at the AWP Conference in Los Angeles, California

OTHER EVENTS WE HOSTED AND ATTENDED:

Mass Poetry Festival (Salem, MA)

Bread Loaf Writer's Conference (Middlebury, VT)

Spring 2025 Launch Party (Trident Books in Boston, MA)

INTERNAL AWARDS & PRIZES

Over the past year, we've had the honor of recognizing exceptional work through our annual prizes, awards, and contests. We are grateful to the generous patrons who make this support possible, and to the writers whose remarkable work continues to inspire us. Congratulations to all of this year's winners!



ANDRE DUBUS III
"Gary's Way" • Winner of the
Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction



JEN SILVERMAN
"In the Next World, Maybe" • Winner of the
Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction



J. ESTANISLAO LOPEZ
"We Borrowed Gentleness" • Winner of the
John C. Zacharis First Book Award



SUSAN BARTOLME
"Because It's Yours" • Emerging Writer's Contest
Winner, Fiction, selected by **Daniel W. Moniz**



BILLY LEZRA
"Mother's Colors" • Emerging Writers'
Contest Winner, Nonfiction, selected by
Augusten Burroughs



ANDY CHEN
"Longing" • Emerging Writer's Contest Winner,
Poetry, selected by **Porsha Olayiwola**

EXTERNAL AWARDS & PRIZES

THE BEST SHORT STORIES: THE O. HENRY PRIZE

(published September 10, 2024)

Jai Charkaborti, “The Import,” Spring 2023

Jess Walter, “The Dark,” Summer 2023

E. K. Ota, “The Paper Artist,” Fall 2022

THE BEST AMERICAN ESSAYS

(published September 22, 2024)

Austin Woerner, “As Big As You Make It Out
To Be,” Fall 2023

Brock Clarke, “Woodstove,” Spring 2019

THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES

(published October 22, 2024)

Katherine Damm “The Happiest Day of
My Life,” Spring 2016

THE PUSHCART PRIZE XLIX: BEST OF THE SMALL PRESSES

(published December 3, 2024)

Andre Dubus III, “Gary's Way,” Summer 2023

Mihaela Moscaliuc, “Extractions,” Spring 2023

Ea Anderson, “I Want to Be This Girl,” Summer 2023

PATRONS

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

Hunter C. Bourne III,
The Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction
The Green Angel Foundation,
The Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction
Marilyn 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+)

Daniel Chen
Robert L. Fairchild
Tom Perrotta
Elizabeth Rea, The Dungannon Foundation

ADVOCATES (\$500+)

Sharissa Jones
Susan Miller
Trink and Ernie Schurian
Janet Silver
Gary Soto and Carolyn Soto
Stephen Thompson

FRIENDS (\$250+)

Shaun Bernier
Ju-Chan and Bruce Fulton
James Carroll & Alexandra Marshall
Thomas Hanold
Joan Parrish

READERS (\$125+)

Rosellen Brown
Catherine Buni
Catherine Birtwell
Timothy Calaway
Edward Cardoza

Philip Carter
Robert Carreon
Scott Dungan
Elizabeth Feldmann
Anisa Gandeivala
Norman James
Kristen R. Kish
Allen Mears
Brendan North
Heidi Ott
Randall Overston
Joyce Peseroff
Elliotte Quinn
Patricia C. Rogler
Judy Sedacca
Frank Tangherlini
Jerome Weinstein

ORGANIZATIONS

Emerson College
Mass Cultural Council

STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ladette Randolph (2009–February 2025)
John Skoyles (Interim, February 2025–July 2025)
Jenny Molberg (August 2025–present)

MANAGING EDITOR

Rachel Dillon

POETRY EDITOR

John Skoyles

ART DIRECTOR

Allison Truj

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Ning Ma

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATES

Itzel Acosta, Matt Albren, Lauren Hunt,
Jessie Metcalf, Hayley Piscioti,
& Yitong Wang

MARKETING ASSOCIATE

Ciera Miller

COPY EDITORS

Kit Haggard & Jessie Metcalf

SENIOR READERS

Sean Cho A., Jana-Lee Germaine Balish, Tomiko Breland,
Karen Day, Dean Hill, Lauren Hunt, Sylvia Jones,
Mark L. Keats, Fabienne François Keck, Bailey Martin,
Hannah Ryder, Constant Williams, M. Jaime Zuckerman

Emerson College students are a critical part of *Ploughshares'* operations. **In fiscal year 2025, *Ploughshares* trained seven Emerson students for roles in the publishing industry.** We appreciate their hard work and dedication.

Our students' post-graduate goals are important to us, and this fiscal year we were pleased to promote one former editorial assistant to be a Senior Reader in fiction, and one former editorial associate to be our Copy Editor. We look forward to watching their careers grow!

CONNECT

To donate, visit pshares.org/donate.

PSHARES.ORG • PSHARES@PSHARES.ORG • @PSHARESJOURNAL • FB.COM/PLOUGHSHARES