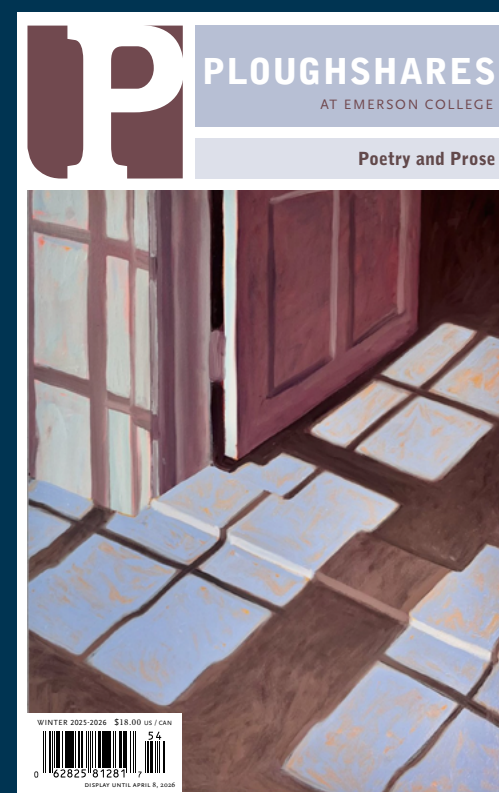


IMPACT REPORT 2026





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A MESSAGE FROM JENNY MOLBERG

For the last year, it has been such an honor to serve as Editor-in-Chief of *Ploughshares*, carrying forward the extraordinary legacies of DeWitt Henry, Don Lee, and Ladette Randolph. I am equally fortunate to work alongside an exceptional editorial staff of writers, practicing artists, and literary citizens whose dedication and generosity sustain our shared mission: championing writers, fostering meaningful literary conversations, and creating vibrant programming that serves our community.

My goal is to keep nurturing my predecessors' unwavering commitment to excellence in literary publishing and shared editorial vision. In that spirit, this year we welcomed Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Harding as our new Fiction Editor and, for the first time in the journal's history, appointed a dedicated Nonfiction Editor: poet, essayist, cultural critic, and MacArthur Fellow Hanif Abdurraqib. We were also honored to publish issues guest edited by Annie Finch (Spring 2026) and Justin Torres (Summer 2026), both filled with innovative, exciting new writing. Looking ahead, our upcoming guest editors are Hala Alyan (Spring 2027) and Carmen Maria Machado (Summer 2027).

Our community of writers continues to grow. In 2025, *Ploughshares* received more than 11,700 submissions to our Open Reading Period. The Emerging Writers' Contest is also flourishing, culminating in more than 3,000 submissions this year. Subscription numbers and our print runs are rising, and our digital readership has expanded through the launch of the new PS series, which brings contemporary writers into conversation with the *Ploughshares* archive.

We are also proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our contributors. Work first published in *Ploughshares* appear in this year's *Best American Short Stories*, *Pushcart Prize* anthology, Orison Books's *Best Spiritual Literature*, and other prize anthologies. Olufunke Grace Bankole (Summer 2023) received the John C. Zacharis Award for her debut novel *The Edge of Water*; Barbara Lock's "Keep You Safe" (Summer 2025) won the Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction; and Juliana Lamy's "My Country Full of Thieves" (Fall 2025) received the Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction. Mostafa Ibrahim and translator Abdelrahman ElGendy were named the inaugural recipients of the John Skoyles Poetry Prize for ElGendy's translation of Ibrahim's poem "So-and-So" (Winter 2025-26).

Beyond the journal, our staff celebrated contributors through quarterly issue launches, exhibits at the Brooklyn Book Festival and the Boston Book Festival, and new partnerships with organizations including the Writers' Room of Boston, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing, where—thanks to Ladette Randolph's support—we were able to sponsor two Emerson MFA fellows.

Support from our donors also made it possible for staff members and graduate students to attend the annual AWP Conference, where we hosted a reading featuring contributors Erin Belieu and Erica Dawson, and partnered with Words Matter to provide writing workshops for Baltimore-area high school students, highlighted by a keynote reading from frequent *Ploughshares* contributor and National Book Award-winner Patricia Smith.

One of the greatest joys of my first year as Editor-in-Chief was co-writing the Fall Editors' Note with Hanif Abdurraqib, one of my literary heroes. Through a series of letters, we reflected on the value of sustained attention in today's fast-paced, productivity-obsessed culture. In one letter, Hanif writes: "One of my great concerns is that people will eventually lose a specific kind of desire for close attention, the thing that demands we affix ourselves to a place for a long time, seeking a revelation that only the process can afford us...All of it demands moments of prolonged standing in a harsh and revealing light until, if we're lucky, it becomes a bit less harsh, but no less revealing."

Hanif's words capture *Ploughshares'* dedication to literature that asks us to slow down, to listen carefully, and to remain open to transformation. Every issue we publish, every emerging writer we champion, and every collaboration we foster is done in the spirit of intentional and empathetic literary dialogue.

Thank you for helping make that work possible. Here's to another year of remarkable writing, sustained attention, and the unexpected revelations that arrive when we spend time with a book.



Jenny Molberg, Editor-in-Chief

MILESTONES

“Literary magazines,
poem by poem, story by story...
build a home.”

KIT FREEMAN

PS: “The Archive is Queer”

Ploughshares
AT EMERSON COLLEGE

Fiction edited by **Victor LaValle**

SUMMER 2023 \$18.00 US / CAN
\$22.00 US / CAN
62825 81281 7

0 62825 81281 7

DISPLAY UNTIL OCTOBER 1, 2023

P

PLOUGHSHARES
AT EMERSON COLLEGE

Longform Prose



FALL 2023 \$18.00 US / CAN \$3

0 62325 81281 7

DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2026

P

PLOUGHSHARES
AT EMERSON COLLEGE

Poetry and Prose

WINTER 2025-2026 \$18.00 US / CAN
0 62829 61281 54
DISPLAY UNTIL APRIL 8, 2026

PLOUGHSHARES
AT EMERSON COLLEGE

Poetry and Prose Edited by **Annie Finch**



0 43733 43333 6
SPRING 2005 \$18.00 US/CA
NOV 2010 \$18.00 US/CA

REACH

WEBSITE:

1,358,000+
Total views this year

27,200+
Average page views per week

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:

36,100+
Email subscribers

SOCIAL MEDIA:

 32,200+
followers on Instagram

 23,800+
followers on Facebook

 6,388+
followers on Threads

 1,380+
followers on Bluesky

MENTORSHIP



Emerson College students are a critical part of *Ploughshares*' operations. In fiscal year 2026, *Ploughshares* trained **nine 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 we are pleased to share that our former editorial assistants have found full-time work after graduation; most recently, at **Chill Subs**, the **Fine Arts Work Center**, and **HarperCollins**!

"Working at *Ploughshares* has been nothing short of transformative and illuminating. I've learned SO much about being a professional on a publishing team and feel ready to go out into the world...I feel like the connections I've made at *Ploughshares* will last long after I've moved on into new roles elsewhere."

MATT ALBREN

Editorial Associate (2025-26)

LOOKING BACK

“Because there have been only four editors of *Ploughshares* in 55 years, the continuity is fantastic; and yet the diversity is fantastic because of the guest editors...you never know what you're going to get when you open the magazine.”

JOHN SKOYLES

former Poetry Editor

ENGAGEMENT: SUBMISSIONS

11,700+

Open Reading
Period Submissions

June 1, 2025 - Nov 30, 2025

3,000+

Emerging Writers'
Contest Submissions

*February 1, 2026 - March 31,
2026*

ENGAGEMENT: EVENTS



Our spring issue launch event in April 2026; from left to right: contributors Jenna Le and Jane Huffman, Editor-in-Chief Jenny Molberg, guest editor Annie Finch, Managing Editor Rachel Dillon, contributors Karen Winn and Gabrielle Bates

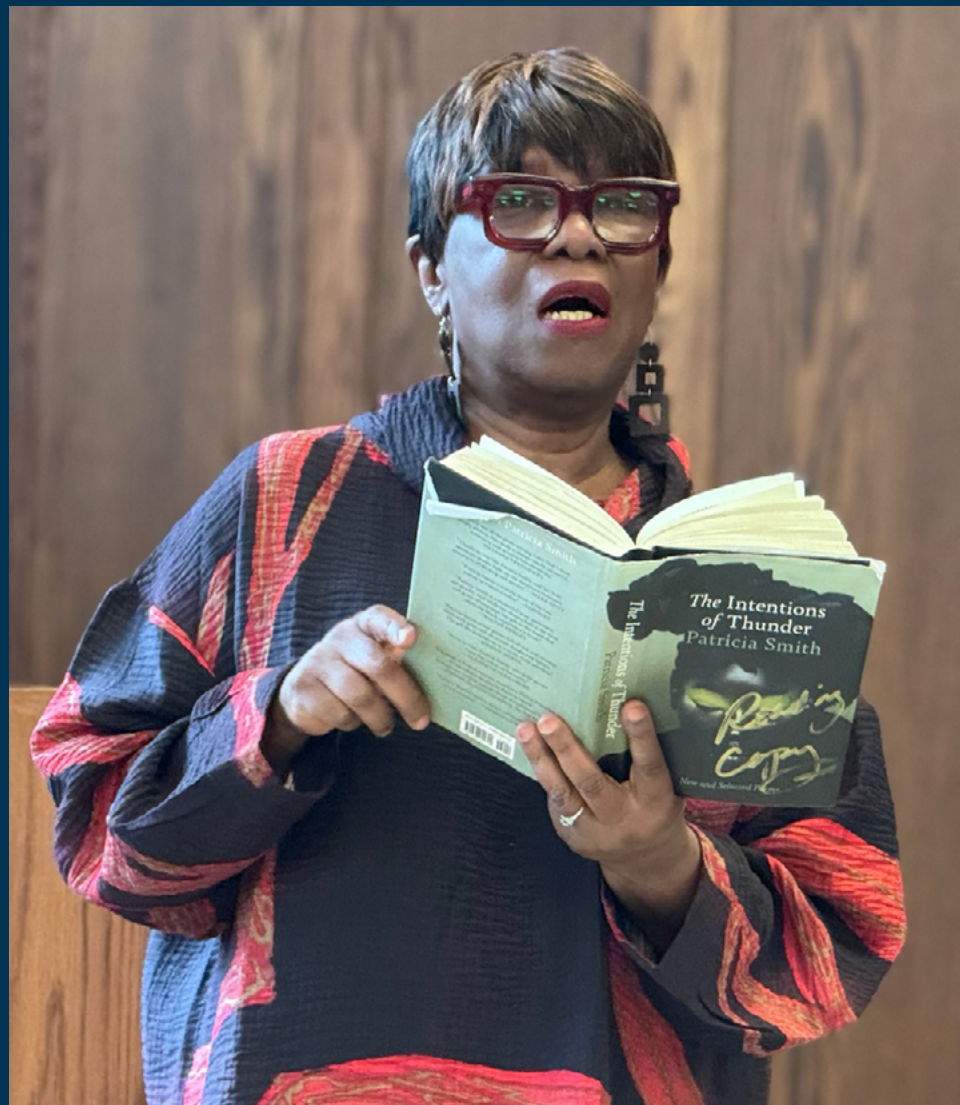
JULY 2025: Summer issue launch party at Trident Bookstore featuring contributors Nadia Bulkin, Carolyn Ferrell, and Barbara Lock

OCTOBER 2025: Fall issue launch party at Trident Bookstore featuring contributors Juliana Lamy, Heather Thompson-Brenner, and Devon Walker-Figueroa

JANUARY 2026: Winter issue launch party at Trident Bookstore featuring contributors Maggie Dietz, Alice Hoffman, Bridget Lowe, and Shara McCallum

APRIL 2026: Spring issue launch party at Trident Bookstore featuring guest editor Annie Finch and contributors Gabrielle Bates, Jane Huffman, Jenna Le, and Karen Winn

ENGAGEMENT: EVENTS



Spring 2026 contributor Patricia Smith at Loyola Blakefield High School during AWP Baltimore

MARCH 2026: Jenny Molberg spoke at SMU's Project Poëtica Symposium on Poetic Form

MARCH 2026: Jenny Molberg spoke at *Poets & Writers'* virtual event "Mapping the Maze: Chart Your Path to Publication"

MARCH 2026: All staff attended the Association of Writers & Programs Conference & Bookfair (AWP) in Baltimore, MD

- In partnership with *The Adroit Journal* and *The Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares* hosted an offsite reading for nearly 400 people
- *Ploughshares* partnered with Words Matter to visit Loyola Blakefield High School as a community-outreach project

APRIL 2026: Spring 2026 guest editor Annie Finch led a craft talk for Emerson students and faculty at the *Ploughshares* office

APRIL 2026: *Ploughshares* partnered with St. Botolph Club Foundation for a National Poetry Month celebration and reading featuring contributors and past recipients of the St. Botolph Emerging Artist Award

ENGAGEMENT: PARTNERSHIPS



Rachel Dillon in conversation with poet Ange Mlinko and Bonnie McKiernan (Wylie Agency) at UofF's Editors' Weekend

DECEMBER 2025: Rachel Dillon visited with undergraduate creative writing students at the University of Southern Indiana

MARCH 2026: Jenny Molberg spoke at SMU's Project Poëtica Symposium on Poetic Form

APRIL 2026: Rachel Dillon spoke at the University of Florida's MFA Program's Editors Weekend

APRIL 2026: Jenny Molberg visited MFA students at Boston University

JUNE 2026: Rachel Dillon was a guest editor at the Bread Loaf Environmental and Translators' Conference

JUNE 2026: Jenny Molberg served as a faculty member at the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing

AWARDS (INTERNAL)

PLOUGHSHARES EMERGING WRITER FELLOWSHIP

In January 2026 we awarded the Inaugural Ploughshares Emerging Writer Fellowship to the Martha's Vineyard Institute of Creative Writing, with many thanks to Ladette Randolph for her support!

Winner: Dera Duru; Runner-up, with partial fellowship: Tariq Karibian

JOHN C. ZACHARIS BOOK AWARD

Olufunke Grace Bankole, *The Edge of Water* (Tin House, 2025), selected by Jamil Jan Kochai

ALICE HOFFMAN PRIZE FOR FICTION

Barbara Lock, "Keep You Safe" (Summer 2025)

ASHLEY LEIGH BOURNE PRIZE FOR FICTION

Juliana Lamy, "My Country Full of Thieves" (Fall 2025)

JOHN SKOYLES PRIZE FOR POETRY

Mostafa Ibrahim, translated from the Arabic by Abdelrahman ElGendy, "So-and-So" (Winter 2025-26)



Left to right: Olufunke Grace Bankole (Photo by Malak Yassin), Barbara Lock, Juliana Lamy, Abdelrahman ElGendy, Mostafa Ibrahim

AWARDS (EXTERNAL)

One Pulitzer Prize winner (Memoir: Yiyun Li, Winter 2004-05) and **two finalists** (Poetry: Douglas Kearney, Winter 2010-11 and Hala Alyan, Spring 2027 Guest Editor)

Three stories in *Best American Short Stories 2026*, selected by former guest editor Viet Thanh Nguyen:

“The Women’s Hospital” by Eliot Fox, Winter 2024-25

“Here Now” by Nathan Blum, Spring 2025

“The Horror” by Carolyn Ferrell, Summer 2025

Five pieces in the *Pushcart Book of Twenty-First Century Poetry and Prose*:

“In a Kitchen Where Mushrooms Were Washed” by Jane Hirshfield, 2013

“What Happens in Hell” by Charles Baxter, 2014

“Reading In His Wake” by Pamela Painter, 2005

“Contender” by Traci Brimhall, 2022

“Soutine: A Show of Still Lives” by Edward Hirsch, 2008

One poem in the *Pushcart Prize Anthology: Volume LI*:

“The World” by Malena Mörling, Winter 2024-25

One story in the *Blair Prize: New Stories from the South* series

“She No Longer Fears Him” by Deesha Philyaw, Summer 2025

One poem in Orison Books’s *Best Spiritual Literature 2026*

“The Death of Eve” by Pádraig Ó Tuama, Winter 2024-25

LOOKING FORWARD

“Reading the work of others is a process that, if we’re lucky, shocks our senses alive, the way a good chorus of birdsong does.”

— HANIF ABDURRAQIB —

Nonfiction Editor

PRINT



Spring 2027, guest edited by
HALA ALYAN



Summer 2027, guest edited by
**CARMEN MARIA
MACHADO**

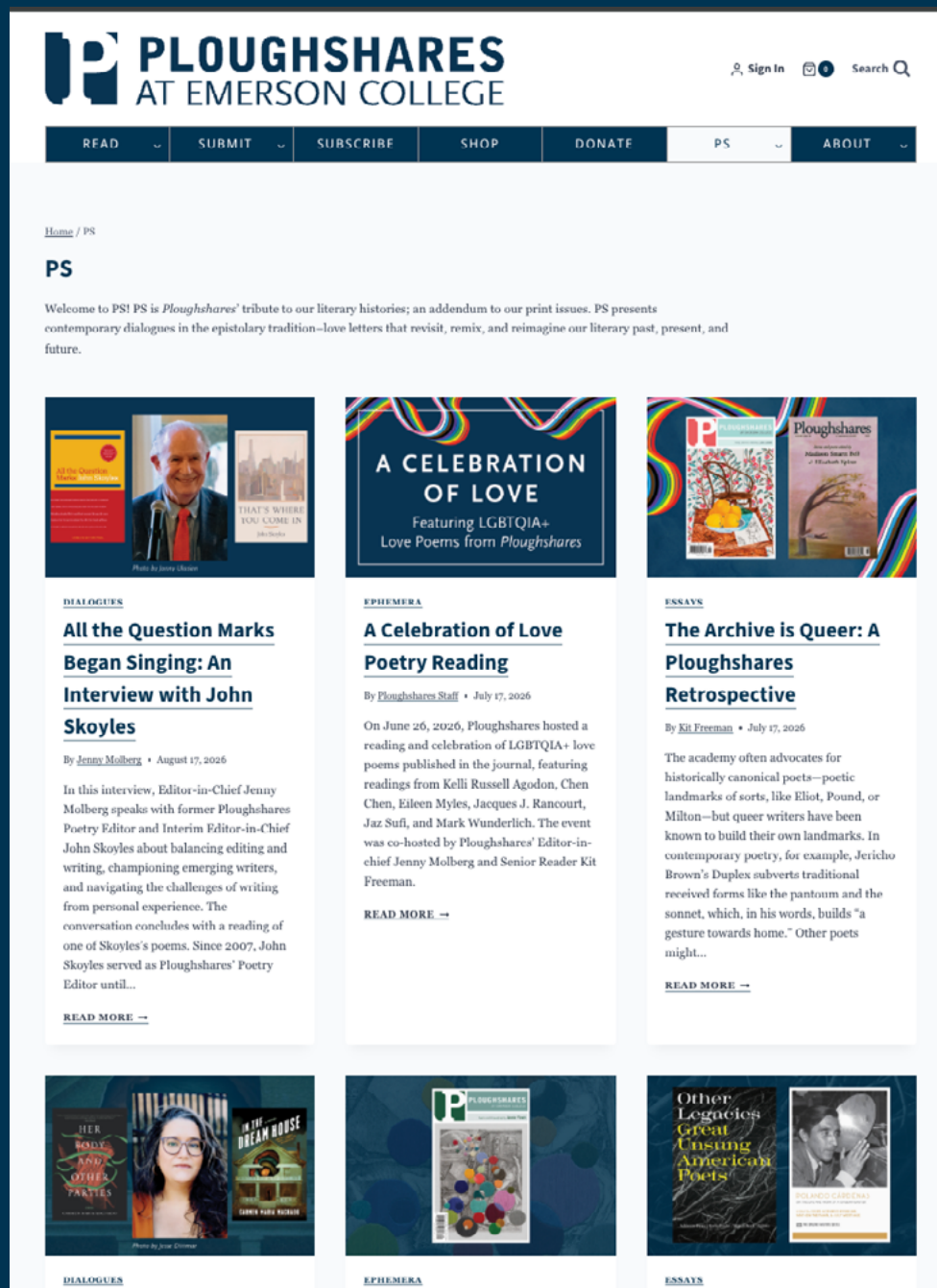
2027
**EMERGING
WRITERS'
CONTEST**
JUDGES:

HILTON ALS
(Nonfiction)

**GABRIELLE
CALVOCORESSI**
(Poetry)

LAUREN GROFF
(Fiction)

ONLINE



PS is *Ploughshares'* tribute to our literary histories; an addendum to our print issues. PS presents contemporary dialogues between today's writers and Ploughshares' archive—love letters that revisit, remix, and reimagine our literary past, present, and future. Here you'll find essays, interviews, recordings, and other multimedia ephemera in direct conversation with our current issue and 50+ year archive.

UPCOMING FEATURES:

"Lucille Clifton's Electronic Archives," by Kazim Ali

"Tripping on Lines in the Sand," an essay on the practice of translation, by David Keplinger

"When I Changed My Relationship with Food, Language Rushed into Place," a conversation with Asa Drake and Annie Wenstrup

PATRONS

We are deeply grateful to our donors for demonstrating their commitment to advancing the literary arts through a financial contribution to *Ploughshares*. We raised over \$100,000 this year to continue publishing innovative writing that elevates both emerging and established voices. This list of donors represents individuals and organizations that gave during our Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026). On behalf of all of our writers and readers, we thank you.

FOUNDERS' SOCIETY

Hunter C. Bourne III,

The Ashley Leigh Bourne Prize for Fiction

The Green Angel Foundation,

The Alice Hoffman Prize for Fiction

Marilyn A. Zacharis, in memory of

Robert E. Courtemanche,

John C. Zacharis First Book Award

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Allen Mears

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Community of Literary Magazines and Presses

(CMLP)

Emerson College

Massachusetts Cultural Council

(Continued on next page)

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