

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**North Carolina Literary Review's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Print Issue**

June 30, 2021: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual issue of the *North Carolina Literary Review* explores North Carolina authors "Writing Toward Healing." In light of the past year's pandemic and many social and political tensions, the concept of writing as a tool for healing is nothing short of timely. And completely coincidental, according to the editor Margaret Bauer, who explained in the online issue's introduction earlier this year, "I for one had in mind the need for healing in the country, politically, and the world, environmentally." As it turned out, there are very few references to COVID in the issue, but a lot of discussion of tools for dealing with the physical, emotional, psychological, and sociological healing needed after over a year of sickness, deaths, isolation, and other suffering inspired by the pandemic.

The issue's cover features art by Cynthia Bickley-Green, a Professor of Art at East Carolina University. The COVID-inspired cover art, "Lamentation," was selected by the North Carolina Museum of Art for the Museum Park. The feature section also includes works by Catherine Edgerton, Susanna Euston, Justus Harris, and Nancy Marshburn, which reflect the healing nature of fine art.

Opening the print issue's feature section is George Hovis's interview with one of North Carolina's most beloved writers, Lee Smith, followed by an essay on Smith's fiction by Sharon E. Colley, then an essay on Charles Frazier's *Nightwoods* by Paula Rawlins. Also in this section, find North Carolina Humanities' 2020 Linda Flowers Award essay by Mildred Kiconco Barya and Christie Hinson Norris's keynote address, "Teaching the Darkness Away: Humanities, History, and Education," given at North Carolina Humanities' 2020 Caldwell Award ceremony honoring James W. Clark. The special feature section closes with an essay by Laura Hope-Gill about her journey toward developing a Narrative Medicine program in North Carolina. One of the medical doctors who graduated from that program, Daniel Waters, also contributed an essay for the issue.

In the issue's section called Flashbacks: Echoes of Past Issues are a few of the honorees of the 2020 James Applewhite Poetry Prize, whose poems relate to previous special feature topics. This section includes the 2021 John Ehle Prize essay, an ecocritical reading of Ehle's novel *The*

*Road* by Savannah Paige Murray. The Ehle Prize goes to the author of *NCLR* content that focuses on a writer whose work has not received the critical attention it merits, and this year is the first time the prize was awarded for an essay on John Ehle. Also in this section is the first recipient of *NCLR*'s newest award, the Randall Kenan Prize, which honors content introducing a new writer. Jim Coby received the premiere prize, funded by UNC Chapel Hill Creative Writing program, for his interview with horror writer Nathan Ballingrud. Read in this section, too, an essay by Timothy Nixon examining a short story by Randall Kenan.

In the North Carolina Miscellany section of the issue, read the winners of the creative writing contests *NCLR* manages: Molly Sentell Haile's Doris Betts Fiction Prize short story, Andrew Scrimgeour's Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize essay, and Keely Hendricks's James Applewhite Poetry Prize poem. "Abundance" is Hendricks's first-ever publication, and this is the first time Haile and Scrimgeour are publishing in *NCLR*. In this section, too, Kirstin Squint interviews Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle, author of the first novel published by a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The 2021 print issue is available with a [subscription](#) to *NCLR*, or it can be ordered from UNC Press or through your local independent bookstore.

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