

PRESS RELEASE

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NORTH CAROLINA LITERARY REVIEW 2019 EXPLORES AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE

The 2019 issue of the award-winning *North Carolina Literary Review* celebrates African American literature of the Old North State. Through interviews, readers will be introduced to some of North Carolina's newer award-winning writers, like Stephanie Powell Watts, and learn more about one of the most recent inductees into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame, Randall Kenan. Poet Glenis Redmond, who began her writing career while living in Asheville, and novelist Jason Mott, who teaches at UNC Wilmington, are also interviewed. And the feature section includes poetry by Redmond, as well as Amber Flora Thomas, L. Teresa Church, and Kevin Dublin, and essays on George Moses Horton, Harriet Jacobs, Charles Chesnutt, and C. Eric Lincoln.

According to *NCLR* Editor Margaret Bauer, the special feature topic inspired more submissions of literary criticism than any previous topic and those essays selected for publication represent a range of critical perspectives: ecocritical, feminist, biographical, political, religious, cultural, and reader response. Bauer asserts, "We are proud to publish an essay by renowned literary scholar Trudier Harris, formerly the J. Carlyle Sitterson Distinguished Professor at UNC Chapel Hill, now University Distinguished Research Professor at the University of Alabama, and proud to introduce new literary scholars like DeLisa Hawkes, a native of North Carolina who is completing her PhD at the University of Maryland-College Park." Bauer reports, too, "For Dr. Harris's essay on Charles Chesnutt, original illustrations were commissioned from an ECU School of Art and Design 2018 graduate, Paula Jordan-Mayo, and *NCLR* obtained permission from the Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington to use images of slave poet George Moses Horton illustrated by the esteemed North Carolina artist Claude Howell."

The issue's cover, designed by *NCLR* Art Director Dana Ezzell Lovelace, features composites created by Chapel Hill fine art photographer Barbara Tyroler, inspired by photographs of North Carolina Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green's daughter Imani, who passed away in 2009. Inside the issue, much of the content is complemented by works by renowned African American artists, including John Biggers and Ivey Hayes. And the whole issue is exemplary of *NCLR*'s award-winning design.

Other sections of the issue include the 2018 Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize winner by Nancy Werking Poling, the 2018 Linda Flowers Essay Prize winner by Jennifer Brown, and the 2018 James Applewhite Poetry Prize winner by Catherine Carter, as well as several finalists

from the latter competition, new poems by James Applewhite, and an essay on journalist/poet Zoe Kincaid Brockman by Rebecca Duncan, with Lyn Triplett.

NCLR is produced at East Carolina University, which received funding from a North Carolina Arts Council grant for the 2019 issues. Additional funding was provided by ECU, the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, and the North Carolina Humanities Council.

NCLR is sold in independent bookstores across the state. For subscription information, go to www.nclr.ecu.edu/subscriptions. A two-year subscription will include the 2020 issue, which will feature North Carolina Expatriate Writers.