

Miscellaneous Contests, Prize Winners, Artists, Book Reviews, and More!

by Margaret D. Bauer, Editor

In this section, we welcome several new poets and prose writers to our pages. I believe 2022 might have been a record year for the number of finalists and semifinalists we selected to publish from our creative writing competitions. Look for fiction finalists in the fall issue, and of course, subscribe to read the contests' winners in the print issue, coming out this summer.

Thank you to the artists who agreed to allow us to feature their work with the creative writing throughout this issue. One of our initiatives as we entered our fourth decade has been to budget an honorarium, albeit modest, from our annual funding from the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association to pay artists for allowing us to feature their work. I encourage readers to click on the artists' names in the bio notes to go to their websites and see more of their work. Thanks as well to the galleries and museums that provided art files. It is such a pleasure to work with these representatives of North Carolina's artists. We hope you, our readers, will be inspired to show support for your local art gallery or museum: purchase original art for your home or office and attend exhibit openings.

Find in this last section, too, book reviews by writers who have not been published in our pages – yet. We invite them to subscribe and submit their writing to our contests. As this issue is released, we are accepting prose submissions for the Alex Albright Creative Nonfiction Prize, with not one but two poetry contests coming up in April: we have

added the Jaki Shelton Green Performance Poetry contest to our repertoire, with funding from the North Carolina Poetry Society. Also, I note a couple of mystery writers reviewed this round, and I encourage readers to consult the announcement in the front matter of the feature section on North Carolina mysteries and thrillers planned for 2026. Perhaps you would be interested in interviewing one of these authors for that issue.

As always, I am grateful to the reviewers here and in the previous sections, several who have reviewed often for us, others occasionally, some for the first time. Reviewing is a valuable service to your fellow writers. I attended a [webinar in the fall](#) on the importance of writing reviews (led by Melinda Thomsen, whose poetry we've published). Reviews are a way to give back to your writing community, of course, but also, Melinda reminded her audience, delving into another's work might very well positively influence your own. And as an editor, I will tell you, I remember who writes reviews, and I will work that much harder to make sure their books get reviewed. I believe in that kind of giving back.

Speaking of reviews, we invite you to check our [new website](#) every Saturday to find a featured review of a book by a North Carolina writer. We hope you will purchase that book at your local independent bookstore or at our new affiliate site at [bookshop.org](#), which gives a portion of each sale to us and to an independent bookstore. ■

