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STYLTUS



A Journal of Poetry, Prose, & Art



30th Anniversary

2024 Issue

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Editors'

Foreword.

Os sundam arum esequam quiaecatur sequi nulluptatia cor re officab iumquid et modi rerum fugitat. Tur, inciaturibus ese net, quam saecest quid quod unt laborecti odipsum ad mo intia quam ipsa pra di blabores as volorum quia voluptati rerum el minus nonsequid maiore nossit molum explabore, tor soluptur, quiatem. It is doles des dem valorpos moluptat enis alitiscid ullam arcisquis magnam nonecaeperum as volum quia nihillu ptature strunt et lab iliquunt asimi, te nest, quibusant omnis sitaquam liberat iorempo rumqui volupta corum quam nonsectem qui odis ad quiaest rumendam, sim quam, sant volest, consed que int.

Simos porate cusa nimus, quae. Enim fugiatiae rem voluptae in pres serest occusdae vel idelitat. Bitat. Tem sim hil earum quiam re custrum hilloria volut es exces maximaorae valoritibus dolor ratibeaquae. Et ant, suntibe rsperae ipsae nonsed eati cum es ma dunt repelles explis et reped ma diossequae occus, conese voluptiassum assim apid quam volupta taepudit omnihil igendaerum fugia dolora sae reperum volorep eratum conecep erferes ellor ad quosapis et res et laut ut entiae niate laborest, qui iuntin ped qui blandelitia cuptatempel moluptatur mil eossi que esciae con porero blabor maximolorior aborepeleste pelecea temoluptat acide qui odic temporum re est faccaes doluptat facesequo eos vidicillor aliquie alis vel molor a venderi nus maios net eos maio. Ebitatia consequae sandae nis am doluptatem natam nimpero repratur restio.

Nam reptur? Qui bla cum fugit laccus mos am quaeftas vel inctius earchitiam valor sit, consernatur? Quiatemodi omnima nus quibus quodi repereicid magnimo luptibe ratiae et utat. Utem remporeic tem quatemos con rerum, sedi officaectia iur?

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature on the left appears to read "Allison Choi". The second signature on the right appears to read "Megan Valmidiano".

Allison Choi
Megan Valmidiano
Editors-in-Chief

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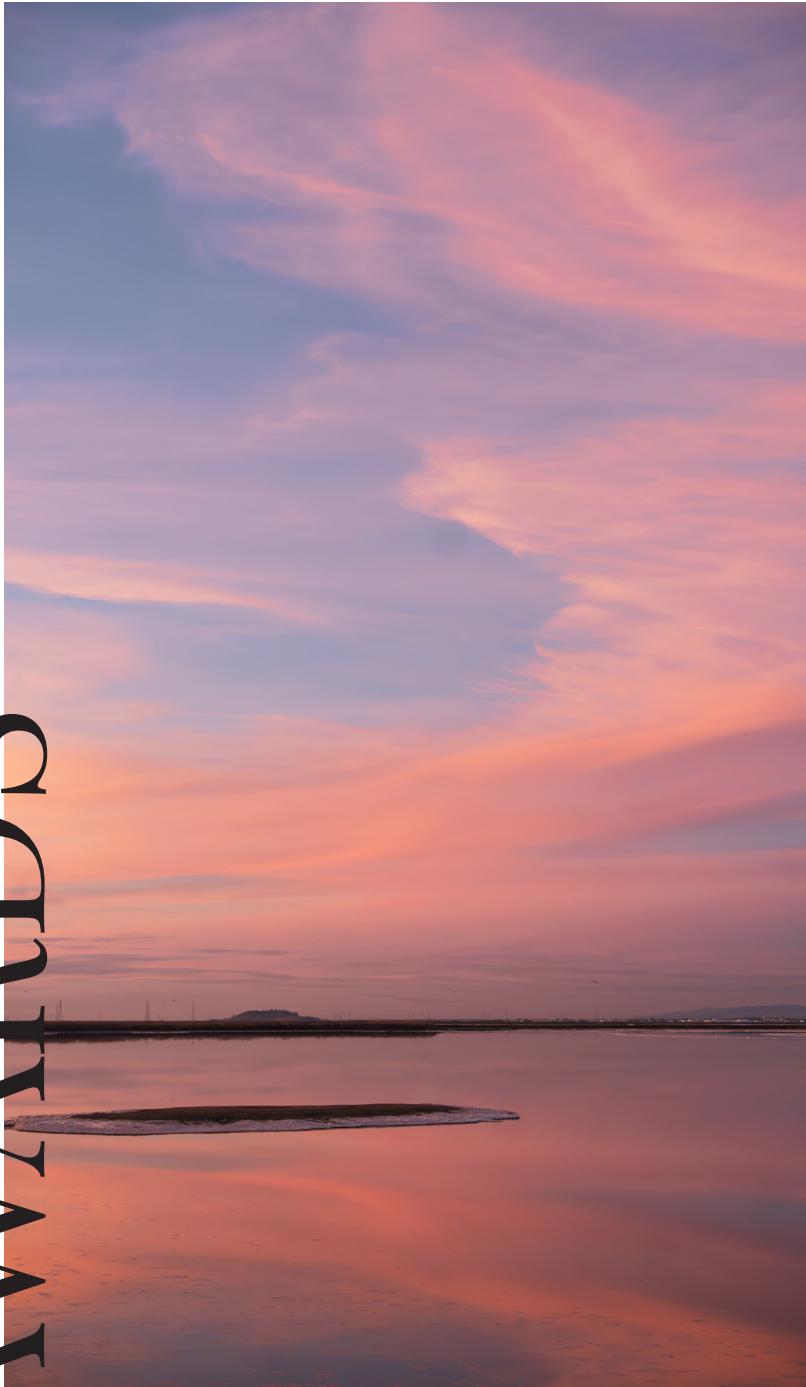
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AWARDS



Art Award

Cabrini.

The Cabrini Art Award is an annual visual arts contest open to all University of Maryland undergraduates. The Award is administered by staff at the Jiménez-Porter Writers' House in hopes to bring more recognition to talented visual artists on campus. Judges review the pieces after names of artists have been removed, to preserve anonymity.

1st: Alice Bi for "outburst"

2nd: Balbina Yang for "After a Night of Coffee"

3rd: Cassiel Arcilla for "Waiting To Be Impressed"

Judges:

Marjorie Antonio studies Art History at the University of Maryland.

She works at the Stamp Gallery, a contemporary art gallery, where she leads the bi-weekly Sketch Night program. She is a NextNOW Fest 2020 curator and an organizer for the local arts organization, Living Artists and Co. In her free time, she likes writing slam poetry and watching thrillers.

Anjali Ravi was the editor-in-chief of Stylus from 2017-2019. She graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park with a BA in English and minor in Creative Writing. Currently she is training and volunteering at Kim Studio in College Park and working on applications for MFA programs.

Camila Tapia is a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, having studied Studio Art, as well as Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Surreal, experimental, and playful, Camila dabbles in anything creative that piques their curiosity, such as fire dancing, music-making, hair cutting, and event organizing. They are the founder of Artsphere, a UMD art club, and Living Artists, a local arts collective. You can get in contact with them and find their work on Instagram @byunnaturalcauses

Literary Award

Jiménez-Porter.

The Jiménez-Porter Literary Prize is an annual writing contest open to all University of Maryland undergraduates. The Prize is going into its sixteenth year and is administered by staff at the Jiménez-Porter Writers' House. Judges read the manuscripts after names of authors have been removed, to preserve anonymity.

PROSE

1st: Alice Bi for "outburst"

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POETRY

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Prose Judges:

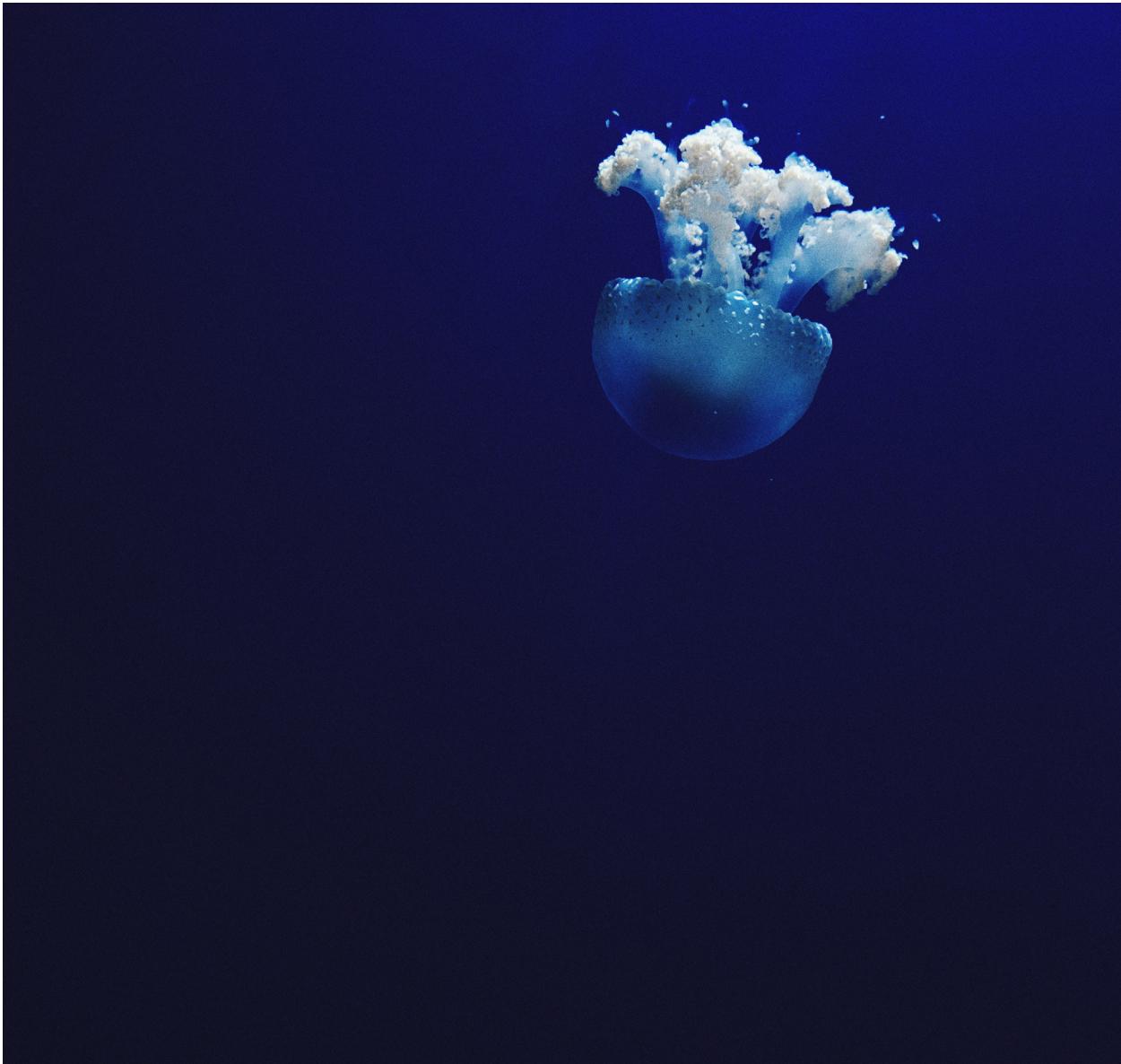
First Round: Ely Vance

Final Round: Meg Eden teaches creative writing at Anne Arundel Community College. She is the author of five poetry chapbooks, the novel Post-High School Reality Quest (2017), and the poetry collection Drowning in the Floating World (2020). She runs the MAGFest MAGES Library Blog, which posts accessible academic articles about video games (<https://super.magfest.org/mages-blog>).

Poetry Judges:

First Round: Emily Tuttle

Final Round: Shevaun Brannigan’s work has appeared in such journals as Best New Poets, AGNI, and Slice. She is a recipient of a Barbara J. Deming Fund grant and holds an MFA from Bennington College.



outburst, Alice Bi
digital photography

JUDGES' NOTES

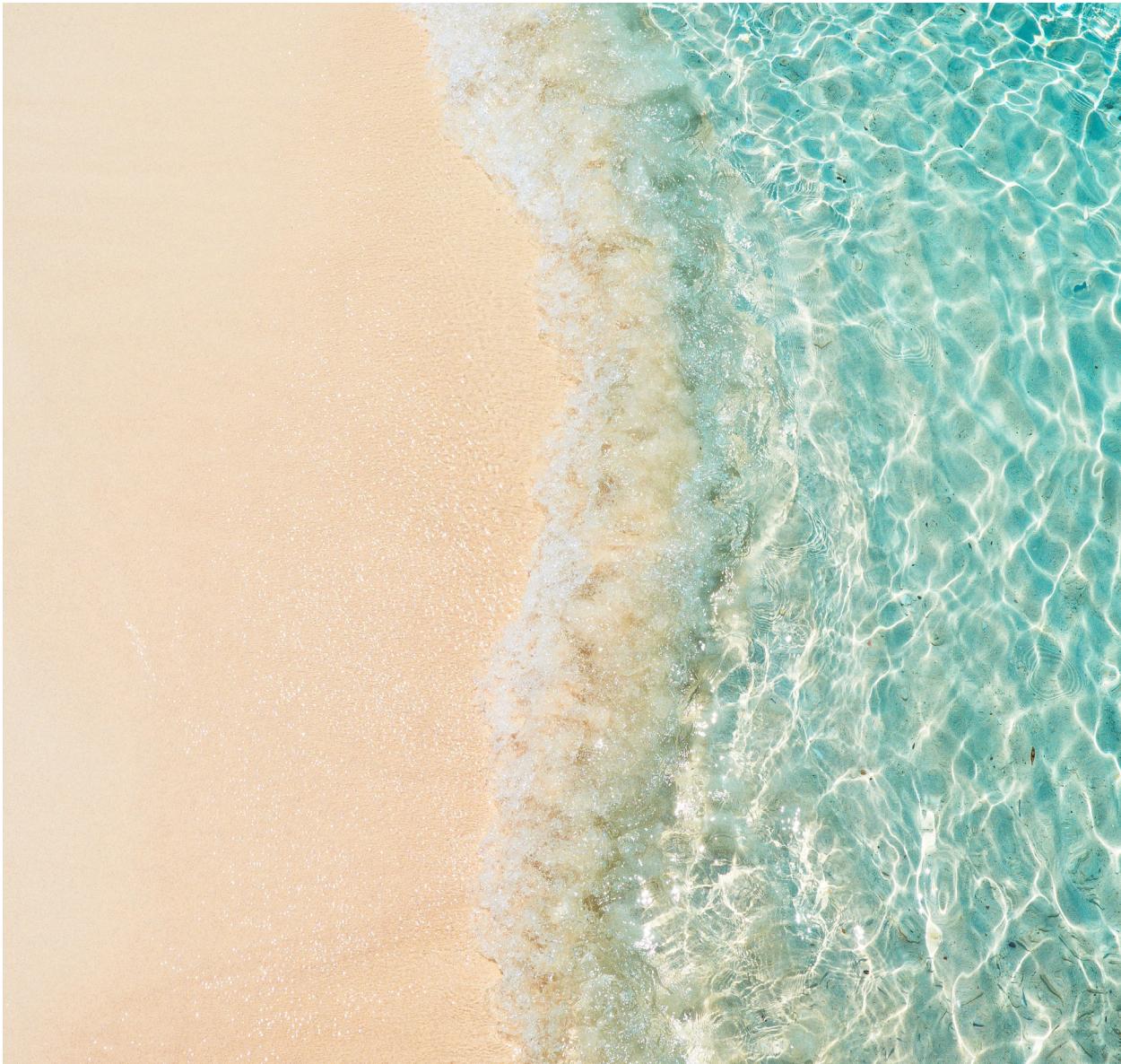
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And the Water Called Her

Chidinma Chiopoge

I never met my great grandmother, and the only knowledge of her existence has been filtered through the patched quilt of my older family member's memories. My aunt tells me her grandmother was a worldly seafarer, with brine and storm in her blood. My uncle agrees that the ocean called to her and that she was something of a pirate that tamed the seas with her courage and iron soul. He says she would plan escapades with her crew of elderly housewives and maids, and they would leave for weeks on end. When they returned, they would bring souvenirs of their conquests and the stories that accompanied their procurement. Once, they brought the head of a kraken that they had slayed with their kitchen knives. Another time, they brought a captive, a man who had boarded their ship at night and threatened to rape and kill them. Little did the stowaway know that the women before him came armed with guns they had stolen from their sleeping husbands. My older cousins, though they were only

babies at the time, claim they still remembered how my great grandmother and her crew would bring back the smallest fingers of the evil, rival pirates who crossed them on the ocean. My cousins say she protected the town from the monsters, both animal and human, that lurked in the ocean. They say that everyone loved her.

As I grow older, the seams in the patchwork memories of my great grandmother widen. Loose threads of her life tangle in contradictions, that my family try in vain to straighten. My great grandmother is redrafted as a town healer by my father. He speaks of her expertise with plants, and how her bitter leaf brew and pepper soup could bring a man back from the dead. His brother concurs, and whispers to me the stories of my great grandmother's compassion, how she would brave storms to deliver Tom Toms, to children with sore throats. From there, the tales of her life backstitch, and she becomes the town's midwife who doubled as a ship captain in her free time. My

family is unable to extricate her life from the pull of water, but none of the grandeur of an ocean possessed matriarch feel true to me.

I know my great grandmother had grown up in Igboland in the late 1800's. There, she would have lived a content life as a mother or a seamstress. The closest she would have gotten to a body of water. I never met my great grandmother, and the only knowledge of her existence has been filtered through the patched quilt of my older family member's memories. My aunt tells me her grandmother was a worldly seafarer, with brine and storm in her blood. My uncle agrees that the ocean called to her and that she was something of a pirate that tamed the seas with her courage and iron soul. He says she would plan escapades with her crew of elderly housewives and maids, and they would leave for weeks on end. When they returned, they would bring souvenirs of their conquests and the stories that accompanied their procurement. Once, they brought the head of a kraken that

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Ankara—a wax fabric used to make clothing, indigenous to West Africa
Chukwu—an Igbo God

Ichafu—a Nigerian scarf typically worn by women on the head

Igboland—a region of Nigeria indigenous to the Igbo people

Tom Tom—a mint flavored menthol candy

JUDGES' NOTES

“And the Water Called Her”

What a solid, evocative, and complex story. The speaker captures the elusive nature of family history, making the reader consider the narratives they carry. As the speaker beautifully says, the memories of the great grandmother “were anachronisms born by the lens of American history and culture that my older family has donned. I fear my great grandmother’s story is too knotted with the red, white, and blue of our present to ever be salvaged.” This writer hits at some incredible universal truths, including why we create stories in the first place, and the need to preserve where we come from.

i've been meaning to write to you again / 63.4 miles

Sam Ridley

do you remember?
when we'd turn our shoes red
stomping on those ants outside our
elementary school? the teacher

would yell until her face was fiery,
you murderous boys and come in-
side now, but we'd just laugh and
dance in the disaster. do you

remember? you pulled me out of the
pool four years later.

i went under, kicking, my broken
foot trapped under the pool ladder
that he dropped.

the party went dead silent but you're
the only one who dived in.

do you remember?
when i told you what he did after the
football game

you went to his house, stabbed him
in the chest with a high-heeled shoe,

do

you remember? that day in Atlantis
we kept forgetting their names,

remember? the way the suns glit-
tered and the clouds waved and the
waves were far from cloudy. i miss
that,

and driving in my car with the wind
spilling out of us,
even when you were too stubborn to
ask for a cigarette.
i remember, and

i know i shouldn't ask, but i saw a
picture of you kissing that blue-eyed
boy again.

do you remember? falling out of
love?

JUDGES' NOTES

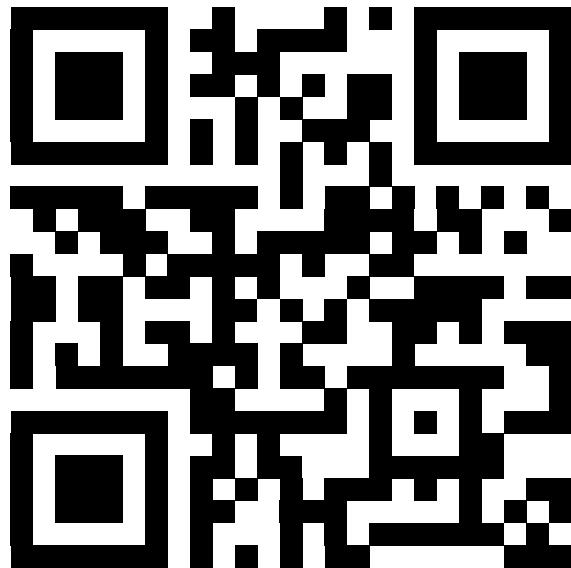
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holdback and forth and go elsewhere today

Mohan Elisely

Magnist es este odiscia necae. Mus et ut ducidit ullum quam, que si quiam saecte offic totassi mperum facid ut estrumq uatur, omnimusam, ant ut optaeftatis ea volentia ipsam et lam res as del et maximus ut denihil moluptur aut expel id eum fugit incur sequas vendandere, officiu ntiumqu iatesti rerefere hendunt illacep tatemque rem fugia consero dolende lectis velit qui delestem acepernat quis quidempe nis re con ne aut iur? Quiducit, quid molor abo. Lestes et, tem recturepro bernate dis ium vernat ercit et enimet derferi ad et ipisita tibusti busdam iducipsaesed eosantios verati sed quunt.





blossom, Alice Bi
digital photography



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Staff.

Ethan Welsh is a senior English major with a Creative Writing minor. He likes hiking and mac n cheese.

Balbina Yang is a junior English major and Art History minor. She enjoys swimming and watching Food Network.

Marjorie Antonio is a sophomore History major and Asian American studies and Art History minor. Some of her favourite things in life are as follows: specialty focaccia bread from the UMD Farmers Market, o.g lead pencils, star-gazing, and slam poetry.

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Award Winners.

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their support. Their generosity has enabled us to publish a journal each year that fosters a community for undergraduate writers and artists, celebrating their passion and creativity.

BENEFACTORS

The Student Government Association
The Jiménez-Porter Writers' House

FRIENDS

Department of English | Department of Art | School of Languages, Literature, and Cultures | College of Arts and Humanities | Office of Undergraduate Studies | Program in Creative Writing | The Center for Comparative and Literary Studies | Booklab | Department of Printing Services | Johnna Schmidt | John Prince | Vivianne Salgado | Jacky Mueck | Paul Cote | Lindsay Bernal | Laura Lauth | Naliyah Kaya | Meg Eden | Ely Vance | Shevaun Brannigan | Emily Tuttle | Jon Dvorak | Danny McGee | Katie Stone | Ambi Narula | Ralph Bauer

JIMÉNEZ-PORTER WRITERS' HOUSE

Stylus is largely funded by and supported by the Jiménez-Porter Writers' House, a living and learning program at the University of Maryland, College Park. Some of the journal's staff members belong to the program, though any UMD student can be involved with Stylus. Located within Queen Anne's Hall, the Writers' House is a campus-wide literary hub for the study of creative writing across cultures. Students hone their skills through workshops, colloquia, and lectures led by Writers' House faculty and visiting authors. The two-year program is open to students of all majors and years. For more information about joining Writers' House, visit our website at writershouse.umd.edu or email the director, Johnna Schmidt, at jmschmid@umd.edu.

A Journal of Poetry, Prose, & Art



30th Anniversary

2024 Issue



[S]