

Letter from the Editor

Readers,

The 2015 edition of *Writers* is a reminder that texts and images function as memories. Some of these memories were lived; some were constructed. Either way, they present ideas chosen and captured in the physical space of paragraphs, stanzas, and frames. When we read or look at them, we participate in a kind of remembering of these ideas—an experience beautiful enough to remind us of the incontrovertible value of art. The author of our epigram, Dave Eggers, also once said, “Books have a unique way of stopping time in a particular moment and saying: Let’s not forget this.” Certainly, with each of their pieces, our contributors are reminding themselves and their readers to “not forget” the significance of a powerful moment in time.

In our Editor’s Choice poem, we are provided with a memory of walking along the Oregon Coast: “We stopped at a tiny stream/and turned back to the south, and it meant something.” That “something,” is enigmatic to the reader here, amorphous—like the nature of many of the important ideas associated with our memories. But they are important nonetheless. And we see that this year in *Writers*: in a child’s experience receiving surgery on her ears (“Give Ev’ry Man Thy Ear”), in a reminder that our bodies contain imprints of our lives (“Vite”)—even in the intimate conversations that occur in a minivan (“It Always Happens in a Car”). Our photographs are also physical representations of memories: moments made significant by a photographer’s intention, mixtures of untainted reality and artistic modification. Whether they take the form of family pictures (“Summer Portrait”) or delicate images of nature (“Illusions”), they are all pieces that highlight personal, communal, and natural histories in surprisingly creative contexts.

Another thoughtful writer, the 20th century Trappist monk Thomas Merton, once said, “Every moment and every event of every man’s life plants something in his soul.” We can access these moments and events, indeed “remember” them, in both painful and lovely ways as we read each page of *Writers*.

Sincerely,
Athena Lathos
SENIOR EDITOR

"We are unusual and tragic and alive."

– Dave Eggers

(A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius)