

OXFORD AMERICAN

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The *Oxford American's* Fall 2021 issue on Southern Lit will be on newsstands August 31

In short stories, flash fiction, essays, and playlists, more than a dozen contributors explore the region's literary landscape

August 3, 2021—CONWAY, ARKANSAS—In the *Oxford American's* Fall 2021 issue, an award-winning lineup of writers reorient and reimagine the literary landscape of our region. From meditations on pillars such as Toni Morrison and Yusef Komunyakaa to a revival of works by Arkansas native and Afrofuturist innovator Henry Dumas, the pieces in this issue engage a range of questions about Southern identities, aesthetics, and relationships—their histories, the ways they've changed over time, and the ways they continue to evolve.

This issue features new fiction from National Book Award finalist and PEN/Faulkner Award winner **Deesha Philyaw**, whose short story about a suburban couple takes an alluring, dreamlike turn. **Dawnie Walton** muses on femininity and the complexities of aging, while **Mary Miller** offers a stunning look at gender, sexuality, and starting over in a new story set during the blackout of 2003.

Mary Kay McBrayer blends fantasy and reality through her miniature work, reconstructing scenes from famous Southern Gothic texts. Rutgers professor **Carter Mathes** delves into the mystical omniverse of **Henry Dumas**, the issue's featured poet. West Virginia state folklorist **Emily Hilliard** revisits writer Breece D'J Pancake's hometown of Milton, while **S. J. Kim** explores Southern Gothic themes through the lens of Korean drama.

Frequent *OA* contributor, **Frederick McKindra** of Little Rock considers the ups and downs of bookselling and his reading life during the pandemic and last summer's wave of uprisings. And Periplus fellow **Herbert Girtley Jr.** makes his magazine debut with the short story "Rum and Pearls."



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Danielle McKinney's *Blue Room* covers the issue, part of the artist's intimate survey of women protagonists. McKinney, an Alabama native, paints "with an acute awareness of the female gaze," emphasizing "hidden narratives" and "dreamlike spaces" in her work. This issue also includes art by **Lorna Simpson, GaHee Park, Allison Janae Hamilton, and David Huffman**, along with breathtaking commissioned pieces by Atlanta photographer **EWANG** and illustrator **Isip Xin**.

"This issue aims to reveal the literature of the South as prismatic and dynamic," **Danielle A. Jackson** writes in her editor's letter. "We wanted to reimagine the canon, revisit classics in new and striking ways, and introduce a new vanguard of literary adventurers, soothsayers, and prophets."

The Southern Lit issue is available now for pre-order at OxfordAmericanGoods.org. Copies will mail to subscribers on August 17, 2021, and it will be available on newsstands nationwide on August 31. For bulk orders, contact jmassey@oxfordamerican.org.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

Founded in 1992, the Oxford American (OA) is a nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to explore the complexity and vitality of the American South through exceptional writing, music, and visual art.