May 26, 2021—CONWAY, ARKANSAS—The Oxford American’s Summer 2021 edition is dedicated to an exploration of Southern landscapes, waterways, borderlands, and disappearing coasts. In considering the perils and pleasure of Lake Lanier just outside Atlanta, a barrier chain of disappearing islands in the Gulf, and a series of unlikely World War II interactions in middle Tennessee, our writers ask: What is it about a space that creates feeling, memories, a history for those who occupy it?

Dinorá Justice’s Collage 18-03 - after Matisse’s “Yellow Odalisque 1937” covers the issue. The work is from a series of portraits in which the artist re-imagines “iconic female figures of the Western canon by painters such as Matisse and Ingres,” she writes, alongside images from nature to make a statement about human consumption and ecological peril. Other artists in the issue include Keamber Pearson, Jon Henry, and Martha Park.

Contributors include Boy Erased memoirist Garrard Conley, who visits folk-artist Howard Finster’s Paradise Garden in Pennville, Georgia in search of wonder; Whiting winner Vanessa Angélica Villarreal on her father, a cumbia and jazz guitarist from the Texas borderlands who played with Selena; and scholar of Appalachia Amy D. Clark who exhumes oral histories to tell the real-life story of the Carter Family song “The Cyclone of Rye Cove.” Acclaimed novelists Anjali Enjeti and Ladee Hubbard, and the new Poet Laureate of Virginia, Luisa A. Igloria, are also featured.

“Throughout this issue, we honor sweat, toil, leisure, transition, transit, the cycles of decay and rebirth,” editor Danielle A. Jackson writes in her introduction to the issue. Neesha Powell-Twagirimukiza reports on water pollution and the decline of subsistence fishing in Georgia’s Sea islands, and Lauren Stroh remembers the aftermath of Hurricanes Laura and Delta in Louisiana. Writers Indya S. Finch and Mikeie Honda Reiland publish their first ever magazine stories in the issue.

The issue was underwritten by the Fay Jones School of Architecture & Design at the University of Arkansas, and is available now for pre-order at OxfordAmericanGoods.org. The issue will be available on newsstands nationwide on June 1. For bulk orders, contact jmassey@oxfordamerican.org.