

OXFORD AMERICAN

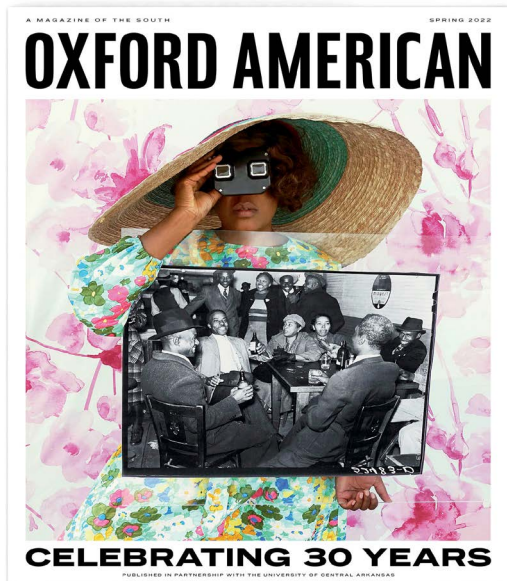
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The *Oxford American's* Spring 2022 Issue Celebrates the Magazine's 30th Anniversary

In essays, short fiction, a remarkable poetic duet, and more than twenty pieces of visual art, contributors reflect the past, present, and future of the American South

February 22, 2022—CONWAY, AR—In honor of the first issue of the *Oxford American*, which debuted March 14, 1992, this year's 128-page spring thirtieth anniversary edition features frequent *OA* contributors **Jeanie Riess**, **Diane Roberts**, and **Rebecca Bengal** alongside thrilling debuts from **Kristen Arnett**, **Imani Perry**, and the poets **Didi** and **Major Jackson**. Writers, both seasoned and new, examine memory, art-making, and the heart-work involved in both; together, their stories embody the eclectic and intrepid spirit of the *OA*.



Commencing our year-long celebration of the magazine's three decades of groundbreaking work, the pieces in this issue celebrate the *OA's* resilience through a range of questions. Writers ponder the ways the past inhabits the present, the double-binds of Southern femininity, and love—of romantic partners and family, of community and the self. Throughout, our authors trouble the myths of the Old South and revel in the possibilities of forging into Something New.

Contributing editor and long-time *OA* writer **Diane Roberts** remembers the folkways and rituals of white ladyhood inherited from her mother, while New Orleans-born **Jeanie Riess**, who has covered history and environmentalism for the *OA* as well as the *New Yorker* and the *New York Times* for many years, considers the depletion of Louisiana's coastline alongside the depletion of her father's memory. **Rebecca Bengal**, a newly appointed contributing editor for the *OA* who frequently publishes in *Aperture*, *Vanity Fair*, and *T: The New York Times Style Magazine*, profiles the late **Winfred Rembert**, a visual artist who mined his own memories to create reflective, colorful, panoramic vistas out of leather. In collaboration with Fort Gansevoort Galleries in New York, the issue features several pieces of Rembert's art as visual accompaniment to Bengal's prose.

First-time *OA* author **Verónica Dávila Ellis's** lyrical meditation on the rules and history of reggaetón, through the lens of Ivy Queen, one of the genre's leading lights, pulses like a procession of bodies and drums. **Allison Braden** considers the physical acts of historical inquiry and recuperation preserved in card catalogs, while also pondering the multiple meanings of the public library.

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The issue features new fiction from Florida-born, LAMBDA award-winning **Kristen Arnett**, who writes about long-term love and loss in her first piece for the magazine, as well as **Charles Ramsay McCrory**, a Mississippi native and 2019–2020 Senior Fellow in Fiction at Washington University in St. Louis, whose depiction of a revealing encounter at a diner tells a poignant story about the human body. Author and Princeton professor **Imani Perry**, whose seventh book, *South to America*, sits on the current *New York Times* bestseller list for nonfiction, traces the meaning of a name that survived the Middle Passage through the lens of a song.

Sundown (Number Fourteen), by New York-based multimodal visual artist **Xaviera Simmons**, covers the issue. This work is part of Simmons’s ongoing *Sundown* series, named for the history of certain cities, called “sundown towns,” known to be unsafe and inhospitable for Black people. In the image, a central figure dressed in modern, delicate, optimistic florals holds another image at the top of her belly. The inset photograph, part of the holdings of Harlem’s Schomburg Center, depicts a “Negro beer and juke joint” in Clarksdale in 1939. The past and the future appear, alight, in the same frame.

The issue also includes art by **Darrel Ellis**, **Nadiya I. Nacorda**, **Meg Griffiths**, **Olivier Souffrant**, **Kristine Potter**, and commissioned, original work from illustrator **Michelle Garcia**.

“For our thirtieth anniversary, we won’t make a monument to our past,” **Danielle A. Jackson** writes in her editor’s letter. Instead, she says the *OA* will “lean into the work” of remembering, reflecting, and reimagining the robust storytelling tradition the magazine has come to exemplify.

The 2022 spring issue is available now for pre-order at OxfordAmericanGoods.org. It will be on select newsstands on March 22, 2022. Or, subscribe to the *Oxford American* by visiting OxfordAmerican.org/subscribe. For bulk orders, contact info@oxfordamerican.org or 501-374-0000.