

OXFORD AMERICAN

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INTRODUCING THE *OXFORD AMERICAN*'S SPRING 2020 ISSUE The 160-page magazine, which features Emerald Arguelles's national debut on the cover, will be on newsstands March 17, 2020

March 4, 2020—LITTLE ROCK, AR—The *Oxford American* presents its **Spring 2020 Issue**, featuring commissioned illustrations from New Orleans-born comics artist **E.A. Bethea**, photography by **Bess Adler**, **Nina Robinson**, **Gabriella Demczuk**, and many others, and more than a dozen new stories and poems. Among the many notable contributors are **Seth Pennington** and **Bryan Borland**, who wrote a suite of six love poems for the issue; fiction writers **Ben Fountain** and **Ashleigh Bryant Phillips**, whose forthcoming short story collection *Sleepovers* was the winner of the 2019 C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize at Hub City Press; and essayists **Malinda Maynor Lowery**, **Jordan Blumetti**, and **Emily Gogolak**. Gogolak, a writer, reporter, and translator based in Texas, contributes an investigative feature on Dilley, a town at the crossroads of the prison, smuggling, and fracking industries and home to the nation's largest immigration detention center. Her reporting was supported by the Pulitzer Center.



We're also proud to present the issue's cover artist: **Emerald Arguelles**, a student at Savannah College of Art and Design, makes her national magazine debut with "For Nakeya," (2019). "The work of [conceptual photographer] Nakeya Brown changed my artistry in so many ways," Arguelles said. "For Nakeya' came to me as a dream, and I felt that it was appropriate to give ode to her."

Other writers featured include **Rosemary Westwood**, who explores Thibodaux, Louisiana, the site of what is now known as the Thibodaux Massacre. On November 23, 1887, some fifty African-American laborers were murdered during a sugarcane workers' strike. Westwood follows the 1887 Memorial Committee—a group of descendants of the victims and their white neighbors—as it seeks to work with archaeologists to confirm the site where the bodies were dumped. Westwood's reporting was supported by the Economic Hardship Reporting Project. In an Omnivore story, **Benjamin Anastas**, author of two novels and the memoir *Too Good to Be True*, digs into the past of Mr. Meyers, one of his English teachers, a tall dapper white man who spent his Friday afternoon class reading Gullah folk tales in dialect. **Wei Tchou**, a freelance writer and editor based in New York City, profiles Atlanta's elderly Taiwanese-American community culturally and politically aligned with the declining Kuomintang party. Tchou captures their focused efforts on the upcoming election. Her story is paired with photographs by Bess Adler.

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KaToya Ellis Fleming, the *OA*'s 2019–20 Jeff Baskin Fellow, makes her *Oxford American* debut with an essay on Frank Yerby, the Augusta, Georgia-born author of *The Foxes of Harrow*, which sold 1,000,000 copies in its first year and made Yerby the first Black millionaire author. The novel was optioned by 20th Century Fox for \$150,000—an unprecedented amount in 1946 for a writer of any race—and made into an Oscar-nominated motion picture.

The issue also includes artworks by **Dale Niles, Joe Rudkho, Maria Sturm, Romare Bearden, Nathan Gelgud, Tatiana Trouvé, Walker Evans**, among others.

To order a copy of the Spring 2020 Issue, visit your local bookstore or newsstand, or purchase a copy at OxfordAmericanGoods.org. The issue is available now in the *OA*'s online store and will be on newsstands nationwide on **March 17, 2020**. Or, subscribe to the *Oxford American* by visiting OxfordAmerican.org/subscribe. For bulk orders, contact info@oxfordamerican.org or **501-374-0000**.

Oxford American editors and contributors are available for interviews. Please contact them directly at editors@oxfordamerican.org.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

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. The primary medium through which the *OA* accomplishes this mission is the quarterly publication of the *Oxford American* literary magazine. The *OA* values diverse perspectives and encourages artists across disciplines to present work that creates a deeper understanding of the South. It has won four National Magazine Awards—including the 2016 Award for General Excellence in the category of Literature, Science and Politics—and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The magazine has featured the original work of such literary powerhouses as Charles Portis, Roy Blount, Jr., ZZ Packer, Donald Harington, Donna Tartt, Ernest J. Gaines, and many other distinguished authors, while also discovering and launching the most promising writers in the region. The *OA* has also published previously unseen work by such Southern masters as William Faulkner, Eudora Welty, Walker Percy, James Agee, Zora Neale Hurston, James Dickey, and Carson McCullers, to name just a handful. The *Oxford American* is published in partnership with the University of Central Arkansas. For more information, visit OxfordAmerican.org.