

OXFORD AMERICAN

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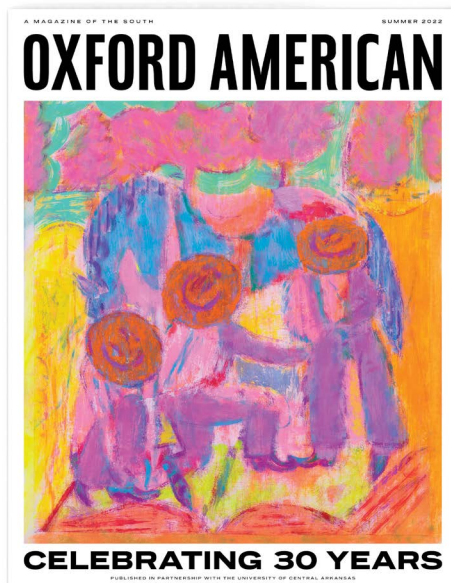
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Oxford American's Summer 2022 Issue Arrives on Newsstands May 31

The issue features a fresh take on a piece from 1996, a specially curated section on men, and a suite of poems in Spanish and English in continued commemoration of the magazine's 30th anniversary

May 16, 2022—CONWAY, AR—The Summer 2022 Issue of the *Oxford American* arrives on newsstands Tuesday, May 31, commemorating the magazine's three decades of innovative storytelling through essays, investigative pieces, short stories, and dazzling visual art. Longtime contributors, including award-winning writer **James**

Seay, appear alongside gripping debuts from **Saeed Jones**, **Jenn Shapland**, and hip-hop artist **Tauheed "Marco Pavé" Rahim II**. An original painting by Texas artist **Michael Berryhill**, commissioned exclusively for this cover, stands out as a vibrant landmark in our year-long anniversary celebration. His surrealist tribute to the folkloric traditions of the South, set against a smoldering neon climate, captures the issue's imaginative blend of memory and myth-making.



As the magazine reflects on its expansive legacy, our contributors lean into questions of lineage—both familial and artistic—grappling with the histories and conventions they've inherited. For our writers, as for our region at large, the residue of the past is a source of both strain and motivation.

An impressive feature section honors the *OA's* archive with a reprint of **Elizabeth McCracken's** 1996 essay "Hunting the Lonely Heart," which recounts her visit to Carson McCullers's hometown of Columbus, Georgia. A new introduction by **Jenn Shapland** accompanies the essay. Shapland revels in McCracken's skillful world-building while pointing to the essay as romantic nourishment for her own work. Her memoir on McCullers was a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the 2021 Lambda Literary Award.

Elsewhere, an intimate collection of poems by **Clara Muschietti**, **María Sánchez**, and **Fedosy Santaella**, translated from Spanish by Curtis Bauer, honors the bicultural tongues of a region that hosts the greatest growth among people who are Latinx in the country. Kirkus Prize winner **Saeed Jones** offers a thrilling excerpt from his forthcoming book of poetry, *Alive at the End of the World*. *The Nation* contributor **Stephen Kearse** uncovers a legacy of violence in his reporting on Mattie Green, who died in a 1960 bombing in Ringgold, Georgia.

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His investigation embodies the magazine’s history of careful preservation, enlisting “in the conflict between the forgetters and the rememberers, showing, as the latter have always insisted, that their experiences are not mere footnotes but history itself,” Kearsse writes.

The issue opens with a special section on masculinity—broadly defined—approached with equal parts accountability and tenderness. *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reporter **Jeremy Redmon** writes a moving tribute to his late father, a Vietnam veteran, while *OA* contributor **James Seay** reflects on the intersection of ableism and masculinity during the same era. **Tauheed Rahim II** accesses his family’s history of movement and radical self-determination by way of the barbershop, an “ancestral portal” that propels him as he strikes out for a new home. B.B. King soundtracks a journey down South in a short story by **Michael A. Gonzales**, a protégé of music critic Greg Tate, and Frank Ocean opens up new possibilities for Black masculinity and queer love in **KB Brookins’s** meditation on *Channel Orange*.

Illustrious textile traditions are championed in pieces by **Irene Vázquez**, whose queer reading of a tapestry by Texas artist Diedrick Brackens pays homage to the quilters of Gee’s Bend, and in **Jodie Bass’s** electric Q&A with interdisciplinary artist Sanford Biggers, whose quilt-based exhibition *Codeswitch* is currently on display at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville.

“As is often the case with creative people in a particular moment,” **Danielle A. Jackson** writes in her editor’s letter, “our writers shared many preoccupations. Something about our present-day circumstances...has caused us to think about guidance. We are seeking it out, wondering about its nature, dreaming about answers and action and compassion.”

This issue also includes art by **Kerry James Marshall**, whose work previously covered our Fall 2018 Issue, **Louise Dahl-Wolfe**, **Farley Aguilar**, **Michon Sanders**, and more.

The 2022 Summer Issue is available now for pre-order at OxfordAmericanGoods.org. The issue will be on select newsstands on May 31, 2022. Or, subscribe to the *Oxford American* by visiting OxfordAmerican.org/subscribe. For bulk orders, contact info@oxfordamerican.org or 501-374-0000.