

2022

Front Matter

The Woodward Review Editors

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Woodward Review 1

Spring 2022



WAYNE STATE
DETROIT, MI

Woodward Review 1

Spring 2022



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
& the WSU Library System

Wayne State University

Woodward Review

Masthead

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Poetry Editor: Vincent Perrone

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a note from the Editor

This project came together through the efforts of graduate students across a variety of disciplines, who were looking for a middle ground between scholarly “discourse” and the less formal writing that makes up most of our actual dialogue, even about academic-y things. While this first issue, in its static form, is a conventional collection of poetry and prose, *Woodward Review* is designed to be that happy medium, a space we’re calling *conversation*. Because our editors reject the traditional trajectory *from* artistic “material” *to* the critical “work” it inspires, we want readers and contributors to approach everything we ever publish like a free-form ekphrastic prompt, inviting your study in any tenor, genre, or medium you can imagine.

Have you approached, yet? Good. Now start concocting ways for book reviews to inspire poetry, when those book reviews were written as short stories, themselves navigating the universes of expansive collages, the kind pasted together with rubber cement, where you can still sort of see the glint of the adhesive, glowing at the seams. While that’s all ambition, for now, we’re starting with the belief that there’s so much more to say when the creative and the critical are free to respond in any direction, to themselves and each other.

Or, more simply put, between our free submission windows in Spring and Fall, the Submittable page will be open for “reviews & responses” to the contents of recent issues, including earlier reviews & responses and other selected works from our contributors. In turn, these submissions will help shape the following issue—we’re especially interested in seeing work from writers whose obsessions are unfamiliar, whose areas of expertise we don’t (yet) understand.

We want to see where this goes. We hope you do, too.

Miriam Saperstein, Digital Editorial Assistant

On Using What We Have and Making Something Cool

You might notice the layout of this website looks different than many other online literary magazines. It's a bit clunky, and you download PDFs instead of reading the content directly on a webpage. Why is this?

Well, the system we used to publish this issue is designed to host Open Access academic journals. That system, called Digital Commons, was built to make it easy to create and share those academic articles freely with readers and to preserve the articles in a digital environment. Digital technologies change rapidly, and this system is built with longevity and adaptability in mind.

While Digital Commons was created to be accessible to library publishers long-term, it was recently bought by the commercial publisher Elsevier. Will Elsevier raise the price of this service beyond the constraints of a library budget? Will library workers create a new Open Access publishing platform that Wayne State Libraries will adopt instead? None of these systems are a sure thing, but library publishing is about trying to balance the unknown with the need for free, accessible information. And for now, Digital Commons is one of the tools at the Wayne State Libraries' Digital Publishing team's disposal.

So, it's not the prettiest nor the most customizable website. But mostly, the journals which we work with at the Wayne State Libraries match up with the Digital Commons format in a straightforward way. There is a box for an abstract— each article has an abstract. There is a space to insert a PDF of the final article— there is a final article.

When the editors of *The Woodward Review* approached the Digital Publishing team with the idea of us publishing and hosting an online literary magazine, we knew the project would require creativity, technical skill, and unconventional uses of our standard software.

Luckily, that's what this team excels at. Over the course of this semester, digital publishers Joshua Neds-Fox and Cheryl Ball taught me how to break, adapt, and push the boundaries of the systems we have access to. With zero budget beyond the hours we are paid to work on this, we managed to wrangle our available technology to support this ambitious creative endeavor.

What you see before you is a collaboration between many people, including those who created and will maintain these technologies, the artists who created the content, the editors who helped shape it, and the publishers who gave it a home in this small corner of the internet—hopefully a stable home, and one which guests such as yourself can navigate with ease and enjoyment.

Welcome.

Acknowledgements

The *Woodward Review* is, for better or for worse, not a public radio station and cannot filibuster the airwaves to recruit supporters; we'd like to thank the following individuals and institutions, who were generous with their time, guidance, and support, even without the threat of unending inconvenience:

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