

[The Write Place At the Write Time](#)

[Home](#)[About Us](#)[Announcements](#)[Commentary On Two Years](#)[Interviews](#)[Fiction](#)[Poetry](#)["Our Stories" non-fiction](#)[Writers' Craft Box](#)[Writers' Contest!](#)[Book Reviews](#)[Exploration of Theme](#)[Archives](#)[Submission Guidelines](#)[Feedback & Questions](#)[Professional Services](#)

Come in...and be captivated...

Commentary, Reflections and Feedback~ Celebrating Two Years Together...



From Our Writers and Artists~

To Nicole and friends,

Thank you so much for your support and encouragement. You have created a wise and important journal that speaks to the way we live today. Congratulations on two years! May THE WRITE PLACE AT THE WRITE TIME continue to grow, to endure, and to offer a place where creative

artists of all kinds can thrive.

Thanks for being there.

Sincerely,

Christopher Woods

Chappell Hill, Texas

"I feel extremely honored to be a contributing writer for such a fine online magazine. Nicole, Denise, and staff exemplify the words talent, professionalism, and class. Great job and congratulations on your two-year anniversary!"

Cheryl Sommese

"A good editor makes my work better, so I love a good editor. I've found Editor-in-Chief Nicole Bouchard to be just that. Her gentle directions—though not always met with immediate agreement on my part—have usually proven to be correct. Her suggestions have even spawned new work on my part. Her website has given me a regular voice. And her website has been the first to recognize the artwork of the late artist Newa. Thanks, Nicole. Here's wishing your website continued success."

Mark Barkawitz

"I enjoy reading work from established authors alongside those who have just begun to submit their work for publication. The interviews definitely

add to the journal in a positive way. Reading the thoughts of those who have seen success in the literary and artistic world is always interesting and inspiring...and the artwork adds an appropriate and tasty spice to the literary recipe you serve us."

Don MacLaren

On the Two-year Anniversary of The Write Place At the Write Time

At the two-year anniversary of The Write Place At the Write Time, you should be profoundly congratulated.

To begin a literary magazine is a major undertaking. To embark on a quality literary magazine takes even more determination. And to sustain a quality literary magazine requires ongoing dedication and passion. Nicole, you have succeeded at all of these.

My experience with you may partially explain why. To my submissions, suggestions, and information, you invariably respond promptly (a rarity for an editor), thoughtfully, enthusiastically, and generously. Never having met or even spoken, we have developed a warm relationship, which I cherish. These qualities of caring, consideration, and the highest standards are reflected in the magazine.

Your demand for excellence and constant search for more features to aid and provoke writers make the magazine fresh and original. And your creative adventurousness and aesthetic sense in publishing wonderful photographs and paintings that complement the texts set the magazine apart from others online today.

So, Nicole, at this two-year mark, I wish for you as much satisfaction and delight in continuing to produce the magazine as your audience has in visiting it.

All the Very Best,

Noelle Sterne

Comments on thewriteplaceatthewritetime

Ken Steinkamp, Visual Artist

As a visual artist, I have been pleased and honored to have many of my art pieces presented in an aesthetic relationship with poems, interviews, and stories in thewriteplaceatthewritetime. I have often been surprised how this union of artistic mediums can have a poetic profoundness not experienced when viewing my piece as a stand-alone in a gallery. To me, this visual union illuminates the magazine and brings to it added significance.

Feedback on past issues:

Summer 2008 (Premier Issue)

“Your debut issue is really impressive. I’m pleased with the hard work you and your staff have done to create such an attractive venue for writers and artists”- Vince Corvaia

Spring 2009 Issue

“You have done a fabulous job creating an exciting yet comfortable publication. It will raise the standard in the world of online publishing”- Cheryl Sommese

“As always, I am thoroughly impressed by everything on this website and it makes me proud to submit any of my writings to such a wonderful publication. The questions asked in the Interviews section were inspired and not the run-of-the-mill inquiries. I am so glad that you have dedicated yourselves to creating such a heavenly niche of writing and artwork because there are so few places to turn to when you want to openly and intelligently discuss creative endeavors and the impact they have on your life. Thank you again for such an excellent website and I look forward to reading more and submitting more writing in the future”- Adam Bright

Summer 2009 Issue

“What a wonderful place to visit - you've created a beautiful magazine. You should be very proud of this accomplishment. I plan to visit and enjoy the words and art often”- CJ Golden

Autumn 2009 Issue

“Impressive! The ink power of the contributors is big. Visual material is just beautiful. I AM captivated”- Farida Samerkhanova

“Congratulations on attracting all this wonderful new talent and again I feel very blessed to be included amongst such gifted writers. The fall issue is a credit to your own talents and the energy and passion that you have put into the growth process of each issue. Thanks to you and Denise for all your hard work. You have created a real gem and it's getting more attractive as it ages”- Pat Greene

From the Editors~

From Assistant Editor, Denise Bouchard

The past two years have gone by so quickly and its been such an adventure and pleasure writing for and co-editing this magazine.

I'm in the background for sure as co-editor, kind of like a Vice President. Who actually knows what a Vice President even does? The truth is though, that I love being the wind beneath the wings person. I've watched with pride as the 'Our Stories' section, a seed of an idea I developed, has grown so beautifully into a soulful snapshot of our writers' lives- their triumphs, heartaches, and humor.

The editor, as many of you know to be my daughter, is a wonderful 'imagineer' to work with. Her innovative creativity paired with great integrity and deep caring for everyone she meets enrich the atmosphere of whatever adventure we find ourselves embarking on.

I'm in the passage of my life where I have a family as well as my mother to watch over and a house that seems ever too big. I don't always write back and forth to our community of writers. I do take an active role in the editing process though and I think you're all amazing. I've met with many of you here in the North East and its been awesome for us to get to know you better and become acquainted with your work.

Nicole and I do have our Siskel and Ebert moments. What amazes me however, is how we're more often than not on the same page. When she'll ask me what's impeding the flow of a certain piece after forming her conclusions, I'll take a deep second look. When we see the same issues coming to the surface, we know we're on the right track. If we disagree, she'll compromise and talk to the writer about a change.

I want you all to know that I care deeply about your work and your words.

I've laughed with you, I've wept for you and cheered you on.

I'm reminded of the philosophy that in writing, sharing with one another, we discover we are not alone. I see this most of all when I read the poetry and non-fiction. You never know what will strike you, but this issue, a line from Cheryl Sommesse's poem, "Mother Returns" hit me like a thunderbolt- "*Shall I put on a bright dress without blemish or spot and frolic around town with a fresh view in tow?*" I've thought to myself, 'Must I put on a role and go about acting as though nothing is wrong?' while my own mother remains with us yet worlds apart and is fading fast.

The artwork of the late artist Newa, accompanying the work of Mark Barkawitz particularly struck me this time around with the depiction of the kids on the raft. That spurred such memories that I had to stop in my tracks and stare into it. I lived across the street from a family of ten children and what didn't we get into! There were plays with old clothes in the attic, 'seahunt' in the basement and because we lived in a city surrounded by water, we attempted to make a raft (Huck Finn style) but gave up to instead attach a rope to a tree and swing out over the water. Wow- thank you, Mark, for the memories!

To this day I have an affinity for Huck Finn and when I visited Mark Twain's home in Conn. I took home from the giftshop a light catcher which now hangs above my desk. It reads, "*Other places do seem so cramped and smothery, you feel mighty free and easy on a raft.*"

Also in this issue I'm in love with "Domino" the baby goat above the 'Our Stories' section by Linda Woods. What a feeling you get looking at that beautiful little guy!

There are many wonderful literary journals out there but I think the combination of our terrific writers and artists makes our magazine so very special. Let's keep reaching for the stars!

~Denise

From Editor-in-Chief, Nicole M. Bouchard

It didn't hit me until I was putting together the spring archives. Somewhere between uploading the Writers' Craft Box and the Submission Guidelines page files, it struck me with resounding clarity that it has really been two years. Two amazing years of warmth, community, enlightenment, swearing out loud at the software when it craftily gets a mind of its own... When you're doing work you love, focusing deeply inside of it, you often can't see the time flying by, can't feel the world spinning on its axis.

I tend to feel so strongly about this atmosphere of art and literature that I almost have to put a layer of distance between myself and the work- else get carried off by each emotive passage/painting/photo, each story/poem tenderly placed in my hands as butterflies between the palms, each moment that I am in awe of a writer who shares an integral part of their soul or places their trust in me to care for one of their precious creations.

I can't completely convey how beautiful I think it is when there is that moment of perfect synergy- the work clicks into place, the artist/author shares a deep aspect of themselves without inhibition and in return they are universally understood. It can come in the form of an I-know-the-feeling grin, a pang in the chest from a memory of similar hurt or empathy, an I-remember-when or It-so-is-that-way burst of laughter but whichever way it manifests, it illicitly another story within the reaction and an echo goes out to all the people throughout the ages who ever felt the same. It might seem insignificant, but these things we create are how we communicate to one another. I don't mean only artist to artist or writer to writer. I mean to say anyone, anywhere, at any time. We all yearn for someone to 'get it'- to validate, admit, acknowledge, yes- I've loved, laughed, longed, lost, lived.

Our logo, the dove painting on our home page with the branch in its mouth is the ultimate symbol of this communication. I'd always intended to start a literary periodical much later in my life. Yet I was called to this venture when I finished that painting. I was certain that it would be the logo, certain as I whisked it home from the gallery show it'd been featured in

(thrilled that it hadn't been purchased yet and taken from my possession), certain as I hung it above my desk. Sketches of ideas, visual plans, contacts, counsel filling notebooks.

I envisioned something, a safe harbor, a warm, alive, freely accessible artistic venue that would combine high professional standards with heart; personal touches on every single aspect, including design. What I discovered was a life-force outside of myself, an entire world in which all of you figure so prominently. Truly great is my respect, admiration and care for you as writers, artists and individuals.

So when you think the literary field is isolated or impersonal, when you look at the clock because you can't sleep and story lines run rampant through your mind, when you see friends ruefully shake their heads at your declaration to be a writer, when people stare and rudely ask 'published yet?' when you only saw them last week, when you're frustrated enough to eat your notebook and wonder why, oh God, why this vocation had the gall to choose you... Think of us who understand. Think of an editor who often stays up 'till 3am typing away because they want to. Think of an Editor-in-Chief and Assistant Editor who just don't stop talking and brainstorming. Think of those who are late for their own deadlines to ensure your work is taken care of... Those who confide in chocolate, have a wicked, witty sense of humor and love to go against the grain... We are your sort of people~

"I shall tell you what I believe. I believe that God is a librarian. I believe that literature is holy... it is that best part of our souls that we break off and give each other and God has a special dispensation for it... angels to guard its making and its preservation"- from Chasing Shakespeares by novelist, Sarah Smith

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