

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

[Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Announcements](#)
[Interviews](#)
[Fiction](#)
[Poetry](#)
[Magnetic Poetry Feature!](#)
["Our Stories" non-fiction](#)
[Writers' Craft Box](#)
[Writers' Challenge!](#)
[Bullying Awareness](#)
[Submission Guidelines](#)
[Feedback & Questions](#)
[Artists' Gallery](#)
[Indie Bookstores](#)
[Literary Arts Patrons](#)
[Scrapbook of Five Years](#)
[Archives](#)
[Inscribing Industry Blog](#)

Come in...and be captivated...



### *Artists Featured in this Issue*

Margot Datz

Complimenting her mural work, fine artist Margot Datz also creates paintings of a more personal nature. "One of the most rewarding experiences in my life is painting what is in my heart, the visions and images that are filled with what moves me most, using all my skill, and sharing this with others. When people connect with my work it is as if our souls overlap." Datz works symbolically, using her own mythologies and archetypes to communicate, and often accompanies her works with brief writings. The marriage of word and image has fascinated her since her earliest memories, and imbue her paintings with a narrative quality. Her latest series are of illuminated hearts, and what she refers to as the Grand Feminines- archetypal women that represent facets of life through nature and seasons.

Datz's artwork has appeared in publications such as *Architectural Digest*, *House and Garden Magazine*, *In Style Magazine*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *People Magazine*, *Rolling Stone* and *Newsweek*. Notable Clients and Collectors include



Carly Simon, Billy Joel, Garth Brooks and Dustin Hoffman.

Merging disciplines in painting, interiors, sculpture, design, business, and art history, Margot Datz established Margot Datz Designs. Datz has painted hundreds of residential, commercial, and public murals, both regionally and across the country. In addition to murals and paintings, Datz has illustrated six books—illustrating four children’s books for singer/songwriter Carly Simon, as well as authoring and illustrating her own book, *A Survival Guide for Landlocked Mermaids* (Simon and Schuster)—and released a new children’s book last spring for Vineyard Stories.

[www.margotdatz.com](http://www.margotdatz.com)

Linda Bigness

Linda Bigness is an internationally exhibited artist who maintains a gallery/studio in Syracuse, New York. Her work has been exhibited in several prestigious solo and group shows that have involved notable jurors such as art critic Clement Greenberg, Ivan Karp, director of OK Harris Gallery in NYC, and Tom Piche, director of the Daum Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition, Bigness’ large-scale paintings are often selected and commissioned for corporate and residential clients, including the Turning Stone Resort, Merrill Lynch Corporation, Haylor, Freyer and Coon, and Bausch and Lomb. She continues to exhibit professionally at several venues with artwork featured frequently at the Nan Miller Gallery in Rochester, NY.

Presently she is working on her latest book and exhibition about abstract art and the



contemporary processes used by working artists today. Part of the research for this book is taken from the workshops she teaches and her oil painting and mixed media collage experience. For over 30 years, Bigness has used her expertise to share with others the unique beauty and processes of her chosen medium through writing, teaching and professional exhibits.

Her first book, *Paint It, Tear It, Create It* offered the reader insight into visual abstract thinking through the process of collage into painting. She continues to explore the abstract through surface manipulation using encaustics and oil and is currently working on a new series, the "Journey Stones Revisited," that reflects her extensive travels through the United States and Europe.

<http://www.bignessart.com/index.html>

#### Christopher Woods

Christopher Woods writes fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays. He is the author of *THE DREAM PATCH*, a lyrical novel about a Texas family during the 1940s. His collection of prose poems and brief fictions, *UNDER A RIVERBED SKY*, was published by Panther Creek Press. His collection of stage monologues for actors and actresses, *HEART SPEAK*, was published by Stone River Press.

His work has appeared in over four hundred publications in the U.S. and in fourteen foreign countries. These publications include *Columbia*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *Confrontation* and *Glimmer Train*.

His plays have been produced in Houston, Ft. Worth, Memphis, Minneapolis,



Providence, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, Tampa, Fort Lauderdale and Santa Fe.

He is also a photographer, and his work has appeared in dozens of publications including *Narrative Magazine*, *Best Fiction*, *Deep South*, *Glasgow Review* and *Public Republic*.

He has received a grant from the Mary Roberts Rinehart Foundation. He has received residencies at the Ucross Foundation in Wyoming and the Edward Albee Foundation in New York. He lives in Houston where he has taught creative writing workshops at Rice University Continuing Studies Program, The Women's Institute, and by correspondence. Christopher lives in Houston and in Chappell Hill, Texas.

<http://christopherwoods.zenfolio.com/>

Máire Morrissey-Cummins

Máire is Irish but has lived throughout Europe for many years in Holland and Germany mainly and presently lives between Ireland and Germany. After years of working in the Financial Sector, she found the joy of art and poetry and loves getting lost in words and paint.

She is a published haiku writer and has had a number of poems published in *Every Day Poets*, *Your Daily Poem*, *Poetry Anthologies* and other e-zines. She has been married 32 years and has two adult children.

C. Michelle Olson



A published author, poet, and photographer, writing and photography have always been passions of mine.

San Diego is a place that has left a beautiful imprint in my heart. I love to capture all the mystical wonder of a city that reflects love and happiness by the marvelous surroundings. My writing is then inspired by the simple beauty of a photograph.

Publications including *The Write Place At the Write Time* and *Everything Coronado* regularly feature my photography. The Rancho San Diego Library has hosted events featuring regional artists in both January and April of this year that have included my work. I have also donated art for auction to support animal advocacy causes in the community.

As a professional photographer, I am always updating myself on the latest photographic information and techniques, keeping myself well-educated to offer cutting-edge photography to my clients.

<http://www.cmichelleolson.com/Home.html>



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