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## Letters from The Editors

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Letters from the Editors

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Welcome to the minds of extraordinarily talented writers and artists. Thank you for being here, and thank you for giving your friends and peers the recognition they deserve.

I didn't know what to expect when I started my time as an editor-in-chief at the height of a pandemic. There's something intimate about the creation of a literary magazine—working with so many dedicated writers and artists to create something beautiful and cohesive out of, essentially, nothing—I wasn't sure that would be preserved in a virtual environment. But, if anything, that feeling was magnified; it was sobering to work closely with the editors, to talk about and connect through stories in a time characterized by disconnect. So thank you to editors for your time and energy and enthusiasm during hours-long Zoom meetings.

And to Mary Clare and Lily, thank you for your guidance and patience over the last few months and for making this the most enjoyable learning experience. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to create something beautiful with both of you.

—Riley Halpern

When we began editing this semester, at one point the two of us paused to recall our first experience publishing *Exile* in the spring of 2020. Days after mailing the edition to the printer, we were swiftly sent home as the world began to grapple with COVID. As this March marks the one-year anniversary of the pandemic, we are impressed with how contributors and editors came together in a time of uncertainty to continue *Exile's* legacy.

Over winter break, we began to think how we might create a magazine while safely navigating the obstacles presented by COVID restrictions. This edition would not exist without our editors and their willingness to read and discuss submissions completely virtually. We adapted to seeing each other through a screen, and even still, during Zoom meetings occasionally lost track of time sharing our thoughts on pieces from the comfort of our own rooms.

Although the past year has presented unforeseen challenges, we hope that you can see signs of resilience as you read through these pages. Thank you for reading this edition of *Exile*. Thank you Riley for all of your insight and hard work. We are proud to be a part of a Denison literary tradition that has existed since 1955.

—Lily Carroll and Mary Clare Edwards