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Front Matter

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Masthead

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Kt Amrine, Lily Carroll, Jessica Crabtree, Malina Infante, Phoebe Martin, Anh Nguyen, Susannah
Watson

Like a rite of life
I take a book in my hands.
In it the earth burns, scorched,
the syllables,
the verses,
the mythical horizon blinded by the sun.
El Cid rides, lost in words,
way of the poem and exile.

- Jose Vernon Gormaz

All writers—all beings—are exiles as a matter of course. The certainty about living is that it is a succession of expulsions of whatever carries the life force...All writers are exiles wherever they live and their work is a lifelong journey towards the lost land...

- Janet Frame

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Welcome to this year's edition of *Exile*. We are so grateful to be able to share these wonderful stories with the Denison community, and we hope this edition will inspire you and leave you thinking a bit differently, as it has for us.

It's our second year working together on this magazine, and we could not be more proud of the talent and diversity within this edition, nor could we have asked for a better edition on which to end our time here. We are so grateful for our four years at Denison and for the opportunity to learn from and work with all of the dedicated faculty in the English Department. We especially want to thank Dr. Grandbois for his guidance this spring. As we enter the "real" world, we will remember the time we spent working together to make this magazine the best it could be.

To our new editors in chief, Kt, Cassidy, and William: thank you for your hard work. You helped us greatly this semester, and we are eager to see where the three of you take this magazine during your remaining years at Denison. We know your leadership, talent, empathy, and compassion will help this magazine flourish.

—Lily Carroll and Riley Halpern

When we began as editors in chief this semester, we knew we were in for a wild ride. We truly had a blast getting to know these pieces and we know that you'll enjoy them as much as we do!

This year's edition of *Exile* was so much fun to put together throughout every step of the process, especially finally having the opportunity to meet with the editors in person. There is so much more emotion, connection, and present-ness, when meeting in-person compared to Zoom, and we were so grateful to have that for our first time as editors in chief. Literature deserves the kind of attention and discussion that can happen when multiple people share a physical space, not solely a virtual one.

Lily and Riley: although we are sad to see you go, we know that you will go on to do incredible things after Denison. We are so grateful for your guidance this semester and we will continue to implement everything you taught us about editing for *Exile*. Thank you for both your mentorship and your friendship. We cannot wait to hear about what you accomplish in your time after graduation.

—Kt Amrine and Cassidy Crane

As a member of *Exile* in exile—joining as I am from my study abroad experience in Vienna—my time as an editor in chief has helped me to open my eyes to the international literary community as well as drawing me ever closer to home. My responsibilities as an editor in chief helped ground me, reminding me of the lasting value of literature wherever it may be found. Interacting with these texts, which continue to astound me with their caliber, as well as working with my amazing compatriots has been a truly rewarding experience.

To my fellow editors in chief: your efforts to give this *Exile* wings are amazing. I cannot express how appreciative I am for all the work you put in. Riley and Lily, your leadership and experience is something worth more than words. We would not have been able to create this beautiful finished product without your guidance. Cassidy, your wizardry with WhattoDU has catapulted this humble publication into the digital age. Kt you are the future of this publication. Seeing the amazing work that you have done, I know that *Exile* will have a home for years to come.

To the editors and those who submitted works: you are the real meat and potatoes of this publication. Everything we do would not be possible without your work, be it at the writer's desk or poring over submissions. Just a few years ago, I was in your spot, trying my best to create something—anything—that could be worthy of this publication and the wider world (up till that point all my writings had only ever existed for me). I want to let you know that your submissions are worthy. They are enough. There is no such thing as bad writing, of work that was neither good enough nor hard enough—the simple exertion is good in and of itself. Keep on writing, keep on working, keep on editing. Words exist to be shared.

Lastly, the readers: thank you for being here. Thank you for opening up this little publication. Thank you for giving this *Exile* a home.

—William Kelsey