

Toyon Literary Magazine

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2020

Front Matter

Toyon Literary Magazine

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TOYON

Humboldt State University's
Multilingual Literary Magazine

~ *The Taboo Issue* ~

Volume 66

2020

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Natalie Raquel Acuña

Blackout

Tony Abner

** all spoken word pieces available online*

Editorial *Statement*

To our beautiful wayward and peculiar readers,

In this year's edition of *Toyon*, we have a special treat for those of you who've been yearning to engage with content that is slightly off the beaten path from what one might expect from a literary magazine. We wanted to inspire our writers and artists to create works that interrogated topics deemed unorthodox, off-kilter, or even uncomfortable, in order to shed light on things that are commonly left unsaid. Volume 66 is dedicated to "Exploring the Taboo" simply because we believe that breaking conventions makes for the rawest form of truth, and no one should be denied their truth.

To be very clear, the call for submissions for this year's theme made sure to note that our version of "Exploring the Taboo" would not condone hate speech, oppressive points of view, or excessive violence without a clear purpose. *Toyon* values underrepresented and marginalized voices and aims to uphold our standard of equity through every stage of our publishing process. However, we did want to give our creators freedom to interpret what taboo meant to them personally. What did they think society has deemed as unacceptable, forbidden, or divergent? How can their works challenge normativity, dismantle power structures, or just be out right unexpected?

Now, we must warn you that some of these pieces may be triggering, so please remain mindful as you read through this edition. Proceed with caution.

As this year's Managing Editor, I have had the privilege of working with as amazing a staff as a human could ask for. They poured their love and devotion into this edition. This year was not especially easy, with two power outages that caused us to lose two weeks of work time and cancel several community events, yet we never faltered. It is people like those on this year's staff who are going to change the conversation around social and environmental issues to move us all into a more intentional world.

We also want to acknowledge that this book was produced on unceded territory of the Wiyot people, surrounded by the traditional, ancestral, and present homeland of several indigenous nations including the Hupa, Karuk, Mattole, Tolowa, Wailaki, and Yurok. We seek an understanding of environmental and social justice and literature that is informed by these communities.

Enjoy the magazine! We hope you learn and feel something new and share it with others.

Until the next time,
Erika Andrews, Managing Editor

Award Winners

for Volume 66

Jodi Stutz Award in Poetry

“Metamorphosis Points” (Yuan Changming)

“Incarcerated” (T. William Wallin)

Richard Cortez Day Advisor’s Prize in Fiction

“Sweet Nightmares” (Dean Engle)

Toyon Staff Award in Visual Art

“Nadezhda Gathers Herself Before Beginning”

(Sarah Godlin)

English Department Award in Critical Analysis

“Ebony Films’ *Spying the Spy* Is Asking the Questions”

(Benjamin “Shirley” Anderson)

**Environmental Studies Program Award in Environmental
Justice Writing and Art**

“Reclamation” (Thomas R. Starkey-Owens)

**Barbara Curiel Multilingual Award in
Translation, Multilingual, or Spanish-Language Writing**

“Blood Merchants”

(Farouk Goweda, Andy Fogle & Walid Abdallah)

Fuerza Award in Spoken Word, Audio, and Multimedia

2019 Fuerza Award

“Que lo Muerda!” (Karen Zurita)

2020 Fuerza Award

“Code Switch” (Alyx Muro)

