



number 33 / fall 2021

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Copper Nickel is the national literary journal housed at the University of Colorado Denver. Published in March and October, it features poetry, fiction, essays, and translation folios by established and emerging writers. Fiction is edited by Teague Bohlen, Joanna Luloff, Alexander Lumans, and Christopher Merkner; nonfiction is edited by Joanna Luloff and Wayne Miller; poetry is edited by Brian Barker, Nicky Beer, and Wayne Miller. We welcome submissions from all writers and currently pay \$30 per printed page. Submissions are assumed to be original and unpublished. To submit, visit [coppernickel.submittable.com](http://coppernickel.submittable.com). Subscriptions are also available—and at discounted rates for students—at [coppernickel.submittable.com](http://coppernickel.submittable.com). Copper Nickel is distributed nationally through Publishers Group West (PGW) and Media Solutions, LLC, and digitally catalogued by EBSCO. We are deeply grateful for the support of the Department of English and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver. For more information, visit [copper-nickel.org](http://copper-nickel.org).

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On the Cover / Panteha Abareshi, *Hollow*

India ink, acrylic ink, watercolor and gouache on hot-press paper, 14 x 17 inches,  
2019

(for more on Abareshi's work, visit:

<https://www.panteha.com>)

## Editors' Note

AFTER OUR SPRING hiatus, we're back!

It's been quite a year—full of uncertainty, isolation, violence, rampant conspiracy theories, and more U.S. deaths from Covid than total U.S. deaths in World Wars I and II combined. We also saw the swell of the Black Lives Matter movement, the Chauvin verdict, the dissemination of safe and effective vaccines, and other potential glimmers of optimism. And now, terribly: the Delta variant. We hope you've been surviving—and sometimes maybe even thriving—in the midst of all of it.

In anticipation of our hiatus, last fall's issue was a double-length issue.

But it turns out it was impossible to take time off from publishing while continuing to receive exciting work from all over the world for a full year and not overstuff this next issue. In addition to so many poems, stories and essays we admired, issue 33 includes a 40-page symposium on Irish writer Ciaran Carson, who died in the fall of 2019. We're thrilled to be able to reprint a small sample of Carson's work and to offer commentary through the appreciative lenses of a number of excellent writers. We're also thrilled to have five wonderful translation folios in the issue—including “true weird tales” by 18th-century Chinese writer Ji Yun and a moving tribute essay by post-World War II Japanese writer Endō Shūsaku.

We're very grateful to our staff, who have continued to read and evaluate *Copper Nickel* submissions through an impossible year, and we're particularly grateful to our senior and associate editors who met twice-a-week via Zoom to discuss and evaluate unsolicited submissions. Finally, we want to say a hearty thank you to intern Alejandro Lucero, who took on added duties while Wayne was on sabbatical, and whose work was consistently dependable and excellent.

One other note: For the past two years Alexander Lumans and Christopher Merkner have been serving as fiction “consulting editors.” They teach at CU Denver with the rest of the faculty members on staff, but are tasked with heavier teaching loads, which is why we didn't want to ask them to perform a full slate of editorial work. And yet, for these past two years they have been doing exactly that—and proving invaluable—alongside all their teaching and writing. It seemed only fair to promote them to full fiction editors (which is actually just their titles catching up with reality).

Thank you for continuing to read *Copper Nickel*. We hope you find the issue ahead of you as exciting and engaging as we do! And we hope with all our hearts that this next year manages to look up for all of us.

—Wayne Miller & Joanna Luloff