

Dear Friends of SRPR,

I write to you as the February sun hovers low on the horizon here in Illinois, knowing that most of you will be reading this letter in the bloom of early summer (and some, in your year's darkest month). I love that editing a poetry journal keeps one close to the interplay of seasons—of language, aesthetics, publishing, and poets, and also to the seasons of the earth, whose annual cycles orchestrate our own.

Three years into my editorship of SRPR, I'm sustained by the discoveries such intimacies afford. Every day at SRPR we read new, unpublished poems from writers around the world; every day we encounter worlds that reveal, affirm, provoke and disrupt the sensations we experience as home. Such is the expansive ambition and often startling honesty of what you will find in SRPR—poetry and prose that enact what I call a “poetics of emplacement”: a sensibility, a mode of inquiry, that builds upon SRPR's long-time fascination with regionalism by revealing the borders of our comfort zones as sites of connection rather than irreconcilable difference.

As you explore this issue of SRPR, I invite you to keep this conception of connection in mind and, if you are so moved, to visit our new blog, where you can participate in (or simply enjoy) lively discussions about this and other topics pertinent to today's literary landscape. You may access the SRPR blog, as well as a sampling of SRPR poems and prose excerpts, guidelines on submissions and subscriptions, and other SRPR information at our new website, www.srpr.org. For those of you who treasure the sensory experience of the printed book, rest assured that at SRPR we share your love; our intensified online presence is not meant to push aside our print presence, but to compliment it in an effort to engage as many readers and regions as possible.

SRPR is, above all else, devoted to the cultivation of community via the arts, a mission shared by hundreds of other contemporary journals. I can't thank you enough for supporting SRPR by subscribing to the magazine, submitting your work, spreading the word, attending our readings, and donating. In this age of dwindling support for the arts at the state and federal levels, we are not only grateful for grassroots support, but also dependent upon it.

Yours truly,
Kirstin Hotelling Zona, Editor