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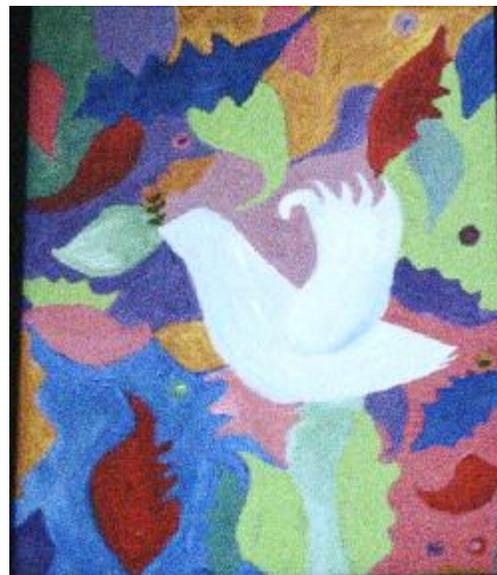
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Come in...and be captivated...

Welcome to ***the write place at the write time***. Imagine that you are seated comfortably in a chic café with the décor of your choice. In the time it takes you to consume the generous warm mug of coffee or tea cradled between your hands, you can step into another world, abandon your senses and delve into another space and time. You do this by allowing a mysterious stranger to pull up a chair across from you and tell you a story. Close your eyes, listen to the words in your mind and be swept away...



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Reflections on a Year of Wonders- welcoming all to our one year anniversary issue!!!

With the summer months and the long-awaited impending heat, comes a time of reflection and celebration as we look over the past year. We have grown with you, learned with you, inspired, entertained, laughed and cried alongside you. To all writers, past and present- you are a precious community and we have loved the priveledge of working with you. To all artists and photographers- you are each a window through which we perceive the beauty of the world and the publication is better for it. To all our interview subjects- with your wisdom, candor, experience and creative authenticity, you have inspired us all and shed light on the fundamental truths of living and breathing through the power of

light on the fundamental truths of living and breathing through the power of words. To our readers- you are the receivers of, in the words of Hawthorne, the leaves the author casts forth upon the wind. Your feedback and enthusiasm warms and validates our hearts and minds. To everyone- writers, artists, photographers, interview subjects and our audience of readers, this issue is dedicated to you.

In certain historic religions, Midsummer's Night was regarded as the New Year- lemons and oranges to represent the sun and the moon, all cycles of life, were left out overnight and pierced gently with cloves to bless the year gone by and also the newness of the year to come. Let us celebrate the year which has past and seek to soar even higher in the year to come.

This issue we have international singer/composer, Loreena McKennitt whose entrancing Celtic music has been widely received around the world with 14 million albums sold to date. Her unique work intersperses the art of storytelling while also including her passion as a keeper of history which involves her travels around the world. Having been a headlining performer for Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, at The Golden Jubilee Celebrations in 2002 and also having been Grammy-nominated for her world music, Ms. McKennitt has struck a chord with her timeless, creative talent that explores our past, while peering into our future. We also have deep, true and descriptive debut novelist, Erica Bauermeister, whose aptly named novel, *The School of Essential Ingredients*, has received praise from publications such as People Magazine and Publisher's Weekly. Ms. Bauermeister is the co-author of 500 Great Books by Women: A Readers' Guide and Let's Hear it for the Girls: 375 Great Books for Readers 2-14. She holds a PhD. from the University of Washington. Through her insightful work, she teaches us to look at life differently- making her debut novel *indeed* 'essential' to anyone ready to embark on a soulful, sensory journey through life.

We have "Writers' Craft Box" which features writers' hints, tools, essays and advice. Think of it as an arts and crafts box full of colors and inspiration... or an old toy chest discovered in the attic on a rainy day... This time we explore writing non-fiction with maintaining a true essence, the beauty and divinity of the good ol' paper and pen, and also a great tool to keep the wheels of our imagination rolling. We have an ARCHIVE page where readers and writers can trace our artistic journey from the beginning and see how the

and writers can trace our artistic journey from the beginning and re-read the wisdom of writers such as best-selling novelists Janet Fitch, Alice Hoffman and more! We have a Feedback form which we **encourage** you to use and a new **Writers' Contest!** designed for you by last issue's winning 1st place writer to check out.

We are listed on the Poets & Writers site (www.pw.org) under literary magazines. Clicking on our listing describes our publication, past issues, and our editorial focus.

Additionally, you'll see an abundance of incredible art work. Special thanks to our featured artists and interview subjects. Enjoy the heat, wind, waves, sand and beauty of summer!

"When I read a book I seem to read it with my eyes only, but now and then I come across a passage, perhaps only a phrase, which has a meaning for me, and it becomes part of me..." - Somerset Maugham, author of *The Painted Veil*

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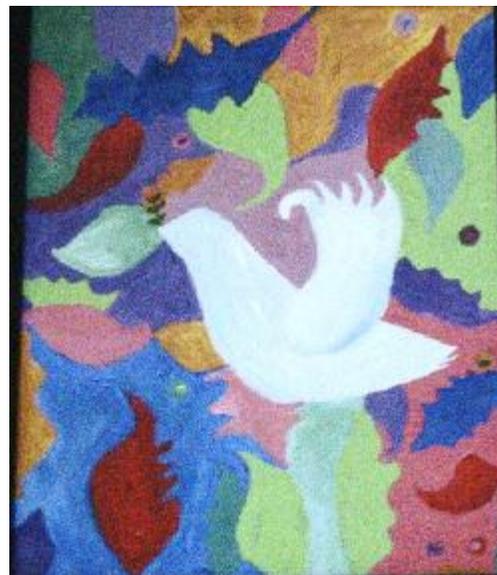
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