Manifest

In creating this year's edition of *Beside the Point,* we challenged writers and photographers to respond to the theme of "dreams." First off, this may seem a simple task: a dream takes place when you sleep, and your subconscious mind conjures a series of images. But upon reading the selected pieces, you might notice that, for many, dreams push boundaries and take us out of our comfort zone. For others, dreams are the goals that they strive to achieve.

From the cover image with its cloudscape to the closing poem "Like the Sun," this issue reaches from earth to sky and across dimensions. Within this journal, you will find fantasy stories that question what dreams are and if we can make them come true, and realistic pieces that take on the idea that human struggle lies at the heart of a person's dream. Whether tackling omnipotence or addressing mortality, each piece explores a different facet of the gem made of dreams.

The works in this collection will remind you what fierceness feels like in the bones, and why life is worth fighting for every hard step of the way. Our authors touch on hope, despair, change, nostalgia, realism, and the supernatural. Our photographers complement these themes with a rich visual language of light, shadow, texture, and shape. Putting together a body of work that encompasses the theme of dreams was an exciting challenge.

When we look up at the sky at night, no one really looks at a single star. Stars shine together in constellations. This is what *Beside the Point* is about. It was a privilege to work on this year's journal, as we all have differing ideas and opinions, but as a team, we allowed our voices, along with our artists' visions, to craft the issue. We also worked with a new graphic designer to create a visually pleasing book, one that we aim to have you reaching for in the years to come. We hope you enjoy the pieces as much as we do and have a wonderful time getting lost in the dreamscape.

—Rachel Harvey, with contributions from the editorial team