

EDITORS' NOTE

Poems, as Paul Valéry once wrote, "have roots between the stones and drink from everywhere." In this special National Poetry Month issue, Terry Blackhawk explores the rich history of poems derived from the visual arts, and Catherine Barnett learns of the current poet laureate's vision for American high schools. Mary Jo Bang and Charles Bernstein make forays into the expansive field of wordplay. And TCSW writer-in-residence Daniel Paley Ellison describes how he has adapted his visits to Auschwitz and Hiroshima into a unique curriculum that merges history and writing. In Letters to a Young Writer, Maxine Kumin takes an honest and lighthearted look at Rilke's actual praxis, and Lyn Hejinian extends the meaning of metaphor: "When one thing becomes another/ the other is free to become something/ else." We hope that you enjoy the Illuminations by Muriel Rukeyser and Sylvia Plath and that you join us in celebrating this year's choice for the Joshua Ringel Memorial Reading, John Ashbery.

—Christopher Edgar & Christina Davis

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