



PRESS RELEASE: May 16, 2019 - To be released immediately

Artemis Journal announces launch of 2019 Journal

Artemis Journal 2019 is pleased to announce the date of our book launch on June 7, 2019, at the Roanoke Taubman Museum of Art. To highlight program there will be a special dance performance, “*Poetry in Motion,*” interpreting selected poems from our journal by the Southwest Virginia Ballet. This is a fund raiser for Artemis and the Taubman Museum. The journals will be released and available for sale at the launch.

In the aftermath of the Women’s Marches of 2017, Artemis adopted this ancient proverb for the journal’s theme: “Women Hold Up Half the Sky.” Emblematic of this theme, we featured two women who have held up their part of the sky, Sally Mann and Natasha Trethewey. Our cover image for Artemis 2019 is a stunning photograph from Sally Mann’s recent show, “*Sally Mann—A Thousand Crossings,*” which opened last year at the National Gallery of Art and has since traveled internationally. Our featured poet is U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, Natasha Trethewey, who opens our journal with her profound poem, “*Reach.*”

This year’s journal will be dedicated to the acclaimed poet, Pulitzer Prize winner, Mary Oliver, who recently passed away in January. Her profound love of nature and reverence for all living things have been guideposts for all of us. We have poems by some of Virginia’s finest poets and artists, including Virginia’s Poet Laureate, Ron Smith, acclaimed poet Nikki Giovanni, as well as U.S. Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize winner, Natasha Trethewey.

In memoriam for two of our finer poets, **Artemis** is publishing two poems by poet, Barbara Stout and artist, writer, William Cates to honor them for their creativity and impact they had in the arts. Other artists published in the journal include Betty Branch, Linda Atkinson, Tricia Scott, Steve Owens, Sue Saandholland and Michele Sons.

For the second year, Artemis has expanded our literary range into science fiction short stories by collaborating with two California based non-profits, The Light Bringer Project & Hollywood National Organization for Women to create a special award, “*Women Hold Up Half the Sky*,” for a story with a feminist theme. The winning science fiction short story is published in our journal with a \$100 award contributed by Hollywood NOW and read by a professional actress at the Litfest awards ceremony in Pasadena, Ca.

Artemis, now 42 years old, celebrates the voices and visions of artists and writers from the Blue Ridge Mountains and beyond. Our journal began in 1977 as a result of the writings by abused women in writer’s workshops conducted in southwest Virginia. Like its namesake, the Greek goddess of the hunt and protector of the natural world, Artemis provides a honored space for artists to publish their contributions for cultural enrichment.

Namesake of this journal and goddess of light, Artemis had the divine duty of illuminating the darkness. Often she is depicted carrying a candle or torch, lighting the way for others and leading them through territories yet uncharted. Using her as our ideal, our mission at **Artemis** is to foster excellence in art and literature in the Appalachian region of the Blue Ridge Mountains and beyond by publishing a yearly journal. Artemis 2019 will be our 26th published journal to date. Returning editors include Maurice Ferguson, Literary Editor, Virginia Lepley, Art Editor, and Jeri Rogers, Editor & Founder.

Artemis is a charitable non-profit organization made possible by a dedicated, all-volunteer team and by generous contributions from our supporters, the Roanoke Arts Commission and The Taubman Museum of Art. 10% of our profits are donated to the Women’s Resource Center in Radford, Virginia, a shelter for abused women.

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