
Editor's Note

Welcome, everyone, to Issue #1 of *Bat City Review*. For those of you who don't know (perhaps because you've picked up this magazine on a bookstore shelf, in a university library or—one can only hope—by recommendation from an avid fan) *BCR* is a literary journal of new poetry and fiction, sponsored by The University of Texas at Austin.

Well, that's the official description, anyway. To us—the magazine's first staff—*BCR* is a lot more. It's our literary tastes incarnate; it's our personal creative project; it's the way we've spent all of our free time over the last year. Most importantly, though, this debut issue is the dénouement of many of the senior staff's careers as graduate creative writing students. Simply said, it's our legacy.

For that reason, and many others, we truly hope you enjoy the work we've featured. We've done our best to showcase poets and fiction writers who are at very different stages of their writing lives—from Pulitzer Prize winners to those just beginning their publishing careers. We hope that by mixing it up a little we'll be able to give writers an exciting new venue to bring their work to the public, and our readers the most comprehensive view we can of what's going on out there behind the laptops and typewriters of the world.

That being said, we're also really excited about our extra features, like the centerpiece Graphic Poem by Khaled Mattawa—conceived and executed by a wonderful Austin artist collective called Unibrow—and our internal art, which is all by Austin photographers. We're proud to be in Austin, and while we wanted to offer writing from all over the country (and the world), we still wanted to show off our city's creative drive by focusing our design on talented local artists.

Lastly, I simply want to thank you, our readers. Thanks for picking this up, for reading it, and for having opinions about the writing. In the end, that's why we did it.

Jessica Piazza
Editor