#### The Oval

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#### Contributors' Notes, Back Cover

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# CONTRIBUTORS

ARWEN BAXTER is a junior studying musical theatre and English literature. She was raised in Pocatello, Idaho and hopes to pursue a doctorate in literature. Arwen loves rivers, Ursula K. Le Guin, botany, and the movie *Amélie*. She hates burning microwave popcorn and changing tires in the dark.

TOMMY BROCK was born in Kalispell, and graduated high school in Havre, Montana. After graduating from a community college in Iowa with an associate degree in math he moved back to pursue an engineering degree from Montana State University. He failed to graduate, but instead decided to follow his passion in writing. He currently lives in Missoula with his dog Kaia-Roo and attends the University of Montana studying creative writing.

HANNA CARSTENSEN is a junior creative writing major at the University of Montana. Hanna grew up in Worden, Montana and briefly lived in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She has a passion for writing, the outdoors, and activism. This is reflected in her writing. She hopes to become an English teacher and poet.

CAELAN CUMMINGS is a third-year undergraduate majoring in psychology with a minor in philosophy at UM. He hopes to graduate this spring and possibly attend graduate school. Caelan was born and raised in Helena, Montana. Once he graduated from Capital High School in spring 2017, he decided to attend Seattle University. However, he ended up coming back to his home state to attend UM in spring 2018. He enjoys traveling, eating good food, cooking, and hanging out with friends. He looks forward to doing all of these things and more once the COVID-19 pandemic ends. Caelan is not someone who would describe himself as a writer, let alone a poet. He finds joy in releasing ideas onto a blank sheet of paper with no judgment and no identification of what he means. He wants to give interpretation to the reader and let their phenomena interpret what is on the page. LINDSEY GALLAGHER is an English/creative writing major hailing from the shores of New York. Now calling Montana her home, she spends her time running, exploring the mountains, and searching for bison.

LINDSAY HAUSE is a junior undergraduate student at the University of Montana. She is majoring in English with a double concentration in creative writing and literature. Writing and reading have been lifelong passions of hers and she is excited to finally be pursuing an education in the field of literature. She currently works seasonally for the Forest Service as a silviculture technician, which highlights another great passion of hers: wilderness conservation and recreation. Lindsay takes great pride in being a part of reforestation efforts on the beautiful Lolo National Forest, and in her free time can be found hiking, camping, and otherwise enjoying the scenic forests and mountains. She hopes to one day combine these passions in the field of ecocriticism.

KATE HEIDLEBAUGH is a freshman at the University of Montana pursuing a pre-law and political science degree with a minor in theater. Kate is heavily inspired by her artistic grandmother, Sylvia Heidlebaugh, who taught her painting at a young age.

ELIZABETH HEWEY is an anthropology major and working toward a certificate in sustainable agricultural and food systems. Elizabeth, who often goes by Beth, feels poetry is a larger tool to help her explore her relationship to the land, masculine and feminine energies, and her inner self.

STEPHANIE HOHN was born and raised in Montana to 5th generation hunters who have never forgiven her for refusing to shoot a deer at age 12.

KAT JACKSON was raised in rural Wyoming among the sagebrush and the willow switches. She is currently completing her final semester studying English and philosophy at the University of Montana. Her interest in folklore, mythology, and oral tradition inform much of her writing, as she believes that we forge our identities through the stories we tell and the stories we are told. She has a cat named Louisa May Alcatt, and she is really proud of that pun because she is a nerd.

CADEN JORDT is a photographer from Kalispell, Montana. He seeks to capture the essence of life within frames. Forever captivated by intangible truths of his own reality, he photographs that which incites internal dialogue and conversation between the conscious and unconscious mind. Self taught, photography was, and continues to be, a learning tool to help him slot himself into the world around him. He currently lives in Missoula, Montana where he studies art education.

MADELINE KELLY is an undergraduate student at UM pursuing her B.A. in creative writing. She has been published in both the 2019 and 2020 editions of *Understory*.

MYLES LUEDECKE is a creative writing major who loves poetry and doesn't write it as much as he'd like to. Regardless, he loves experimenting and seeing where each piece of writing can take him. His hobbies include writing, reading, fencing, and self improvement.

CLARA MCRAE is a second-year student at the University of Montana studying history and political science. She enjoys reading, hiking, and strong coffee. She also writes poetry for fun. This is her first time sharing it with the world.

GWEN NICHOLSON is a poet, journalist, and filmmaker from Missoula, Montana. Her work has been featured in the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, the Native News Honors Project, and on Montana PBS. She studies journalism and media arts at the University of Montana, class of 2021. Gwen is an enrolled member of the Coeur d'Alene (Schitsu'umsh) Tribe. She can be found on Twitter (@nicholson\_gf) and on Instagram (@nicholson.gif). JORDYNN PAZ is Apsaalooké (Crow) from Garryowen, Montana. She grew up dancing at powwows, watching movies with her family, and reading everything she could get her hands on. Double-majoring in journalism and Native American studies, it's her goal to share Indigenous stories and experiences through writing. She plans to get her MFA in fiction after finishing at UM.

SOPHIA REICHELT is a junior at the University of Montana majoring in English teaching and minoring in Spanish. She works part-time at the steakhouse 1889 as a line cook, and is an assistant coach for the Missoula YMCA swim team. In her free time she enjoys trying new restaurants in town and spending time with her bearded dragon and kitten.

WREN ROE is a human who loves nature, music, art, and heartto-hearts. She is studying psychology at UM and hopes to join the Peace Corps when she graduates.

ANNA SCHALE is a senior in the history department at UM, a writer, and a photographer based in Missoula, Montana with roots in Oklahoma. Between school, fly fishing, and spending time with her black lab, Georgia, Anna also loves visiting her family in the Missouri Breaks to hunt, cook, and listen to Dean Martin.

NIKKI ZAMBON is a senior majoring in journalism, though what tickles her fancy most is creative writing.

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

## FICTION

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS Theresa Duncan

IF A TREE FALLS IN THE WOODS Adea Sanders

BAR FLY Heather Warner

## NONFICTION

UNDERQUALIFIED AND UNENTHUSIASTIC Donna Arganbright

ON EDGE Shasta Hecht

STILL LIFE Heather Warner

## POETRY

PRESERVING MEMORIES Janeczka Cabrales Kuka

MOTHER NATURE Shasta Hecht

UNFOLD Addie Slanger

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