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Chain 6: Letters



Synopsis

Since 1993, Chain has been publishing a yearly issue of work gathered loosely around a topic. The topic allows us to switch the editorial question that we ask each piece of work submitted from "is this a great piece of art" to "does this piece of art tell us something about the topic that we didn't already know." This makes Chain a little rougher around the edges, a little less aesthetically predictable. Within the frame of the topic, we tend to privilege mixed media and collaborative work and work by emerging or younger artists. This issue focuses on letters: Epistolary exchanges, alphabets, symbols, orthographies, archival finds, typographies, correspondences, lettrist hypergraphies, the letter of the law, fonts, emblems, handwriting, inscriptions, glyphs, gossip, notes, rebuses, phonetics, mesostics, acrostics, graphemes, anagrams, hypograms, scarlet, purloined, valentines, letters from camp, letters from the front, and more.

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Customer Reviews

Chain is a terrific resource for writers, students, teachers of poetics and translation at the Jack Kerouac School at The Naropa Institute in Boulder. We appreciate its taking on major experimental modes and areas of debate and collaboration. One of the best "outrider" magazines, a true cultural intervention. -- Anne Waldman
From the word go, Chain has been a delight. It makes a brilliant linkage of the myriad persons and patterns that inform both the crisis in feminist thinking and also its inexhaustible resources. Jena Osman and Juliana Spahr have really started something that's not about to stop. -- Robert Creeley
I wouldn't be caught dead saying that any one poetry magazine was the best since I appreciate so many. But as long as we keep this between us, what you're looking

for begins with a C and ends with an N - and there's an H and an A and an I in between. You won't be with it if you're without it. -- Charles Bernstein
Of the women I know, I have invited only those whose work I admire and want for my magazine. It seems the others send their poems to Chain, where they can stay, as far as I'm concerned, from an aesthetic position. -- Dale Smith, editor, Mike and Dale's Younger Poets

Jena Osman teaches at Temple University. She lives in Philadelphia. Juliana Spahr teaches at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. She divides her time between Brooklyn and Honolulu.

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