

PRESS PAUSE PRESS

PRESSPAUSEPRESS.ORG

Prepared by
SE Harsha

FOUNDER & MANAGING EDITOR
PRESS PAUSE PRESS



WHY DONATE TO PRESS PAUSE?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

//// The small man
Builds cages for everyone
He
Knows.
While the sage,
Who has to duck his head
When the moon is low,
Keeps dropping keys all night long
For the
Beautiful
Rowdy
Prisoners.

-Hafez, 14th Century Sufi Poet

About Press Pause **03**

No Social Media? **04**

Our Team **05**

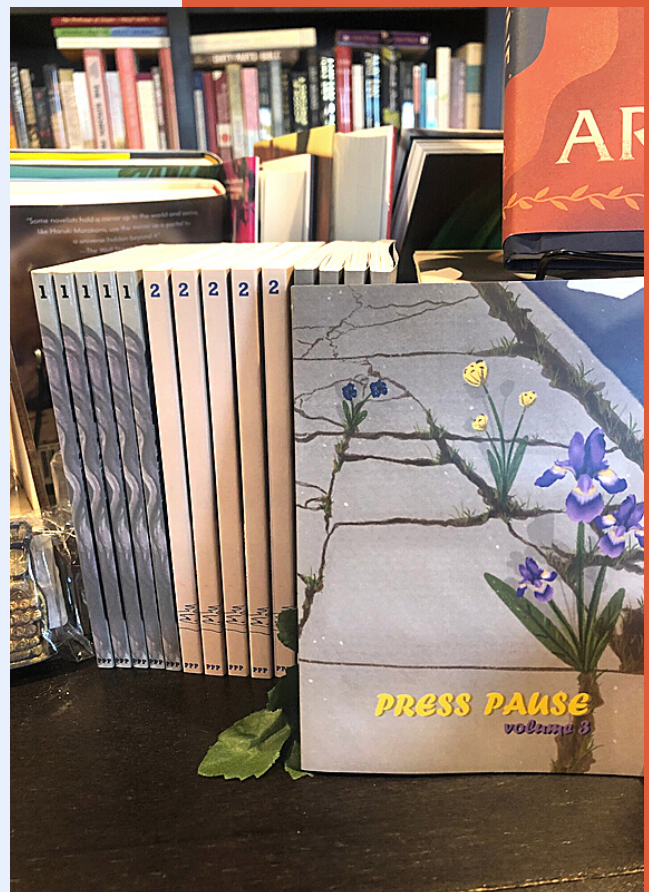
Our Growth **06**

Our Impact **07**

Our Contributors **08**

Our Future Vision **09**

Letter to Potential Donors **10**



ABOUT US

PRESS PAUSE PRESS...

is a literary magazine with zero social media presence. Think of us as a quiet literary think tank. A closed room with a comfortable reclining chair, lots of sunlight and a beautiful vase of daisies.

Our motto is "Words and art for the future"; we truly believe we are cultivating a welcoming space where art can be enjoyed in the bullet speed of the ever-expanding modern world.

We believe and are hopeful that humans can be empowered to create their own online spaces and experiences without being dragged around by ads and clickbait.

OUR MISSION

The *Press Pause* mission is to create a quiet and vibrant space online and in print (and on the farm), where artists from all over feel completely free to share whatever is in their hearts.

THE WRITING & ART WE PUBLISH

We tell our submitters to send us "whatever is in their hearts" because we want to feel connected to the work above all else. We enjoy honesty, authenticity, quirk, and beauty, both beauty of thought and of prose. We don't consider ourselves gate-keepers. We are more a blank canvas.

We want *Press Pause* to be like walking into your favorite art museum mid-week on a haggard and rare day off when everyone else is working. That one small art museum in that one corner of the city—the one that last month had that exhibit of dogs in the shapes of hats with dogs on them. What was that about?

NO SOCIAL MEDIA?

PROTECTING ART'S ABILITY TO BE TRANSCENDENT

Our choice to remain outside of social media is often met with confusion or shrugs. Mostly people ask us why. Why wouldn't we use social media to get more readership? Why wouldn't we use social media to gain submissions? How do we expect to survive in the modern literary world? How will people ever know about us? What is so bad about social media?

Here is an attempt at an answer:

Press Pause is not anti-social media. It is pro-art. We believe that art should always have a place to breathe. An away place.

Though we ask that our contributors consider sharing their *Press Pause* work in other ways instead of social media, we don't mind if they do. We want our contributors to be seen. Likewise, we don't mind if we are mentioned on social media, though we wouldn't necessarily know if we were.

We have simply decided to not exist on social media ourselves. Many of our submitters find us through word of mouth or solicitations, or through our poster campaign, or via ad swaps with other magazines, or on Duotrope. We have even been known to use Craigslist.

This means that our reach extends beyond the limited literary and art world sometimes created by social media. Some of our contributors are accountants and law-school drop-outs. Some come from MFA programs, some from lives spent on fishing boats. And when our contributors join the fight club roll call they are always encouraged to submit again or become staff readers.

By making the choice to stay off of social media, we are not only creating a safe vibrant space for art, but building a family of artists who believe that sharing art is more important than getting shares.

OUR TEAM



SE HARSHA
FOUNDER, E-I-C

S. E. Harsha is a writer, visual artist, musician, (comedienne?), and graphic & instructional designer with roots in North Carolina and Minnesota.



KATHRYN M. BARBER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kate Barber grew up and is still based in the south, having called the states of Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and Mississippi home. She earned degrees at UNC Wilmington (MFA), Mississippi State University (MA), and Carson-Newman University (BA).



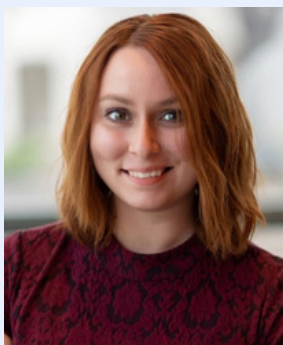
CAITLIN R. TAYLOR
LAYOUT & DESIGN

Caitlin Rae Taylor is a writer, editor, and designer based in the southern United States. She earned her MFA in fiction from the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where she served as the fiction editor for Ecotone and the publishing assistant for Lookout Books.



MARYANN AITA
NON-FICTION EDITOR

Maryann Aita (rhymes with beta) is a writer and performer in Brooklyn, New York, and the nonfiction editor for Press Pause. Her essay collection, Little Astronaut, was published by ELJ Editions in Spring 2022.



RAYE HENDRIX
POETRY EDITOR

Raye Hendrix is a writer from Alabama. Raye is the author of the micro-chapbook, Fire Sermons (Ghost City Press), and the winner of the 2019 Keene Prize for Literature and Southern Indiana Review's 2018 Patricia Aakhus Award.



WINNU DAS
FAMILY ROOM EDITOR

Winnu is a performer, writer and lawyer. She has worked in the areas of labour rights and gender and LGBTQ issues. Passionate about performing arts and embodied work, she is a dance trainer and a member of citylamps playback theatre.



LAURA DELLABADIA
READER & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Laura DellaBadia is a writer, editor, dancer, and a licensed North Carolina attorney. She graduated Campbell Law School after graduating from the University of North Carolina Wilmington magna cum laude with a B.A. in Communication Studies, a B.F.A. in Creative Writing, and the Certificate in Publishing.



MADDY DELANEY
READER

With her perfectly patterned pants and brightening smile, Maddy Delaney is a certified yoga instructor and writer. She recently graduated from Wesleyan College with a Bachelor's degree in English and a minor in Communications. From the igloos of Alaska, to the beaches of Okinawa, Japan, Maddy is currently settled in Middle Georgia.

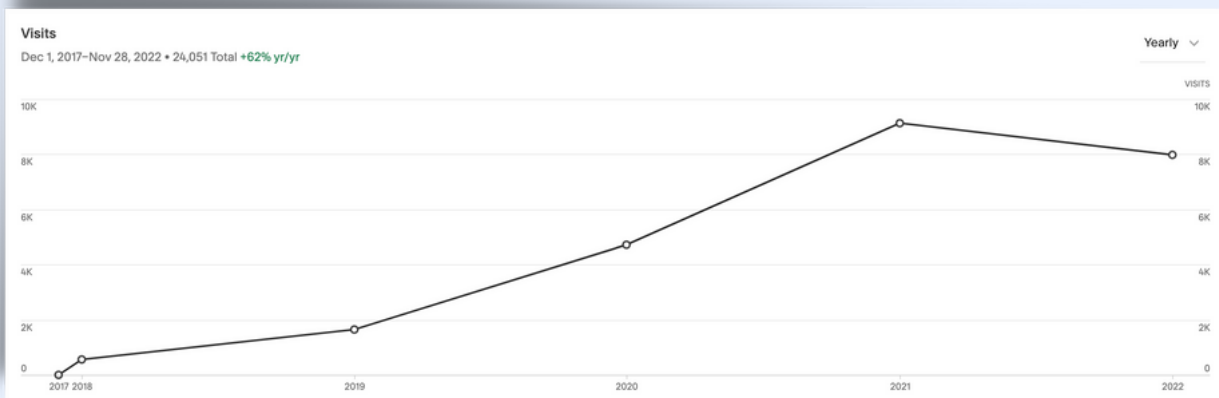
OUR GROWTH

Since 2017, *Press Pause* has gone from...

- **One employee/editor-in-chief → a headcount of 11.** In true *Press Pause* fashion, our team has developed organically into a group of art-loving fight club members who work every day on our own art and in the curation process of all that is *Press Pause*. We can't wait to see us in five years time.
- **Finding our submissions through local posters and emails → being randomly featured on the front page of Poets & Writers' August 12th, 2021 Weekly Update.** Our team's group message thread on that beautiful day was a glorious celebration. (We still find submissions through our poster campaign, by the way).
- **One volume → seven whole volumes + a coffee table book + a fun online space (The Family Room)!** We are constantly bowled over by the quality of our submissions and by *Press Pause's* reach across the globe. How are artists in Australia, Iran, Russia, et cetera finding us?!
- **One small vision to create a quiet space for art in the modern world → bold future plans** that include a *Press Pause* writer's retreat based out of Flying Fox Farm in North Carolina and an actual printing press. We know we can do it. Look how far we've come! **And all this growth without social media! IRL community lives.**

GROWTH IN NUMBERS
















Our unique visitor count is up 62% year over year since 2017, and up 87% just in the last month. We are growing fast!



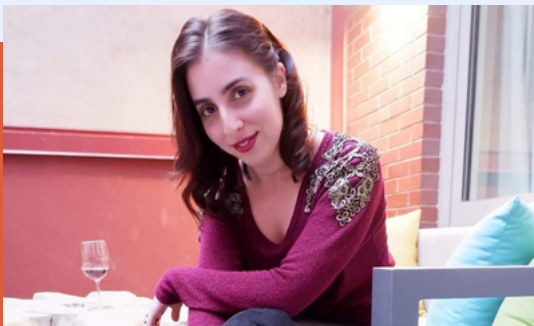
OUR IMPACT

OUR MISSION IS RESONATING AROUND THE WORLD

Press Pause has garnered a global reach in just five years, all without the use of social media. This reach includes where our submissions come from, as well as site visits. Behold our current top 15 of number of visitors by country. :)

 United States	 Nigeria	 South Africa
 United Kingdom	 Israel	 Botswana
 Canada	 Japan	 Indonesia
 India	 Netherlands	 Ireland
 Australia	 Slovak Republic	 Mexico

WHAT CONTRIBUTORS SAY...



I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU ALL HOW BEAUTIFUL THE NEW ISSUE IS! I'M REALLY BLOWN AWAY BY THE STORIES, POETRY, AND ARTWORK AND ALSO THE MAGAZINE ITSELF--I'M KIND OF A NERD OVER PAPER FEEL AND I LOVE HOW THIS FEELS! MOVED BY THE EDITOR LETTER AS WELL AND SINCE I CANNOT THANK YOU ON ANY SOCIALS (I FULLY SUPPORT THE NO SOCIALS NATURE OF PRESS PAUSE) I WANTED TO EXTENDED MY GRATITUDE HERE. THANK YOU FOR INCLUDING MY POEMS IN ISSUE 6 AND FOR INVITING ME TO SMOLFAIR.

Alise Versella

Poetry Contributor for Volume 6, "I think the dead are watching me", and other poems



THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO TO CREATE SUCH A VIBRANT AND ACCESSIBLE ATMOSPHERE FOR WRITERS. IT'S A JOY TO HAVE MY WORK PUBLISHED WITH PRESS PAUSE.

Anissa Lynne Johnson

Fiction Contributor for Volume 5, "Tom Hanks Goes to a Rummage Sale"

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

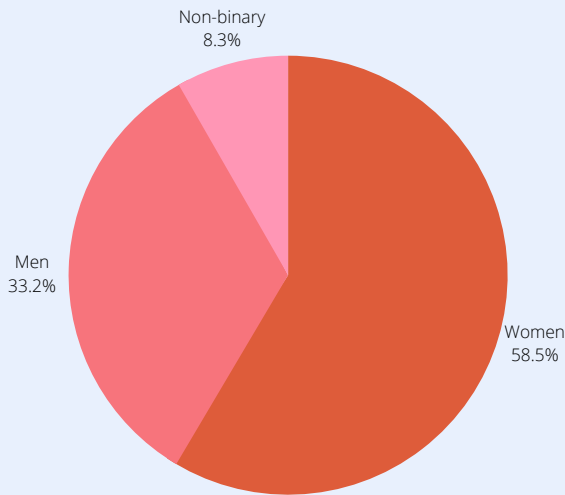
~250

TOTAL CONTRIBUTORS
2017-2022

30%

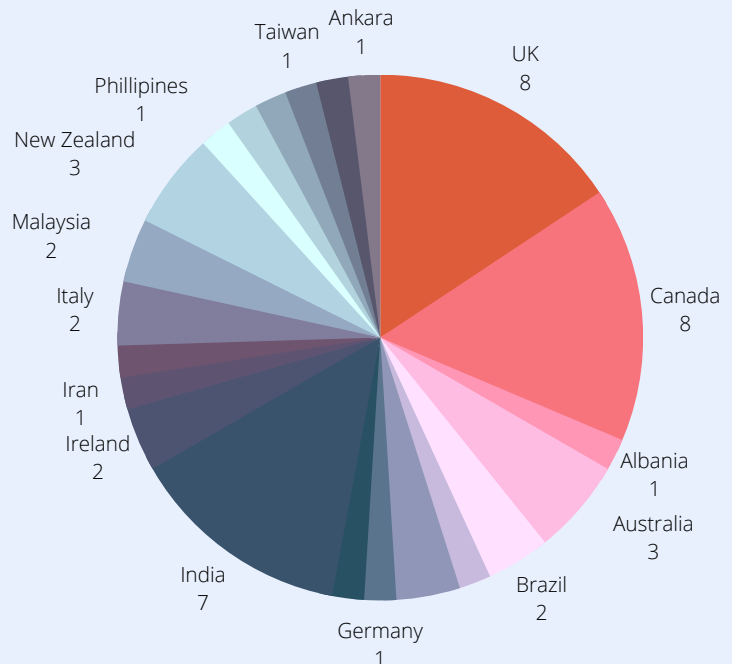
BIPOC

and rising every volume, without the use of the sometimes-tokenizing direct calls for BIPOC artists. We believe beautiful honest art can be found anywhere and be made by anyone, and we want to share it all. It seems this approach resonates with our submitters and contributors, specifically those who identify as BIPOC.



Contributor Gender

Contributor Home Country (non-US)



OUR FUTURE VISION

1

Become a premiere contemporary journal with a membership of 1,500 or more, and a readership of 5,000 or more, sustaining our work through these memberships and through grants and donations.

2

Continue to publish amazing work by emerging and established writers & artists across the globe AND pay them, as well as continue to hire inspiring people who want to work for *Press Pause*, AND pay them.

3

Have the ability to pursue special print projects like our coffee table book dedicated to artists during the pandemic, *The Great Pause: Rearview 2020*, and our planned "8Track" small chapbooks, as well as full length manuscripts.

4

Build a vibrant revenue-producing community of writers and artists at *Flying Fox Farm* in Jacksonville, NC, through farm-stay fellowships and yearly workshops & retreats.

LETTER TO POTENTIAL DONORS

Dear Friends,

Thank you for considering donating to our literary magazine, *Press Pause Press*.

We believe strongly in the importance of the art we are curating in the world right now, and are grateful for any opportunities to grow our mission and our vision of a quiet space for writing and art to be appreciated and shared.

Any funding you donate will be treasured and used to grow our reach, build out a fundraising apparatus and subscription model, and continue putting honest, authentic, beautiful art into the world by people of all ages and walks of life, and across different corners of the planet.


We love what we do and are excited to see what we become over the next 5-10 years, on the ground with writing & art workshops at *Flying Fox Farm*, as well as with our print issues and online space.

Thank you again for considering supporting our magazine.

Sincerely,

The Press Pause Team

GET IN TOUCH WITH PRESS PAUSE PRESS

 612-709-4136

 *Flying Fox Farm*, 279 Waters Road, Jacksonville, NC 28546

 se.harsha@presspausepress.org / info@presspausepress.org

 www.presspausepress.org