about us

Founded in 2014, with its debut issue released on February 15, 2015, Cherry Tree: A National Literary Journal @ Washington College is an annual literary magazine featuring poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction by emerging and established writers from across the United States. The name Cherry Tree honors George Washington who, in 1782, gifted “the College at Chester” 50 guineas, consented to serve on its Board, and gave the educational institution permission to use his name. In the American imagination, George Washington is a figure who has come to represent both truth-telling and mythmaking. The famous story of the cherry tree—I can’t tell a lie, Pa; you know I can’t tell a lie. I did cut it with my hatchet.—reminds us that there is truth even in invention, that even apocrypha can convey the facts of life.

Work from the first two issues of Cherry Tree has been included in Best American Poetry and reprinted on Verse Daily. Contributors have included emerging and established writers such as: Claudia Emerson, Jericho Brown, Julie Kane, Paul Lisicky, Roy Kesey, Julie Marie Wade, Vievee Francis, Jennifer S. Cheng, sam sax, Anna Journey, Girija Tropp, Katie Peterson, and Aaron Smith, among many others. Current and back issues are available at spdbooks.org.

what we’re looking for

We are writers who value and publish well-crafted short stories, poems, and creative nonfiction essays that are not afraid to make us care. We want work that bravies to be, that dares to be. We encourage well-informed work where the form understands its relationship with the content. We want pieces that seem wise, that are unafraid to confront topics that matter, and that speak with urgency, that beg for an ear to listen. We want to read vividly-drawn characters who challenge and enlarge our sympathy.

Cherry Tree is open for submissions each year from August 15 to October 15. Send us your best poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction at cherrytree.submittable.com!