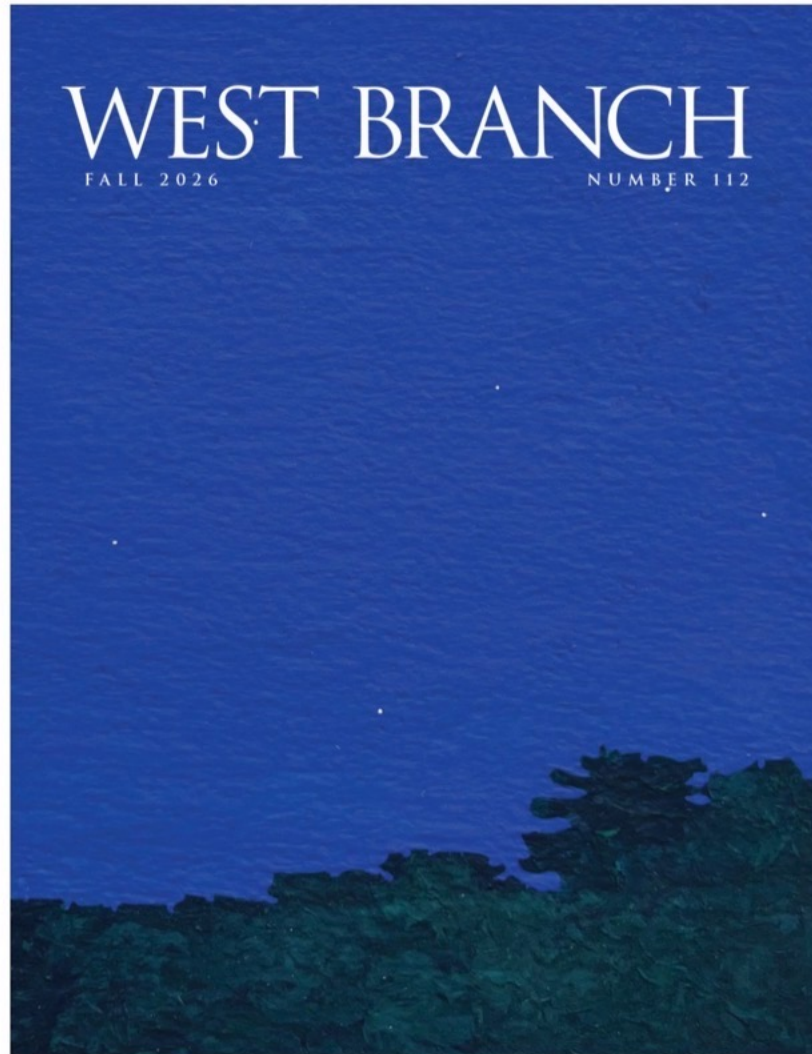


WEST BRANCH

A Thrice-Yearly Magazine of Poetry, Fiction, Essays, and Reviews



In this Print Issue:

Poetry by Chloe Cook, Patricia Hooper, Carolina Hotchandani, Malvika Jolly, Chris Ketchum, Sara Mae, Betsy Mitchell Martinez, and Aspen Taylor.

Fiction by Julia Hou, Erik Harper Klass, Yifan Li, and Zachary Tyler Vickers.

Aphorisms by Javier Puche (Spanish), translated by Steven Stewart.

The Back of the Book: *This Long Winding Line* on Carl Phillips's *IN THE BLOOD* (1992), with contributions by Derrick Austin, James Allen Hall, Cate Lycurgus, and David Woo; Kathryn Nuernberger reviews Robert Macfarlane, Laura Marris, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, and Mandy Suzanne-Wong; Luke Dunne reviews Aaron Fagan.

Cover Art: *Early Evening September Wyatt Mt.*, by Gregory Hennen (2024); gouache on paper, 8" x 8"

ON THE COVER

Early Evening September Wyatt Mt., by Gregory Hennen (2024); gouache on paper, 8" x 8"

Gregory Hennen writes:

I paint to express my love and respect for nature and to cultivate those feelings in others. As a landscape painter, I work to create visual imagery of the natural environment, and although I use traditional techniques, I try to create works that are contemporary in their design and inspire the viewer to look closely at and even venture into the natural scene depicted. The organization of space, essentiality of color, and quality of light fascinate me. Depicting the natural world in its exactness is not what I do. Instead, my work reflects what I see and how I feel over time. By using a palette of close tonalities in the objects and surrounding space along with carefully planned composition, I create all-over patterning of color and shape that at times verges on abstraction. My finished paintings are often composites of several images that evolve from realistic portrayal to more simplistic interpretation.

Gregory Hennen is a landscape painter whose work is inspired by extensive time spent in nature, including fifteen years as property manager for Manitou Point Nature Preserve in Garrison, New York. He makes graphite sketches, often following them with small gouache paintings in preparation for more complex oil paintings created in the studio. He earned a BFA at Eastern Connecticut State University. His work has been shown nationally, including in group exhibitions at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art, Huntsville Museum of Art, University of Southern Mississippi, and McNeese State University. His work is in public and international private collections. Hennen is represented by Kenise Barnes Fine Art.