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Letter from the Editors

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In the fifteen years since its first issue, *fishladder* has been passed among a lot of hands.

It's passed already from those in love to those in lust, those fearing the future, fearing God. It's been held by hands that believe in science, in home, in dead cats encased in pie tins. It's been held by those who speak and create with grace and love and compassion.

This journal was passed, in little, fragmented pieces, from the hands of its writers and poets and artists. These pieces were taken, carefully, into the hands of its reviewers, passed on to its editors. At every stage, palms and fingers worked to press at each piece, to allow the beautifully distinct edges of every one to fit alongside those of the others.

It's in the hands that hold this little journal now, the ones that belong to you, that all of the words and images contained within the seventy-two pages between your palms will be allowed to mean. In your hands, they will be allowed to speak and move and inflict change, like the journal has worked to do for the past fifteen years, and will continue to do for the next hundred.

To the *fishladder* staff—those who served this year or any year of the past fifteen—thank you for handling every page, every word and image, with such care. To all the journal's submitters and to those who are published here, thank you for using your hands to create such beauty. To our faculty advisors, thank you for letting go and holding on at all the right moments.

And to you, who holds this little book in your hands, thank you for holding these pieces together, for spreading your fingers, for opening your palms—for allowing the particular beauty contained within this fifteenth anniversary edition of *fishladder* to hold a place in this world.

THANK YOU,

Kathryn Davis
Chiao Licari

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF