

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Guernica* Dedicates Issue to Cli-Fi, an Emerging Genre of Fiction**

New York, New York (March 4, 2019)—*Guernica*, the award-winning, online magazine of global art and politics, has just launched a special fiction issue dedicated to climate fiction, or “cli-fi”—vivid short stories that explore how global warming is transforming (and deforming) individual lives. It’s packed with amazing talent, featuring four of the finest cli-fi writers working today—Lydia Millet (*Fight No More*), Pitchaya Sudbanthad (*Bangkok Wakes to Rain*), Helen Phillips (*Some Possible Solutions*), and Omar El Akkad (*American War*). Their contributions to the issue span literary realism and the supernatural, making for a wide-ranging collection that will interest readers of all kinds. In addition, each story is paired with a photo by New York-based photographer, Nathan Kensinger, whose haunting photos underscore just how close the fictional worlds depicted in these stories resemble our own.

The special issue was guest edited by *Guernica*’s deputy publisher, Amy Brady. As she writes in the introduction, “cli-fi conjures, spell-like, meditative spaces in which we ponder our deepest fears before emerging transfigured.” Indeed, these stories speak to one of the most pressing issues of our day, putting front and center the catastrophic effects that climate change has—and will continue to have—on human and non-human life.

Lydia Millet’s “Woodland,” which is available to read today, is set in a depopulated forest where rich guests pay to have wild animals released so that they can imagine what the woods used to look and sound like. Pitchaya Sudbanthad’s “Floating,” which publishes on March 11, is set in flooded city in Thailand. The uncanniness of the flood makes the existence of ghosts seem possible. Helen Phillips’s “The Disaster Store,” which publishes on March 18, is a moving and intimate story about how climate change affects the relationship between a mother and daughter. And Omar El Akkad’s “Factory Air,” which publishes on March 25, follows a factory union spokesperson as she demands better working conditions from her boss. Each of these stories features a woman protagonist, and each looks at how climate change manifests in different ways.

The issue launches as news about climate change grows increasingly dire. According to NASA, carbon dioxide levels in the air are at their highest in 650,000 years, seventeen of the eighteen hottest years on record have occurred since 2001, and Arctic sea ice is at its smallest in recorded history. Global warming is no longer a mere prediction, and the stories in this issue have never been more timely or important.

For additional comment about *Guernica*’s new cli-fi issue, please contact Phineas Lambert at phineas@guernicamag.com.

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