

ARTS & LETTERS

Annual Prize Winners, 2021



Susan Atefat Prize for Creative Nonfiction

"The Tax of Quick Alarm" by Lee Anne Gallaway-Mitchell

*"... The dual way she uses the MOPP system is brilliant. And most of all, I feel like this is an essay the world *needs* right now, when so many women are at MOPP 3 because of systems they did not build and can't control. It is, sadly, wonderful timing for this piece to find an audience."*
– Kristi Coulter

Rumi Prize for Poetry

"Where Warm and Cool Air Meet," "Downriver," "Radiant Stranger," and "House Full of Someones" by L. A. Johnson

"... In the world of these poems even joy must be disguised before it is achieved and at the end of pain there is rebirth, a human life for a lemon. ... the language of these poems is alive, it is real, it leads us not just into the process of grief but also through the process of rebirth."
– Romeo Oriogun



Arts & Letters Prize for Fiction

"The Cellar" by Karen Day

"A taut and wonderfully written story that uses the suspense of a looming natural disaster and the claustrophobia of a basement hideout to explore as well as explode the secrets, tensions, hopes, and dreams of a Midwestern family in crisis. Through precise dramatization, "The Cellar" moves beautifully in and out of time, casting a revelatory weight on the present with each excavation of the past."
– Novuyo Tshuma

Prizewinning pieces will appear in Arts & Letters Fall '21 issue (Issue 43).