

FOURTH GENRE

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COVER IMAGE: "Mars Express Views Red Planet's South Pole." Credit: ESA/DLR/FU Berlin/Bill Dunford.

FOURTH GENRE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Published twice annually by the Michigan State University Press, *Fourth Genre* is a literary journal devoted to publishing notable, innovative work in creative nonfiction.

We love essays in which the ideas accrete, accumulate, and augment, but definitely not those that are appropriate. During our editorial discussions, these are some of the questions we find ourselves asking: Whose story is it to tell? Whose voice is this amplifying? Whose existence is this essay erasing? How does the writer situate their experiences and histories in relation to other experiences and histories? What's this essay doing or addressing that we haven't seen before?

We are thirsty for essays that embrace the love of a sentence's shape. That explore beyond mainstream forms and ideologies. That center the margin or marginalize the center. We're looking for an essay that makes the common uncommon—that's not about the thing that it's actually about. You know—the essay about your shoelace that's not really about your shoelace. We want to read more of the nonfiction essays that reflect the intersections of race, ethnicity, culture, class, identity, gender, sexuality, diasporas, borderlands . . . that are cultural, lyrical, experimental, personal, environmental, self-interrogative, meditative, and reflective, as well as expository, analytical, exploratory, or whimsical. Although we can't publish in color, we're interested in essays with visual elements—graphic essays, blackout essays, and so on. We want to publish the best creative nonfiction essays, understanding that notions of "best," of taste and genre, are political and cultural.

Fourth Genre accepts online submissions (under 8,000 words) between August 30 and November 30 and charges a small fee to pay for the online system. We allow simultaneous submissions but ask that you notify us immediately if the work is accepted elsewhere. Published authors receive two complimentary copies of the issue that contains their work. See fourthgenre.org for submission details.

Submissions to the *Fourth Genre* Steinberg Essay Prize are received from January 1 until March 15. Multiple entries are allowed. The contest winner receives a \$1,000 prize and publication of their essay.

For more information and sample work, visit fourthgenre.org. For queries, write to 4thgenre@gmail.com.

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