

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD MAGAZINE & PRESS



Photo by John Duncan on Unsplash

I'm publishing a magazine filled with all kinds of art that can be expressed on the page in black and white or in full color, calling it Mountain Bluebird Magazine. I invite you to submit and should your work be appropriate, to contribute.

Payment is two contributor copies. If that's not interesting to you, please don't submit and please don't bust my chops on the internet regarding payment. Thanks.

Prompt:

This magazine is an ode to joy and love: hard-earned and otherwise, plus elegant complexity of existence and surviving and thriving expressed artfully. Thoughtfully. Life's never easy—we need joy and love to sustain us and the people around us. Think of sensitivity as strength (it is). Think of the power of vulnerability, the strength it takes to trust, the boldness it takes to get out the door. Think of the power that resides in such a marvelous and beautiful thing as a Mountain Bluebird.

Maybe you've made something you want to share and aren't sure where it fits in the art / lit / criticism/etc. world. Maybe you want to interview someone. Maybe it can find a home in Mountain Bluebird. Maybe you've got something you love and want it to have a beautiful home. Mountain Bluebird will be beautiful.

Consider, too, bluebirds worldwide as symbols. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bluebird_of_happiness

Context:

This is my project, just me, and is not community-building per se, though that can happen. Temporarily anyway. But it's not the goal. The goal is to create art. Be free. Connect with something essential. Express something urgent, something subtle, something important, something beautiful. Imperfect. Meaningful, for sure.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Hoping for especially-created-for-the-magazine works. Pieces might be contributed as standalone parts of larger works by the various authors, visual art may be found elsewhere after publication, but it's my hope that the pieces will be unique and will not be shared in other spaces so as to create this uniqueness for at least a year (but, again, there's no contract so it's your call).
2. Include a title for your submission, but don't be too attached to your title, please. We'll go back and forth and make sure headlines and titles work for the cohesion of the whole.
3. Include your name and location (you can be as specific or general as you wish).
4. If you submit prose (in any form), think 2000 words, maximum (unless it must absolutely be longer), but I will also really love it if you can keep it shorter. There's no minimum! Be concise, precise, try not to lecture us too much, try not to preachy preach (unless it works). Don't perform self-hatred as activism, please. And I've divorced hyperbole (but we do still hang out sometimes). Shaming isn't activism (unless it is, which can also happen), so hopefully you know what I mean there. Keep it super personal and meaningful, create joy and



love that's lasting. Timeless. Don't perform hatred of any kind, really. Be yourself, speak the language you speak, communicate clearly and artfully, without weapons, please. Regarding word count: We'll have longer pieces, too, but you'll need to contact me beforehand, please.

5. Visual art and photography must be submitted with easy-to-manipulate images with easy-to-find titles, dimensions, and any words that go with. Three images, maximum. The image must be high-res at 9 inches square in print.
6. There will be a centerfold in each issue. Must be artful. Nonviolent, please. Inquire if you have questions or thoughts.
7. Poets, do your thing. (see point number 4)
8. Everyone, please talk about your influences, give attribution, know where you come from. Don't steal.
9. All text should be Times New Roman, 12 point for ease. If you're into a specific font, then you'll need to submit your work the way the visual artists do—with an easy-to-manipulate image and high-res at 9 inches square.
10. Include your brief 3 to 5 line bio so your audience can find your work and give you proper adoration and such. Times New Roman, 12 point. Please adhere to the industry standard grammar rules unless your thing is to revolt against that, but if so, please be consistent and make sure it's understandable for the general public who'd need to find you and your work in the world should they wish to.
11. Email to jenny@theforrest.org subject line: Mountain Bluebird Magazine & Press. There is a form available where you can submit your peices. Submissions are rolling. Ongoing.

All submissions will be answered. Accepted submissions will be notified, and author/artists will receive two contributor copies upon publication. You'll have my undying gratitude, too.

LET'S MAKE SOMETHING GOOD.

Demographics

It's important to me that many voices are represented so as to create love and ensure maximum joy and will be deeply anti-bias and expansive and human experience-oriented. We can't be all things to all people (and Mountain Bluebird can't be either), but we can be loving and kind and understand that we're all born to what we're born to. How we live and how we communicate matters. That's the goal. Communication. Relationship. Collaboration.

Payment and Value/Values

Please keep in mind that for the time being payment is two contributor copies which is hopefully understood as being valuable payment because the value of the contents and their presentation will be valuable to all the contributors and beyond. In the future, for the most part, it's my hope to create a unique collaborative space that each magazine will hold. All of which creates artistic value, the value of culture, the value of love and joy. But this isn't legally binding, and I wouldn't want to stand in the way of anyone's artistic goals.

Marketing/sharing/word-of-mouth

Please. When you're talking up the magazine, please don't share your submission in its entirety on your social (includes blogs, emails, etc.).

Ideas:

Talk about what inspired your submission, talk about magazines and how cool they are, talk about our collaboration during the submission process. Etc!



Something else:

I have always promoted contributor work whether it was through Unchaste or otherwise and now with Mountain Bluebird, I'm happy to continue that practice. Let me know how I can be supportive. If I'm into it, I'll be there for you. I won't promote without your permission.

Bios (should your work be published in Mountain Bluebird Magazine & Press):

All that said, it's my hope that the contributors will also take the opportunity to connect with their larger audiences through their contribution and their attached bio. When contributors share the magazine as far and wide as possible (hopefully, and thank you!), they'll talk about their work, but won't share the work in its entirety so as to get people interested in the print magazine. If someone has a financially difficult situation and they want the magazine, they can reach out to the contributor and maybe one of the contributor copies can go to them or they can reach out to me and I'll see what I can do, if anything. There are many ways to create accessibility without compromising the original integrity of each magazine issue. Again, if you don't agree with this value, please don't submit. No hard feelings. This is how I've decided to approach all the complexities while having a vision of what I'd like to create collaboratively with others for this project.

If the stars align and cash payment becomes possible, that will be valuable also. We'll see what happens! Please don't inquire about financial compensation. I've already had that conversation. Please don't tell me about sharing art for free to create accessibility. I've had that conversation, too. I already understand the issues and have made my peace while saying my piece with things in order to move forward with making spaces for art and artists in my own way. I'm also a one-woman show and a true lone wolf (though, also I'm grateful you're all with me, too, as we can do nothing alone).

It's my hope that I'll develop/continue to develop relationships where my financial and other support is expressed. So, there's always been that value/ethical north star.

Directions and A Big Request

Please read through all the guidelines on the one sheet as there might be things you don't like or that don't work for you. Please don't submit if you're not really into this and please don't submit if you think I'm terrible. I wish that didn't have to be said but the world has changed. Maybe it'll change back if we all try hard enough.



Photo Credit: Intisar Abioto

You can find me on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram jennyforresterauthor](#), too. Let people who would be into this know. Only the kind, sweet people, please. I used to tolerate bad behavior that made me very sick and cost me in every way possible. I block quick nowadays.

Thanks.

This is the link to my mailchimp newsletter which could include news and such about the magazine and will also include things I do as a writer so hopefully that's interesting to you. I do appreciate when people are supportive of my own work, too. <http://eepurl.com/do2Wb1>

Much Love,
Jenny Forrester

jennyforrester.com



Donations to support this endeavor:

If you'd like to donate to this cause (and be named in the Eternal Gratitude section), email me for my Venmo and PayPal accounts. Don't worry, I won't be making money (that bothers some people, especially the people who (also) want to be paid for their art, I hear.) But, I'd love to recoup some costs, for sure. If you help me in this way, I won't forget it.