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The *Oxford American's* Spring issue will be available on newsstands nationwide on March 14, 2017

LITTLE ROCK, AR — The *Oxford American's* 96th Issue marks the magazine's twenty-fifth anniversary with contributions from more than forty writers and artists. The Spring 2017 issue kicks off a year-long celebration of the milestone with a number of noteworthy features, including the first in a series of excerpts from **Jesmyn Ward's** highly anticipated forthcoming novel, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. (Parts two and three will appear in the *OA's* Summer and Fall 2017 issues.) The issue also carries a previously unpublished poem by **Margaret Walker**, with an introduction by **Kiese Laymon**, and a selection of photographs by longtime *OA* contributor **Jack Spencer**, from his new book *This Land*. The cover image is Spencer's "Starfall."

The quarterly "Magazine of the South" launched in Spring 1992. "Readers have never come to the *OA* for simple escape, for unchallenging dispatches from a region that is messy and weird and difficult—a place that frequently bears witness to unfathomable cruelty, as well as genius and beauty," Eliza Borné writes in a letter from the editor. "They have come for artistry and they have come for truth." She continues, "That a scrappy nonprofit magazine is *thriving* after twenty-five years is cause for celebration."

Other highlights from the issue: Essays and stories from across the South, including New Orleans; West Palm Beach, Florida; rural Texas; and Lexington, Kentucky. Three micro-memoirs by **Beth Ann Fennelly**. Poetry by **Morri Creech**, **George Ella Lyon**, **Safiya Sinclair**, and **Peter Cooley**. Short fiction by **Glenn Taylor**. An examination of Guy Davenport by **Brian Blanchfield**. An investigated feature about an unsolved double murder in Kentucky by reporter **Nick Tabor**.

Plus: columns by **John T. Edge** and **Chris Offutt**; **Rien Fertel** on the history of Mardi Gras's flambeaux carriers; **David Searcy** on Wayne Hall's mystic assemblage art; **Nicole Pasulka** on Ralph Wolfe Cowan, Donald Trump's portraitist; and a powerful lyric essay by **Michelle García** about her 2016, a year of despair, hope, and art. In addition to exceptional writing, the issue features artworks and photographs by **Alma Thomas**, **Vincent Valdez**, **Ralph Eugene Meatyard**, **Guy Mendes**, **Linda Foard Roberts**, **Frank Relle**, **Coke Wisdom O'Neal**, **Tamara Reynolds**, and many more.

To order a single copy of the Spring issue, visit your local bookstore or newsstand, or purchase a copy at OxfordAmericanGoods.org. For bulk orders, contact Julia Hofheimer at jhofheimer@oxfordamerican.org or 501-374-0000 x 206.

ABOUT THE OXFORD AMERICAN

Oxford American is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization and national magazine dedicated to featuring the very best in Southern writing, while documenting the complexity and vitality of the American South. The *Oxford American* is committed to the development of young individuals aspiring to work in the publishing industry and to the production and presentation of multidisciplinary arts events in and around Little Rock, Arkansas. Billed as "A Magazine of the South," it has won four National Magazine Awards—including the 2016 Award for General Excellence in the category of Literature, Science and Politics—and other high honors since it began publication in 1992. The *Oxford American* is published from the University of Central Arkansas. For more information, visit OxfordAmerican.org.