



January 10, 2022

Dear Reader,

Jade Pilgrom is a dream to work with—as a designer, illustrator, and thought partner. The Poetry Foundation and *Poetry* magazine commissioned a suite of covers for our signature publication at a crucial juncture in its history. We were in dire need of a fresh look and new direction for our long-running monthly magazine, which has been publishing since 1912. We hired Jade to create an “Alabama Triptych” to illustrate a new editorial vision under the guest editorship of Alabama’s Poetry Laureate, Ashley M. Jones. We were working under duress, on a fast schedule, amid great public scrutiny following a public call to accountability, two subsequent international publishing scandals, and an immense leadership vacuum. Jade took on the job with grace and understanding, and steadied us through a tumultuous time, which was only exacerbated by the global pandemic.

The work was strong and inspired from the outset. From the jump, she provided three distinct directions. We took all of them immediately, and her files did not need any revision or additional direction beyond our initial brief. She got it, hit specs, and delighted readers with a bright and different perspective on *Poetry*. In addition to her speed and facility, she was a joy to correspond with and provided a needed source of light.

I cannot say enough about the pleasure and success of work with Jade Pilgrom. She is incredibly thoughtful in her approach, surprising with her ideas, and possesses exceptional sense and style in her designs. I’d work with her again in a heartbeat. Jade’s a real gem.

Sincerely,

Fred Sasaki
Creative Director