

Kate Deimling grew up in New Orleans. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago and has a Ph.D. in French language and literature from Columbia University, where she wrote her dissertation on eighteenth-century libertine novels.

After stints as a French professor and an art journalist, Kate became a freelance translator. She lives in Brooklyn, New York with her family. Any given day may find her translating something different, from a book or a press release to descriptions of jewelry and skincare products.

Kate started writing poetry as a child and a teenager. For a long time, poetry took a back seat to career and family, but for the past few years she has been able to devote more time and energy to writing. Kate is an associate editor at Bracken magazine, and she is currently seeking a publisher for her poetry manuscript *Every Moment a Farewell*.

You can learn more about her at www.katedeimling.com.

Commentary on my poem in this issue:

“Eve” is part of an ongoing series of poems that I call the heroine series. I usually just write on various topics as the spirit moves me, but I found that I was writing poems about women in myth and history, so I decided to consciously focus on this theme. I liked the idea of seeing Eve as a heroine, and I imagined her seeking knowledge in full awareness of the risks. I also enjoyed trying to capture the sense of being in a timeless paradise and yet somehow feeling there was something lacking.

The ending of the poem was inspired by W.B. Yeats’ “Leda and the Swan.” In that poem, Yeats fast-forwards to the consequences of Zeus’ rape of Leda: the birth of Helen and the Trojan War: “A shudder in the loins engenders there / The broken wall, the burning roof and tower / And Agamemnon dead.” I love the way these lines give me a trippy feeling of being transported instantly through time, and I tried to achieve a similar effect with the consequences of Eve plucking the fruit.