

The Sumac Reader

Jim Harrison, Dan Gerber



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Sumac was a Michigan-based literary journal founded in 1968 by poets Dan Gerber and Jim Harrison; novelist Thomas McGuane joined the editorial staff in 1969 as the fiction editor. When the inaugural issue appeared, more than 250 American literary magazines were listed in *The Directory of Magazines and Small Presses*; within three years, *Sumac* rose to the first tier of these publications and was nationally recognized for its eclecticism and editorial quality. The *Library Journal* called it "one of the best little magazines now being published."

Remaining true to *Sumac's* energetic catholicity, *The Sumac Reader* is an anthology that contains poetry, experimental fiction, and works in translation that originally appeared in the magazine. Contributors include four Pulitzer Prize-winning poets—Galway Kinnell, Charles Simic, Louis Simpson, and Gary Snyder—along with Paul Blackburn, Hayden Carruth, Richard Hugo, Denise Levertov, Ezra Pound, Adrienne Rich, and Diane Wakoski. There are early poems by Charles Simic, James Tate, and Michael Waters, as well as a complete section from Galaway Kinnell's classic, *The Book of Nightmares*. Fiction is represented in *Sumac* by a first-published Jim Heynen story "Coyote" and early prose by William Kittredge. Translations from Chinese, French, Spanish, and Russian bring to American readers the work of masters such as Tu Fu, Lorca, and Li Po. A variety of poetic forms are represented, including ghazals, narratives, suites, found poems, and the freest of free verse.

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