

Introduction

AS PART OF A RENEWED emphasis on MR's commitment to the visual arts, in this issue we present *Inside Out*, a joint exhibition of the work of two Northampton artists, Katy Schneider and David Gloman. Schneider (who contributed the cover for our Food special issue last year) paints the interior of the home and family, the anarchic cradle of our being, while Gloman paints the silent and orderly distances paradoxically created by that human core. Who are we, that our intimacy and passion take place out of public sight? Or that our vistas are so devoid of familiar faces? Schneider and Gloman render these two poles with a complementary and salutary extremism.

In this year's Winter issue, we'll have yet another art insert featuring new work by Christin Couture. Frankly, we're sticking our necks out a little bit, since the cost of fine arts production and printing has been steadily rising. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the UMass Alumni Association for funding the recent Jean Morrison Becker insert, but we need your support as well. If you'd like to dedicate a contribution to MR's art department, don't stop yourself!

We're delighted to announce that Thomas L. Dumm, Professor of Political Science at Amherst College, has joined us as general editor for nonfiction. Tom is the author of five books, including *United States* and *A Politics of the Ordinary*, and he was formerly editor of the online journal *Theory and Act*. By way of introduction, in our Fall issue this year we'll print a pair of Melville essays, one by Tom and the other by Sterling Stuckey.

David Lenson, for the editors