

## Editorial

Welcome to the twentieth issue of *Flash*, which includes new stories from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Jordan, the UK, and the USA. We are pleased to open with four intriguing micros by Argentine writer Susana Szwarc, elegantly translated from the Spanish by Steven J. Stewart; our ‘*Flash Presents*’ section features four pieces translated from the German by Peter Wortsman, reprinted from his excellent *Konundrum: Selected Prose of Franz Kafka*. The issue also includes the 2018 winner of the UK’s National Flash Fiction Youth Competition, ‘The Mermaid’s Purse’ by Lucy Stanfield, a talented A-level student at Winstanley College, Billinge, Wigan. The competition was organized by *Flash* and the Department of English, University of Chester; it was judged by the editors and the author David Swann (whose ever-evocative writing also graces this issue).

‘*Flash Reviews*’ begins with assessments of three fine collections from the USA: Liz Milne is enamoured of Paul Beckman’s *Kiss Kiss*; K. M. Elkes is fascinated and moved by Jennifer Tseng’s *The Passion of Woo and Isolde*; and Jonathan Cardew sings the praises of Kara Vernor’s *Because I Wanted to Write You a Pop Song*. Peter Blair is the happy recipient of Jan Carson’s *Postcard Stories* from Northern Ireland, and Caroline Jones explores the Francophile travel writing of Philip Kobylarz’s *All Roads Lead from Massilia*. Meanwhile, Ashley Chantler continues his search for a perfect guide to writing flash fiction, examining John Dufresne’s *Flash!*.

We hope you enjoy this issue.

**Peter Blair and Ashley Chantler**

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