

## ***Iris* 1.2: Histories**

*Iris*, a quarterly magazine of new writing for LGBTQ+ young adults, invites submissions on the theme of ‘histories’ for its second issue. Writer and activist Joan Nestle wrote:

*Our history is the chronicle of our vitality, our passion, our cunning,  
and at many times, our integrity.*

In our first issue, we considered our identities: who we *are* and who we are becoming. In this issue, we’d like to consider the past that frames our present. Let’s take a look back to where we come from; to all that informs who we are and who we will grow to be. Perhaps you’ll explore our shared LGBTQ+ history with a piece of historical fiction, or submit a personal poem that considers your own history. We chose ‘histories’ deliberately, so as to encompass as broad an understanding of the theme as possible. We can’t wait to see what you come up with.

*Iris* welcomes work in all genres, from realistic fiction to fantasy. Poets may submit text and visual poems, and *Iris* accepts digital and scanned artwork. Work submitted to *Iris* must comply with our content policy as *Iris* is targeted to a young demographic, and is used as an educational tool in public and school libraries, school and public library-sponsored book clubs, and similar environments. Full guidelines for submission, including specifications for art and visual poetry, are available at <http://www.creatingiris.org/submissions>.

The submissions window will open on 5 February 2014, and will continue through 21 March 2014. All fiction/textual poetry should be submitted through the submissions manager, accessible via the link above; artwork and visual poetry should be emailed to [submissions@creatingiris.org](mailto:submissions@creatingiris.org). All submissions are read blind by our panel of readers.

*Iris* is a quarterly magazine for young adults, publishing short fiction, poetry, and art. *Iris* is published by Creating Iris, a not for profit project which supports the visibility of LGBTQ+ characters in YA literature through the publication of the magazine and which encourages advocacy for LGBTQAI-identified young adults through its web site. The first issue of *Iris*, themed ‘Identity,’ launched on 16 January 2014.

Creating Iris is a not-for-profit labour of love and therefore we regret that we are unable to offer compensation to our contributors (and ourselves, for that matter!). We hope that this will change in the future. In the meantime, we are honoured by the marvellous, dedicated staff and the talented, respected artists and writers whose generosity of time and spirit has made *Iris*’s existence possible.

We firmly believe in the value and necessity of our mission to feature high-quality writing and artwork for a young adult audience, and sincerely hope that you join us by sharing your talent and hard work with us. Please share this call with your friends, colleagues, and students!

**Thank you: for supporting *Iris*, spreading the word, and especially for sharing your work!**

Amanda Civitello      Rebecca Bennett  
Editors