

Baker Artist Prize 2017: Praise for “On Nostalgia”
Elizabeth Evitts Dickinson

“‘On Nostalgia’ begins with a consideration of the Archimedes Palimpsest and becomes, itself, a palimpsest as the author scrapes away layers to reveal a family history that has been kept silent and covered up. The result is a layered and smartly digressive exploration of the author’s relationship to her father, and of her grandmother’s suicide, that both educates and surprises the reader.”

—Steven Church, author of *The Guinness Book of Me: a Memoir of Record*, and judge for the 2015 Hrushka Nonfiction Prize.

"This is the work of a superb essayist: the work is penetratingly intelligent, expertly crafted, thoughtful, and precise. In this intentionally digressive essay, you move deftly from medieval palimpsests and Archimedes to Calvino-esque observations on your hometown, to, finally, your own family history. The result is an essay that reads as tightly woven, and as lovely as a tapestry. Your lapidary prose and mindfully digressive structure works beautifully to illuminate the subjects of this piece: nostalgia, family secrets, and all that runs beneath the cracked pavement of our lives."

—Sustainable Arts Foundation Award Jury

“Here is another fantastic essay from America’s small press. Winner of the 2015 Hrushka Memorial Nonfiction Prize from the Michigan-based journal *Passage North*, the author spins a complex weave about her life and family, Archimedes and science to explore the ways meaning accrues, the past endures, and emotional memory connects us to the past in ways that both brace and break us.”

—The Editors of Longreads

Dickinson’s prose feels to the reader the way she describes an individual’s mental and emotional traversings through a lifetime, like following multiple paths that are more like concentric circles than they are linear trajectories. This makes the piece intuitive and meditative. It’s about her history, growing up in the Appalachians, but it’s also about collective histories.

—Review by Laura Page, *The Review Review*, 2016