

the OPEN FACE SANDWICH



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the Open Face Sandwich nominated for Utne Award Atlanta-based literary journal stretches boundaries, expectations

ATLANTA — Atlanta-based literary journal *the Open Face Sandwich* celebrates its nomination by the Utne Independent Press Awards for Best New Publication 2009. The nomination comes just months before the release of the annual's second volume.

The Utne Independent Press Awards staff selects a narrow group from more than 1,300 publications; fewer than 100 are nominated in categories such as General Excellence, Social/Arts Coverage and Political Coverage.

"It's a huge honor to be nominated alongside heavyweights like *Lapham's Quarterly* and the *Virginia Review*. We take it as a validation of our efforts to alter the form of the literary journal into something more permanent, idiosyncratic, and off-center," says Co-Editor Benjamin Solomon.

the Open Face Sandwich, created by Benjamin Solomon and Alan Bajandas, and Art Director Meshakai Wolf, is a collection of uncommon prose and uncompromising images. "As an annual, we work all year to produce what amounts to much more than just a magazine," says Bajandas. "Our end-product is a meticulously crafted anthology."

Volume One was released in spring 2008 to strong critical reviews and reader enthusiasm. It presents work from Deb Olin Unferth, award-winning poet Ariana Reines, novel excerpts stolen from reclusive expat Hortense Caruthers, and several literary debuts (Uppsala, Amsterdam, New York, Atlanta). It also provides the vital hilarity of hand-written journal excerpts from second-grader Thomas Birdson ("My Gern!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"), and punctuates everything with full-color fold-outs of animals brutally murdered by automobiles and photographed.

It's enough to make one gush. At least that was this NewPages.com reviewer's response: "It's here. It's finally here. The first issue of *the Open Face Sandwich*. Is it glorious? Yes! It's a breath of fresh air. It's the cataclysm I've been waiting for. It destroys my sense of place; it unhinges my hold on reality. It de-clasps my notion of a literary journal. ... And it's finally in my hands. O, the marvel of it."

The Utne Awards, now in their 20th year of celebrating the seldom-recognized efforts of the alternative press and making readers aware of mass media alternatives, announced winners during the Magazine Publishers of America's Independent Magazine Group Conference May 17-19 in Boulder, Colorado.

Volume Two of *the Open Face Sandwich* will be released in fall 2009, and will include writing by award-winning playwright Young Jean Lee, Joe Wenderoth, Blake Butler, Hortense Caruthers, and hand-painted altered photographs by Karen Tauches.

"In this volume, we're publishing longer, more ecstatic, and more disturbing work," Solomon says. "If Volume One was defined by curt, pithy snapshots and troubling moments, Volume Two prolongs that gaze and demands a little more from our readers. Visually, it will be stunning and delicious and totally exposed."

Submissions for Volume Three will open in late 2009.

For more information on *the Open Face Sandwich*, including how to order copies or subscribe, visit www.openfacesandwich.org.

The Open Face Sandwich is a cunning and ribald assault upon the bedrock of modern civilization. We are also a nonprofit literary annual published by Fifth Planet Press in Atlanta, and fiscally sponsored by Fractured Atlas. Our staff is unpaid, unmarried and we have no children. We gratefully accept tax-deductible through our fiscal sponsor, Fractured Atlas. To donate, visit our website at

www.openfacesandwich.org.

