Design Statement

The annual, distinctive artist issue of TAB: The Journal of Poetry & Poetics engages the reader with poetry as a material object and asks the reader to negotiate between image and text. The design does not assume a traditional role of quietly framing content; instead, design actively shapes the reading experience. As we continue to experience the complexities of choice, drawing boundaries, and acknowledging multidimensional anxieties of being between a rock and a hard place, we are asked to face the relentless considerations of safe and dangerous spaces, this issue surveys contexts of absent voices and silences, of physical and metaphorical places and spaces where individual, yeahs, and communities take refuge.

The visual language in this issue draws on the mining of minerals—Arsenopyrite, Aluminum, Platinum, Tin, Tungsten, Tantalum, Silver, Volcanic Rock—and a back-and-front collation system to connect author and poem. We moved from poster to poems and then afford the booklet to meet their authors on the outer side of the poster. The material object that this issue thereby makes manifest represents a relationship between surface and source.

This issue was digitally printed with two colors of ink (metallic and black), then scored, die-cut, and folded to achieve a poster booklet. It is, then, two-dimensional, then scored, die-cut, and folded to achieve a poster booklet. It is, then, two-dimensional, and poem. Using a poster booklet, the reader can journey through poems and spaces where individuals, pods, and communities take refuge. The material object that this issue thereby makes manifest represents a relationship between surface and source.

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