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BUSINESS OFFICE: All correspondence about advertising, subscriptions, and allied matters should be sent to: *Journal Division, University of Wisconsin Press, 728 State Street, Suite 443, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706-1418.* Website: uwpress.wisc.edu/journals

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Institutional: \$262 print and electronic; \$231 electronic only. Individual: \$79 print and electronic; \$66 electronic only. International airmail postage: \$48 (no postage for electronic only).

Contemporary Literature (ISSN 0010-7484; E-ISSN 1548-9949) is published quarterly by the University of Wisconsin Press, 728 State Street, Suite 443, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706-1418. Website: uwpress.wisc.edu/journals. Periodicals postage paid at Madison, WI, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Contemporary Literature*, 728 State Street, Suite 443, Madison, Wisconsin, 53706-1418.

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CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

◆ PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT ◆

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE is pleased to announce the recipient of the thirteenth annual **L. S. Dembo Prize** for the best article published in the journal during the preceding volume year:

Tobias Huttner, “The Love Elegy and the Land Question: On June Jordan’s Radical Occasions”

Honorable Mentions:

Erin Greer, “‘The Lyric Gift’: Political and Literary Judgment in Ian McEwan’s *Saturday*”

Kelly Roberts, “Dennis Cooper’s *Closer* and Its Social Discontents”

The L. S. Dembo Prize honors Lawrence (Larry) Dembo (1929–2002), longtime editor of *Contemporary Literature* and visionary scholar and teacher. Guiding this journal for twenty-four years, Dembo established it as one of the crucial voices in the field—a collective voice marked by philosophical and critical rigor, an openness to the new, and rich, probing questions. Many of the now-leading scholars in the field were nurtured under his guidance. The author of five books and the editor of six, Dembo enacted in his critical practice exactly what he called for in this journal—writing international in scope, alert to the past, unintimidated by difficulty, unconstrained by party or poetic affiliation, and linguistically responsive. Two early books—*Hart Crane’s Sanskrit Charge: A Study of “The Bridge”* (1960) and *The Confucian Odes of Ezra Pound* (1963)—established the range and rigor of his way of looking at poems. His most important book, *Conceptions of Reality in Modern American Poetry* (1966), with its focus on an “objectivist logic” of language and perception in Ezra Pound and Wallace Stevens, among others, anticipates much now being written about writers in the generations after the moderns. Building on that work, Dembo’s dense, challenging interviews with the objectivists George Oppen, Louis Zukofsky, Carl Rakosi, and Charles Reznikoff, published in this journal in 1969, are his most often cited critical contribution. Here, as with so many of the areas he touched, Dembo left behind “what still is / The look of things”—his way of looking now part of the world of words itself.