

comment

SEPARATION AND TOGETHERNESS

This week, we're sharing art from our upcoming winter issue, which explores the prismatic meanings and manifestations of tribe (and there's [still time to subscribe!](#)). But more on our winter issue in a future newsletter. Today, simply take in the painting below, an untitled piece by [Maryann Taruc \(Tahrook\)](#).

Born in 1994 in a rural area of Olongapo, Philippines, and raised overseas as a military child, Tahrook has a distinctive perspective on the world. She is a self-taught, multidisciplinary artist who lives and works in the vibrant art scene of Washington, DC. She is currently an artist-in-residence at The Kennedy Center and also an artist-in-residence at the AOK Art Space.

The piece below, created with acrylic on wood, explores themes of separation and togetherness—a paradoxical aspect of tribe that's echoed in Wendell Berry's words below.



“No matter how much one may love the world as a whole, one can live fully in it only by living responsibly in some small part of it. Where we live and who we live there with define the terms of our relationship to the world and to humanity. We thus come again to the paradox that one can become whole only by the responsible acceptance of one’s partiality.”

—Wendell Berry

As we near the publication of our winter issue, which will arrive in mailboxes in January, we're tying up all the loose ends that come with putting together a print magazine.

Last week, we met together in Hamilton to go over the winter issue with our wonderful graphic designer, [Kathryn de Ruijter](#) (and her patient apprentice, four-month-old Ivy). From selecting the beautiful art that graces our pages to laying out the articles in an attractive format, her talented fingerprints are all over every print issue!



Requesting permissions for poetry and art is one of the less glamorous parts of the process, and it can often be stressful as we wait for publishers or artists' agents to respond to our requests while deadlines loom ever closer. After many weeks of waiting for a response from a particular London-based publisher, the ever-intrepid [Hannah Marazzi](#) agreed to go to the publisher's office to appeal to them in person. Hannah, our gratitude knows no bounds!

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WHAT WE'RE READING

I Throughout Advent and Christmas, our friends at *Image* journal are [curating daily selections of art, writing, or music](#). These reflections are a lovely accompaniment to the liturgical rhythms of this season.

 Tara Isabella Burton reflects on walking in cities, in [this beautiful essay for Plough](#). "These characters we meet in the city are at once exactly as human as we are and profoundly, even joyously, *other* than what we are. Far from a shapeless mass, they reveal the complexity of God's creation."

 Despite the quiet anticipation of Advent and the joyful celebrations of Christmas, December can feel busy and exhausting. We're returning to [this conversation on simplicity and ordinary rituals](#) between Tish Harrison Warren and contributing editor Sarah Hamersma, from our own archives.

Public theology for the common good.