

INKWELL



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AFTERWORD: ALL'S WELL THAT'S INKWELL

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I've always loved writing by hand, the fluid motion of ink to paper. In eighth grade I had my first love affair with ink. Daily I brandished my Schaeffer fountain pen with plastic refill tubes. Penning my essays on *Flowers for Algernon* and *The Mouse That Roared*, I felt eclectic, even writerly. I adjusted to the only drawbacks: ink straining my hands and blotching the back pockets of every pair of pants I owned, despite my mother's pleadings to stop my insane practice of transport.

I remain particular to my pens and ink. I carry a pen wherever I go. For me, inking well, writing, means I must be ready to put my images, my insights, and my musings to paper. I have stenographer pads, "blank" books, and infinite scraps of paper brimming with ink to prove my dedication. Some of my ink has managed to transfer to type, and some of that type has come alive in the hands of poetry readers across the country.

The Evergreen Writing Center's logo, the inkwell and pen, reminds me of another image with adage: the pen is mightier than the sword. In an age where governments wage war before practicing diplomacy, inking well, thinking well, has profound implications. What poet, activist, and social critic, Muriel Rukeyser wrote in 1949 still holds true today, "Always we need the audacity to speak for more freedom, more imagination, more poetry with all its meanings."¹ I think of writers like Anna Akhmatova, Pablo Neruda, Anne Frank, June Jordan, and Rachel Corrie; each used their creative impulses to bear witness to the politics of their deranged ages.

Whether writing is a solitary or communal act, a poem or a legal brief, a private or public uttering, inking well is about connection: pen to paper, finger to keyboard, individual to community. I hope our inaugural issue of *Inkwell* has inspired the writer in you to ink with purpose and abandon during your time at Evergreen and beyond.

WORKS CITED

Rukeyser, Muriel. *The Life of Poetry*. Ashfield, Massachusetts: Paris Press, 1996.

1. Muriel Rukeyser, *The Life of Poetry* (Ashfield, Massachusetts: Paris Press, 1996), 30.