

Serendipity



Universidad
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de San Juan



effha
EDITORIAL



Universidad
Nacional
de San Juan



FACULTAD DE FILOSOFÍA,
HUMANIDADES Y ARTES



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Department of English Language and Literature

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Serendipity

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Founder

Dennis Manion

Editors-in-Chief

Rosa Inés Cúneo

Rocío González Pastoriza

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jimena Sol Olivares Waisman

Editors

Ana Yanina Giménez Gil

Marisel Bollati

Alejandra Díaz

María Camila Pérez

Fernando Diego Pereyra

Layout Editor

Ana Yanina Giménez Gil

Cover Art

María Celeste Pinilla Masut

National University of San Juan

School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts

San Juan, Argentina

Acknowledgements

We would like to express our gratitude to all those who made this issue of *Serendipity* possible.

We are grateful to the Departments of English Language and Literature, Visual Arts, and Music, and to their Heads and Deputy Heads, for fostering this enriching interdisciplinary collaboration.

Finally, we thank the students whose creativity and dedication made this project a reality.

After nearly ten years of hibernation, *Serendipity* is back—and it's not just stretching its legs, it's dancing its way into the spotlight. A spirited group of teachers and students has embarked on a joyful journey, united by the belief that this project will ignite the imagination of its readers. This issue invites us to experience a collection of original poetic works, each one a testament to the creative spark that thrives within our academic community. More than a showcase of student talent, *Serendipity* celebrates collaboration across disciplines, with the Departments of Visual Arts and Music joining in to enrich the live readings with visual and musical interpretations. The Department of English Language and Literature is proud to have teachers and students who strengthen our School's role in supporting student-led artistic initiatives.

Mariela Inés Hualpa

Head of the Department of English Language and Literature

Like an echo returning after silence, *Serendipity* is reborn to once again give voice to our students' creativity. This edition marks not only the return of a beloved publication, but also the renewal of a space where words, images, and music come together in a creative dialogue.

Serendipity has always been more than a magazine: it is the reflection of an academic community that values creative expression and interdisciplinary collaboration. Its reopening celebrates both the continuity of a tradition and the emergence of new student voices eager to explore the boundaries of their imagination.

This edition has been made possible through the joint efforts of the Department of English Language and Literature, the Department of Visual Arts, and the Department of Music, where committed faculty and talented students have joined forces to bring this project to life. We especially highlight the invaluable liaison work carried out by Teresita Carelli from her English teaching role within the Visual Arts

programs, building bridges between disciplines that enrich this collaboration. Above all, we recognize our young creators—the true protagonists of these pages—whose art reminds us that higher education transcends the classroom when it embraces artistic expression.

We invite you to immerse yourself in this collection, where each poem dialogues with a visual piece, where music broadens the sensory experience of reading, and where every page bears witness to the fact that student creativity remains the beating heart of our academic community.

Ana Yanina Giménez Gil

Head of the Department of Visual Arts

The contribution of the Department of Music to this publication, in dialogue with the Department of English, has showcased the richness of interdisciplinary and collaborative work within our School. Guided by Lecturers Mauricio Celayes and José Manuel Villanueva, within the Analysis and Composition courses of the undergraduate Teacher Training in Musical Education program, our students composed a musical piece inspired by poems crafted by students from the Department of English Language and Literature. This experience has been profoundly enriching, as it not only allowed for the application of course content, but also led to the creation of a shared artistic product that connects different fields of knowledge.

We particularly value the opportunity for our students to cultivate, through experiences such as this, an aesthetic and expressive sensibility strengthened through dialogue with other academic spaces. We extend our gratitude to the Department of English Language and Literature and to the project coordinators for their invitation, which has made such a meaningful formative and artistic endeavor possible.

Fernando Recio

Head of the Department of Music

Amid the rapid and unprecedented technological developments of the present era, is there still room for human creativity?

For those of us who had the privilege of teaching various subjects in the Department of English Language and Literature of the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts (National University of San Juan), and had the chance to witness first-hand the passion, dedication and ingenuity demonstrated by students over the years, the answer is unequivocal: there is and there will always be plenty of room for the creative mind.

Serendipity offers living proof of our assertion. This literary magazine was the brainchild of Dennis Manion, a Fulbright visiting scholar who, back in 1993, said he felt the profound necessity to create a written record of the extraordinary potential he discovered in the language classrooms of the English Department. For Dennis, this was a fortuitous discovery –hence the name he chose for the publication. Guided by his vision, the first issue combined the talents of students from the English and Visual Arts Departments. Subsequent issues sustained that original conception. This publication is no exception. Made possible thanks to Rocío González's commitment and perseverance, *Serendipity V* goes one step further, incorporating the artistry and originality of students from the Music Department. The writers, visual artists and musicians, drawing on each other's work for inspiration, give each piece a boost of expressive power.

We hope you enjoy reading and *feeling* these pages as much as we have. They bring to life the sometimes unheard voices of students who venture beyond mere academic requirements, letting their creative spirits soar.

Let your soul indulge in the journey.

Marisel M. Bollati
Rosa I. Cúneo
A. Alejandra Díaz

Letter from the Editors

Dear readers,

We are thrilled to present the fifth issue of *Serendipity*, a project that continues to grow thanks to the passion, creativity, and dedication of our university community. This edition holds special meaning. Not only does it mark the return of the magazine after ten years of dormancy, but it also celebrates the collaborative spirit that defines our academic environment. Through poems accompanied by visual and musical interpretations, our students have invited us into their inner worlds with honesty, imagination, and artistry.

A highlight of this year's journey was the Poetry Workshop organized for students of the Department of English Language and Literature. This space for creative writing exploration and experimentation gave rise to the poems featured in these pages. We were honored to welcome guest poet Juan Manuel Portillo, whose virtual participation in the workshop offered students an opportunity to reflect on poetry and its writing process. We are also deeply grateful to Teresita Carelli, Rocío González, Jimena Olivares, and Marcos Vargas for facilitating the workshop and fostering our students' creative potential.

We are especially indebted to Teresita Carelli, whose generosity and vision were fundamental to this project. Though not formally part of the editorial team, she consistently supported us, opening up her literature, art and music classes—which fortunately connect the three Departments—enabling students to collaborate across disciplines. Her commitment, encouragement, and inspiration were vital in bringing *Serendipity* back to life. We also gratefully acknowledge Jimena Olivares for her dedicated support and generous collaboration, which were *enormous* and essential to this project.

We are delighted to highlight the work of students from the Department of Visual Arts and the Department of Music, who have enriched this publication with visual creations and soundscapes inspired by the selected poems. This renewed, multidisciplinary edition of *Serendipity* thrives on the interplay between language, image, and sound. We also thank Mauricio Celayes and José Manuel Villanueva for their participation.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mariela Hualpa, Head of the Department of English Language and Literature, and Marcela Martín, Deputy Head, for their encouragement and institutional support throughout the process. Special thanks

as well to Ana Giménez Gil, Head of the Department of Visual Arts, and Fernando Recio, Head of the Department of Music, for their generous collaboration and for fostering this enriching interdisciplinary experience.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge Rosa Inés Cúneo, Marisel Bollati and Alejandra Díaz. Their wisdom, and enduring commitment—even after retirement—have been a gift to this editorial team and an inspiration to us all.

To the students who submitted their work: thank you for your trust and creativity.

To our guest poet and workshop facilitators: your guidance and insight made this journey possible. And to everyone engaging with this issue: may you find in these pages a moment of reflection, beauty, and surprise—the very essence of *Serendipity*.

Warmly,

The Serendipity Editorial Team

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An Invitation to our Readers

Each poem in this magazine unfolds in three original forms:
written, visual, and musical.

There is no right sequence to approach them.

Wander as you wish, let one form lead you to another.

May you feel how words shift into colors,
and how colors echo in sound (and all way 'round).

The Serendipity Editorial Team

Message

Noah Escalante

Morning comes and in my thoughts he is
Adored and admired by many
Trustful yet mean he might seem
Teaches me everything he knows
Easy it may not be but I do not care
Only his attention is enough for me

I just wish for him to see me
Light up my soul and warm my heart
Oh, my dear, do not forget about me
Various nights I could not sleep
Especially after the letters have been sent

Yours is the love I yearn for
Or at least the company
Unilateral love? That is spelled here

Listen to the
poem's musical
interpretation

by Elias Díaz



Yamila Rojas, Taila Chavez,
Priscila Chirino & Aldana Ramos
Digital Photomontage, 2025



Dedicating “*Take my breath away*”

Zoe Contreras

I used to think it was a love song
And in fact, it is!
“*Haunted by the notion somewhere
There’s a love in flames...
Take my breath away*”

I used to dance to this
(With an old love of mine)
But as I listen to it again,
I think about a crime...
I just died in your arms tonight!

“*When the mirror crashed, I called you
And turned to hear you say
If only for today I’m unafraid...
Take my breath away*”

It’s something you’d say to a lover
Or to your murderer
They can take your breath away
with a kiss... or with a strand

“*Watching in slow motion
As you turn around and say
Take my breath away...*”
It could mean excess of love
Or an excessive lack of air...

Note:
Lyrics quoted
from “*Take my
breath away*” by
Berlin (1986)

Agustina Belén Arroyo
Ink on paper, 2025





Valeria Saavedra
Acrylic on paper, 2025



Mavi Agüero
Watercolor and acrylic on paper, 2025

Susurrus of something new

Ana Clara Yunes

Swinging, dangling
Twisting, surrounding
The sound of metal clanging
breaks the stupor of my eternal dancing

Clutching with tooth and nails
these ever-lasting charades
these vices rooted deep in my gate
halting my coming out to the edge
What to do ?

Hidden remained the key
But a passage
A passage through it all
A loop that wraps me ?
Better be a hoop for my fall

Then is it truly a fall?

If at a willful moment of afterlight
my very feet break off this barren land
I shan't forfeit my momentum

And revel in the dust shrugged off
To look askance
what clutches me no more

Not shrill nor grating no more
but an echoing ting going on on
This land

A déjà vu

A susurrus of something new



Heart

Valentina Lobos

In my chest there's a heart
that beats too loud
and feels too much
At night I feel
my pulse begin to rise
I think of you and I dream of you
of the splendour that follows your steps
How can I sleep?
If your curls fall from your back
like
 a
 waterfall

As night falls
my pulse begins to rise
So I fall to my knees
and the ground meets my pleas
Oh sick and miserable heart,
be still
[be hush].



I'm sorry

Noah Escalante

Not going to lie, it was what I wanted
A question about it would have been
nice
To you, did it mean something?
How could you have left so easily?

Were you my friend?
How many questions I have!
All of them will remain unanswered
There is nothing else I can do

However, you are already gone
All that is left is disappointment
Perhaps your parting was for the best
Part of me resents you
Except the one that misses you
Nothing will be the same
Dear friend, goodbye I say

Listen to the
poem's musical
interpretation

by Daniela Tapia



Mavi Agüero

Mixed media on paper, 2025

Flavi '95



Macarena Arias, Rocío Godoy & Lucas Sambor
Acrylic on cardboard, 2025



Day 3

María Magdalena Yunes

Nothing is the same but it's fine,
said I while sad songs echoed in my head
that meant something for the first time.

The moon and the sun still shine,
soon I'll see their light again, they said;
nothing is the same but it's fine.

I laid awake from ten to nine
repeating old poems in my head
that meant something for the first time.

I'm trying to accept he's not mine,
and trust there'll be good days ahead;
nothing is the same but it's fine.

I know it's not the end of the line;
there are reasons that here have led,
that meant something for the first time.

I'm still hoping that God will twine
our lives again as three threads.¹
But, will it be the same? Will it be fine?
Will it mean what it meant the first time?

Notes

¹ Inspired by
Ecclesiastes 4,12
*A three-ply cord
is not easily
broken.*



Wednesdays

Ana Clara Yunes

Our fixed date is here again.
You're never late,
Never to blame
And though I'm not one to trust
You're just there,
Not even once to complain
You've seen the seasons go unscathed
Waiting for me at the sacred table
Always in Your best clothes

Like a vessel made just for You

And as You might've guessed by now
I am not at the door
My absence plays like a broken record
I stood You up too many a time
Why do I insist on carving these scars?
My heart doesn't grow fonder with absence
But dies out with every passing day

Your welcoming embrace heals me
It is You in the flesh who awaits me
Your white gown is not Your masquerade
Nor is the bread Your hideaway
You've chosen to stay

Here
In Your eternal self.

For You know nothing of the fleeting
Won't ever fade away
To be loved is to be known
My every hair is on Your mind
To the end is the measure of Your Love
And in Your Love
Is where I want to lie

Evelin Seva & Lourdes Tejada
Embroidery on canvas, 2025

TO THE END

IS THE

MEASURE

YOUR

LOVE

OF

LOVE

AND IN YOUR

IS

WHERE

I WANT

TO

LIE

My gold necklace

Valentina Lobos

I hold it dearly,
the necklace that rests against my skin
the one that holds this soft and sweet promise
A silent shield, a guiding star
the strength that carries me near and far
The one end attached to my soul;
and yet, every link of it
leads me to yours

Like two worlds intertwined

I hold it dearly,
the necklace that rests against my heart
and like my initials engraved in gold,
your memory has burnt my soul.

Dora Tamara Torres & Erika Camacho
Acrylic on paper, 2025



Confession 101

María Magdalena Yunes

You come in, shy and blushing,
you're late, but my heart is rushing.

You sit there, you don't know
the room will get darker if you go.

You might seem too serious, too cold,
but the glitter doesn't make the gold. *

You look at me, I find your eyes
and it's like watching the moon rise.

You just smiled and it's not fair
that I'm falling and you don't care.

You're guilty yet not to blame,
you sparked the fire but I fanned the flame.

You have nothing to lose or win,
but I do have this battle within.

Shall I tell you, or shall I not?
Am I just giving this too much thought?

'Cause you won't notice, and if you would,
would you give us the chance to have something good?

Notes

1 Inspired by the
proverbs *Not all
that glitter is gold*¹
and *"Clothes don't
make the man.*





Valentina Oropel
Acrylic on canvas with embroidery, 2025

Listen to the
poem's musical
interpretation

by Valentino
Murciano



Rubik Poem

M. Celeste Arredondo

Yellow, blue, white
You cannot put it aside
Red, orange, green
The most colourful object you've ever
seen.

Each of its parts is
like each human being
you can divide
in this great gear assembly machine.

You can keep
each of us in our place
as if we were
all the same.

There you will begin to see
colourful combinations
as the ones you can perceive
when you move towards structural emancipation.

Or you can move us sideways
in a funny playful way
If you want
to make a change.

Don't be afraid
diversity is ok
Disorganized organization
in this newly-made creation.



Severance

Zoe Contreras

His last breath carried him a w a y
Through the quiet of the night
And the stillness of his

(loneliness)

Was felt inside the house

the same phone rang
In two different lands
Each of them d i s t a n t and cold
But they all shared the same blo~od

So these cells.. traveled ..for.. lo..ng..
To the place the call came from
To find him lying there
Even when he died he did

[alone]

The silence kept for years
He bro
 ke
with just one breath

And all the rivals there
Were a family once again

Lis Castro & Lourdes Rodríguez
Digital Photomontage, 2025



silencio era
dulce. El río que
era que venía
de la montaña
nada es
nada es





Contributors

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

María Celeste Arredondo

She is a 27-year-old student in the English Teaching Program at the School of Philosophy, Humanities and the Arts. She is interested in Cognitive Linguistics and submitted her poem to Serendipity to explore poetry and language as tools for self-expression.

Zoe Contreras

She is an 18-year-old student of English at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. Her writing style blends references to nature and vintage aesthetics. She seeks to recreate the past using modern techniques and has a strong passion for all forms of art.

Noah Escalante

He is a 24-year-old student of English at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. He has been drawn to poetry since childhood, though he only recently began writing. With a hunger for knowledge, he is excited to explore this creative path.

Valentina Lobos

She is a 22-year-old student of English at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts with a passion for literature, jazz, and all forms of art.

Ana Clara Yunes

She is a 20-year-old second-year student in the English Teaching and Research Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. She enjoys literature, history, cultural events, podcasts, and journaling. Passionate about language, she hopes to become a writer or lexicographer, and firmly believes that words hold immeasurable force and beauty.

María Magdalena Yunes

Known to everyone as Magda, she studies English at the School of Philosophy, Humanities and the Arts, inspired by her love of literature. She enjoys poetry from the Spanish Golden Age and admires 20th-century poets best known for their prose.

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL ARTS

Agustina Belén Arroyo

She is a 22-year-old advanced student in the Visual Arts Research and Teaching Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. Her artistic interests include drawing, textile art, porcelain craftsmanship, and engraving, among others. She loves horror and thriller movies, which strongly influence her work, and she particularly enjoys working with the skeleton figure.

Ramiro Bustos

He is a Visual Arts student. He mainly uses classical drawing and digital techniques in his work. He can be found on Instagram as @ram_bsts.

Erika Barbarita Camacho

She is an advanced student in the Visual Arts Teaching and Research Programs. She expresses her sensitivity through portraits and realistic paintings in which she captures gazes and landscapes in great detail. In the future, she sees herself working in teaching and creating art in order to restore the value of our homeland's culture and artistic heritage.

Lis Castro

She is 24 years old and was born in the province of San Juan, Argentina. She is a student in the Visual Arts Research and Teaching programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. She explores a variety of artistic disciplines independently

and her work engages with themes of chaos and darkness through a wide range of techniques and materials.

Priscila Castro

She is 24 years old and has a 4-year-old daughter. She's passionate about art and music, and adores her family. She hopes to graduate soon and get the chance to prove the importance of art in life.

Taila Chavez

She is a 22-year-old Visual Arts student with a deep passion for painting and drawing. She hopes to pursue a professional career in the arts, sharing the beauty of artistic expression and building a future doing what she loves.

Aylen Garcia

She is pursuing a BA degree in Visual Arts at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. She works with various techniques, ranging from graphite to oil and digital media. A lover of classic literature—and especially of Edgar Allan Poe—she found in a poem inspired by him the starting point for her piece in this issue. You can see more of her work on her Instagram account: [@_aylugarcia](#)

Maria Celeste Pinilla Masut

She is a Visual Arts student whose practice spans painting, photography, and collage, allowing her to explore a wide range of visual languages and develop a sensitive, experimental gaze. In addition to her artistic work, she has contributed to *Cuerpoescritura No. 3* magazine—an experience that has broadened the scope of her reflective and expressive pursuits.

Aldana Ramos

She is 21 years old and finds solace in painting and listening to music, often using these moments to escape her troubles. She also enjoys reflecting on different aspects of life while working out at the gym. For her, art is a deeply liberating experience, even

though she sometimes feels constrained by life itself. That is why she chose to pursue a degree in the Arts—to find a path toward personal freedom through creative expression.

Lourdes Rodríguez

She is a 24-year-old Visual Arts student at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. She is interested in photography, painting and carving. Her work explores the fragility of identity from both a sensitive and somber perspective.

Yamila Rojas

She is 28 years old and passionate about dancing and painting, activities she says help her stay grounded. She also enjoys listening to music and occasionally savoring a glass of wine. Before pursuing a degree in Visual Arts, she studied nursing. She hopes to work in both fields in the future.

Valeria Elisabet Saavedra

She is a 23-year-old student in the Visual Arts Research program at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. Her main artistic interests are textile art and painting—fields that deeply inspired her during her studies. Since then, she has dedicated herself to creating paintings and scarves, and holds a strong desire to further explore these artistic areas and continue developing her skills.

Evelin Ariana Seva

She is 24 years old and was born in the province of San Juan, Argentina. She is a Visual Arts teacher and is currently in the fourth year of the Visual Arts Research program at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. Her artistic interests include textile art and photography.

Lourdes Valentina Tejada

She is 22 years old and was born in the province of San Juan, Argentina. She is currently a fourth-year student in the Visual

Arts Research and Teaching programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. Her artistic interests include engraving and painting.

Dora Tamara Torres

She is 24 years old, born in San Juan and raised in Santa Cruz—her identity shaped by both places. She is pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Visual Arts, a program that provides her with a solid artistic foundation. She enjoys painting landscapes and surrealist works that explore emotions between the real and the imaginary. Her connection to art began thanks to the support of her parents and continues today out of pure passion. She seeks to expand her knowledge through various techniques, such as watercolor, mixed media, collage, and modeling.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

Elias Díaz

He is a student in the Music Education Teaching and Research Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. He is currently attending the course “Analysis and Composition I.”

Valentino Murciano

He is a student in the Music Education Teaching and Research Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. He is currently attending the course “Analysis and Composition I.”

Daniela Tapia

She is a student in the Music Education Teaching and Research Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts. She is currently taking the course “Analysis and Composition I.” Her interests include composition and arranging for choirs or piano accompaniment. She is participating as a composer in the project of setting poems from *Serendipity* magazine to music.

Rosa Inés Cúneo

Teacher of English for Secondary and Tertiary Education (National University of San Juan), MA in TEFL (University of Jaén, Spain). She previously served as a lecturer for “English Language IV” and Associate Professor for “English Language III”, and as a Deputy Head of the Department of English Language and Literature. She also worked as a researcher at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts (National University San Juan). She has presented at several local and national conferences, authored various publications, and been a member of academic evaluation committees at different universities in Argentina. She retired in 2022.

Rocío González Pastoriza

She holds an MA in Applied Linguistics and is a lecturer at the National University of San Juan. She is part of the teaching team for “English as a Foreign Language” in the Spanish Teaching and Research Programs, and for “English Grammar I” and “English Language III” in the English Teaching and Research Programs. She is one of the editors-in-chief of this issue of *Serendipity*. Apart from being an art enthusiast and avid reader, she also enjoys spending time in nature—especially hiking, one of her favorite activities.

Jimena Sol Olivares Waisman

Co-Editor-in-Chief of this issue of the magazine. Lecturer for “Anglophone Literature I” and “Literary Theory and Criticism” in the English Teaching and Research Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities and the Arts at the National University of San Juan. Her research interests include postmemory, Holocaust literature, trauma narratives, and the intersections between memory and ethics in literary representation. Outside of her scholarly work, she enjoys reading fantasy fiction and exploring the imaginative possibilities of storytelling.

María Camila Pérez

A member of the *Serendipity* editorial team. She is part of the teaching team for “English Language III” in the English Teaching and Research Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts at the National University of San Juan. Her research interests include writing theory and methodology to aid students in their development. In her free time, when she is not reading a good book or trying new recipes, she enjoys working out, doing water sports, and playing squash.

Marisel Bollati

She holds a degree as a Teacher of English for Higher Education and a Translation degree from the National University of Córdoba. She completed a Specialization Program for University Level Education and a Master Program in Linguistics at the National University of Cuyo. She taught various Language Courses from the Department of English Language and Literature at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts (National University of San Juan) and SFL graduate courses in San Juan and other provinces. She also led a research team until her retirement in 2019.

Alejandra Díaz

Former Lecturer for “Cultural Studies I” and “Cultural Studies II” from the Department of English Literature and Language at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts at the National University of San Juan. Former Head of the above-mentioned Department. Now retired, she enjoys reading fiction about religion and philosophy.

Fernando Pereyra

A member of the teaching team for “English Language III” and “English Grammar I” in the English Teaching and Research Programs at the School of Philosophy, Humanities, and the Arts at the National University of San Juan. He holds an MA in Applied Linguistics for the Teaching of Spanish as a Foreign Language, and is currently pursuing his doctoral degree in Linguistics. Passiona-

te about literature, he carries his admiration for Edgar Allan Poe quite literally—with a raven tattooed in homage to the author. Outside academia, he practices karate and enjoys the discipline and focus it brings to his daily life.

Ana Yanina Giménez Gil

She holds a BA in Visual Arts, a BA in Graphic Design, and an MA in Editorial Design. She is currently the Head of the Department of Visual Arts at the National University of San Juan, where she also teaches, conducts research, and engages in community outreach. She has worked in the Design and Communication Department of the Franklin Rawson Museum, focusing on the editing and layout of publications as well as exhibition identity and design. Her collaborations extend to artisans, artists, and self-managed cultural spaces, where she has been involved in managing, training, and promoting both institutional and independent projects. She has taken part in numerous outreach and research projects—serving as member, co-director, and director—all closely linked to the National University of San Juan.

Serendipity

CONTACT
serendipity@ffha.unsj.edu.ar



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