

somethingdark

writers : fiction

contributor information pack

We need to say this at the outset: SomethingDark (SDk) is at the beginning of its life; it has been created by two professionals in their respective fields as a contribution to international culture, and as yet we cannot afford to pay contributors. However, SDk is a long-term project and we will be generating revenue; when we can pay contributors, we will be delighted to do so. We are well aware that photographers, artists and writers cannot live on fresh air, and deserve to derive a living from their creative and intellectual talent.

In the meantime, *SomethingDark* webMagazine is a collaborative effort that should prove very rewarding for contributors who think the magazine has worth independent of a monetary value. *SomethingDark* webMagazine and the broader SDk website have been designed to give contributors, high-quality exposure, and our goal is to make SomethingDark a highly regarded presence internationally that will be sought out for its cultural vision, quality of presentation and technical innovation. We think you will be impressed, and we hope you will want to participate. Copyright, of course, will remain with the contributor in all instances.

If you haven't looked at our "[What is SDk?](#)" page, perhaps now is a good time to do so, and while there, please consider downloading and reading the "more What is SDk?" document; likewise, browsing the magazine will serve as a guide to our orientation, aesthetics and sense of quality.

Featured literature writer

A creative writer will be featured in every issue of *SomethingDark* webMagazine. We keep in touch with what is happening in our field of interest, and, accordingly, we like to choose our writers (and poets) and to issue invitations to contribute to the magazine. However, we may also be happy to consider unsolicited approaches to contribute if you are producing edgy, innovative and polished creative writing you feel is suitable, and bear in mind that each issue of the magazine is constructed according to a unique theme.

In addition to other fiction and/or poetry that may appear in the Literature section of a given issue, we will publish one principal piece of creative writing: a short story. The length we are looking for is in the range of 1,300–2,900 words. Or, if the featured writer prefers, we will publish three pieces of very short fiction (500–900 words) instead of one longer piece. Poetry we think is compatible will also be considered for publication. All short fiction and poetry should not have been published previously in the same form as submitted for inclusion in *SomethingDark* webMagazine (we will accept revised versions of previously published work, but details of previous publication should be provided so we can include appropriate acknowledgement), and the author should be the copyright holder of such writing.

As the featured writer or poet, we will conduct an interview with you that will focus on you and your work; the interview will appear in the Literature section directly following your story or poetry. We will also ask you to contribute a short nonfiction piece on a topic of your choice to be included, depending on topic, either in the Nonfiction section or in the Literature section of the magazine. We will encourage you to take this opportunity to express a more overt opinion on broader issues of literature, art, culture, society or even politics or economics, as we are keen to promote creative writers as "real", three-dimensional people who have something thought-provoking to say about the world around them.*

* These nonfiction and interview articles, along with your short bio in your profile, will be professionally edited documents that should serve you well in the future. We will provide you with PDF files of all documents; please feel free to use them as you see fit, but in using them, please also credit SomethingDark with the editing and preparation of the documents.

The larger SDk website will host a basic profile on your behalf; we construct this profile especially for our Contributor Directory, and only for SDk contributors. Your profile will include active links to your website(s) and/or to your web pages hosted by third-party sites, up to a total of four URLs. Third-party sites will be vetted by us and linked at our discretion.

Readers of *SomethingDark* webMagazine will have direct access to your profile from the Issue Credits in the issue of the magazine in which your short fiction or poetry is published. Visitors to the SDk website will have easy access to all back issues of the magazine; they will also be able to access the profiles of all contributors through SDk's Contributor Directory menu.

We will keep your profile up-to-date, including links to external websites, if you notify us and supply us with your updated material. If you haven't already done so, please visit our [Want to Contribute?](#) page and download the "SDK contributor profiles" PDF, which explains profiles and our Contributor Directory in more detail.

The featured theme

The core of each issue's theme is contained in a mid-magazine feature entitled "Featured Fetish". The title of this section reflects SDk's history and contributors should note that our definition of "fetish" is extremely broad and very often will not correspond with what might traditionally be regarded as a fetish. The purpose of this section of the magazine is to provide extra scope to explore edgier, more controversial subject matter and to provide a forum for unconventional treatment of more conventional themes. SDk themes are chosen well in advance of issue preparation and are determined at our discretion.

The work of photographers and artists who specialise in or have an affinity with subject matter that coincides with the theme of a particular issue of *SomethingDark* webMagazine will be at the heart of this feature. The Featured Fetish section does not include dedicated short fiction, but we seek to coordinate the short fiction or poetry in the Literature section with its theme. We expect that, in some cases, the theme might provide writers with both inspiration and a creative challenge.

The short story's thematic link to the Featured Fetish section will work with SDk's Fetish Directory (implemented with SDk04), which will list all the magazine's published themes under an easily accessible menu; this device will give even greater accessibility to the SDk-published work of creative writers.