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Letter from the Literary Editors

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LETTER FROM THE LITERARY EDITORS

EMILY OLSON AND SARAH YUNG

"I give you this to take with you: Nothing remains as it was. If you know this, you can begin again, with pure joy in the uprooting."—Judith Minty

Stories are told in negative parabolas. As writers, we are taught to arc the narrative from beginning to climax, and to allow the events to fall into cathartic conclusion. Such a structure provides the writer with predictable patterns in which to tell events and provides the reader with emotional release.

This year's *Calliope* chooses not to follow the narrative arc. Denouement, or the sense of cathartic resolution, is absent from most of the pieces selected to appear in this volume. These writings are, in essence, the absence of denouement. Instead, they unabashedly embrace the first half of narrative: the origin and birth of a story.

Fittingly, the theme of this issue of *Calliope* is "Renascentia." This Latin phrase, meaning renaissance and rebirth, was chosen to

characterize the introspection and bravery of the authors whose works are featured here. This volume is born from the simultaneous passion and vulnerability of writers who are telling their own stories in their own way for the first time.

Sometimes, it is harder to challenge the past than it is to face the future. The past is amorphous and can only be characterized through memory, which itself is ambiguous. This volume of *Calliope* confronts the past with unrestrained vivacity, emotion, and heartbreak. The

works reflected here are our textual commitments to telling the stories that are conflicting, equivocal, and unashamedly real.

We invite you to find joy in our authors' freedom.