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Letter from 2017 Literary Editors

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As artists of all varieties can attest, sharing your work with the world is no easy task. It requires a willingness to be vulnerable that takes a great deal of courage to achieve. As writers, what we do when we choose to publish is bare our truth to the world. No matter what style we may use or what subjects we may grapple with, our writing serves as a window into our hearts and minds. By sharing our work, we invite others to look within.

As we examined the works compiled in this year’s issue of Calliope, it was this metaphorical window to which we kept returning. We were interested in the dialogue that appears between author and audience, artist and viewer, which creates a unique and intimate bond through a shared perspective. In order to truly appreciate the reality that a writer lays out on the page, a reader must be invested and engaged. This intertwining between author and audience is what inspired this year’s theme of “Reciprocity.”

Calliope is laid out in pairs of student art and literary pieces. These pairings are not by accident. Both the literary and visual teams systematically and thoroughly find the works that compliment one another. One could say that there is a sense of reciprocity between them because although the pieces are strong individually, they are even stronger when placed alongside the other.

As you look through this year’s edition of Calliope, don’t just look at the literary and art pieces separately, look at the pairings as a whole to truly absorb the mood of that spread. I hope you enjoy this years edition!

—Alexandra McBride, Visual Editor-in-Chief 2017

Reciprocity, which in contemporary use refers to an exchange for mutual benefit, comes from the Latin reciprocus, meaning “moving backward and forward.” This, too, captured our attention, as it suggests an internal reciprocity created by the works themselves. What engages us in writing is a tension between past and present, conflict and resolution. Taking part in this complex back and forth may be difficult, but it is ultimately what makes our stories rewarding.

Even as you are looking in on the miniature universe contained within these pages—the love, the agony, the endurance, the joy—we ask you to carry something away with you as well, something previously undiscovered. Our creators have opened a door—now all you have to do is step inside.

—Kathryn Harlan-Gran, Literary Editor-in-Chief 2017