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Letter from 2016 Literary Editors

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LETTER FROM 2016 LITERARY EDITORS

If we're being honest, we must concede that art is physiologically nonessential to the fundamental act of living. Yet it is this very non-essentiality that gives art its pricelessness: We spend our lives consuming art in a variety of forms, seeking at turns entertainment, comfort, meaning, and community.

In these divisive times, this final aspect is especially important to foster. Art holds such a vital role in building and strengthening community because its consumption nurtures empathy. Literature, photography, painting, sculpture, film, music, and more—they all invite us to reconsider the world around us. Art serves as both mirror and reflection, subject and lens.

Of course, our endorsement might be a bit biased. After graduating, we both chose to pursue advanced writing degrees: for Sarah, an MFA in Creative Writing from The New School, and for Emily, an MS in Journalism from the University of Oregon. Currently, Emily serves as the Editor-in-Chief of FLUX Magazine, and Sarah is the Managing Editorial Intern at HarperCollins. We recognize

our privilege in being able to pursue these courses of study in the first place. After all, neither degree guarantees a lucrative career. We're frequently pressed to confront and justify our desire to engage in creative written expression by friends, family, strangers—even ourselves. Yet while our chosen paths do not promise financial security, they do allow us the luxury of spending time in spaces where creative thought and emerging voices are sought, valued, and nourished.

At Pacific, Calliope provides such a space for developing undergraduate artists. As many of us can attest, there is nothing quite so encouraging as that initial recognition and appreciation of your potential. Calliope grants that gleaming opportunity, that tantalizing taste of what it's like to join and shape a community through your artistic endeavors.

We hope the following works succeed in shining some light into your life, refining the lens through which you view the world.

—Sarah Yung and Emily Olson, Literary Editors 2016