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Introduction - Intertext 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The editors of *Intertext* welcome you to the 2023 issue of the publication. “Life grows out of words, but death dwells in silence.” In *Fish Have No Feet*, Jón Kalman Stefánsson sets forth the idea that what we reflect on in life becomes the driving force for our writing.

Our department, Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition at Syracuse University, pro-

vides an opportunity for students to communicate with the world by studying and engaging with rhetoric. Each piece of writing in this edition showcases this engagement, highlighting the author’s insightful ideas and profound emotions. *Intertext* devotes itself to sustaining the vitality of words and their significant power.

The contributing authors in this issue have shown us that power by bringing up timely

conversations, considering the past and self in meaningful ways, and sharing how various life experiences have shaped their overall identities and perception of time and space.

As their editors, we are proud to present their voices: the powerful voices of a diverse array of undergraduate students and community members from across the Syracuse campus, including from within the department.

The work on the following pages accomplishes many things: it tells, it questions, it explains, it perceives, but most of all, it reflects. It shows us, through careful nuance and passionate presentation, the issues and stories that mean something to our authors. It highlights issues and stories that should mean something to all of us.

Our editors come from a broad range of ages and personal experience, but *Intertext* brings us all together as one. For the months that we worked on this publication, we shared invaluable experiences and created new friendships that many of us will cherish forever. *Intertext* not only brought some of the most unique writing pieces together from the Syracuse community, but it also brought some of the most unique individuals together. We shared many laughs—and a few tears—over the pieces featured in this year’s edition. Our process was chaotically collaborative and a worthwhile experience for all of us. We hope that as you read, you will find yourself laughing at the texts, sitting with your emotions, or reflecting on your own experiences as we did.

This publication could not have been possible without the help of many. We hold sincere gratitude and profoundly thank our amazing professor, Patrick W. Berry, for leading us in this process. Without his passion

and guidance, we would not have been able to get the publication on its feet. He has not only taught us to persevere and problem solve, but he has taught us to appreciate every step of the process—from the hundreds of papers scattered on the table to the final bounded product. Professor Berry truly is the heart of *Intertext*.

We warmly thank Benay Bubar for providing us with professional guidance in editing the publications in a way that enhanced the authors’ words yet preserved their authenticity. This glimpse into professional editing ignited a spark in many of our editors’ eyes. We also extend our gratitude to Wendy Mansfield, who provided guidance on our layouts. Thank you to the judges of the Louise Wetherbee Phelps Awards and the Margaret Himley Award for Critical Encounters through Writing: Dan Brown, Tony Scott, Gael Sweeney, and Gabriella Wilson.

Lastly, we extend thankfulness and gratitude to all of our contributing authors and artists for their submissions. Their well-crafted and thought-provoking work is the foundation of *Intertext*. We have felt lucky to have had the privilege of reading, working with, and presenting it in this collection. We hope that these pieces help Syracuse University grow for the better: not just by showing us what changes we may need to make, but by reminding us how rich and vibrant our community can be when we listen and reflect with each other.

“This is why we must continue to write, to narrate, to mutter verses and curses,” says Jón Kalman Stefánsson.

And *Intertext* shall continue to listen.

—Ruyin Li, Katherine Nikolau, and Kathryn Wood