

# Editorial

Before we begin, we'd like to thank all the amazing contributors and reviewers whose hours of labour made Vol. 2 of *Spectrum* possible. A special thanks goes to Clare-Marie de Souza, Sarah Woodburn, and Ariel Takach for taking on a bulk of reviews and for being wonderful MECSUS Executive members this past year. An additional thank you to Ariel, for creating our beautiful cover art, which perfectly embodies the themes of *Spectrum*.

For both of us, overtaking *Spectrum* as this year's Editor(s)-in-Chief has been an incredibly daunting, yet fulfilling task. After spending three years in the English and Cultural Studies program, fostering the space for our fellow peers to express themselves and proudly showcase their work was a responsibility we did not take lightly. Our program is unique in that we are invited to look at and dissect the numerous perspectives which inform writing and creation. Representing young and diverse voices has always been our priority as a journal; we strive to uplift and celebrate queer, disabled, BIPOC, and other marginalized voices across McMaster University. With the introduction of the Creative Writing and Narratives Arts Certificate this year, we only hope to see more students exploring and nurturing their creative writing talents. We were absolutely blown away by some of the pieces we've included in this volume; the notion that more writers will be given the opportunity to take creative writing courses this year makes us so excited for the future.

This year, we have hired a brand-new group of editors who will be joining our editorial team: Non-fiction Editor(s) Alyssa Mendonca and Ruth Moon Lopez, Fiction Editor Kyle Constantin (whose work "Divisions" is featured in this volume!), and Poetry Editor Victoria Vernassa. We are so excited about our new editorial team and what they will bring to the table as the future of *Spectrum*.

Lastly, we want to thank our former Editor(s)-in-Chief Sean Dayes and Rebecca DeWael. Sean, we thank you for creating the McMaster English and Cultural Studies Undergraduate Society (MECSUS) and its associated journal *Spectrum* in 2019. Having a place to connect with people within our program over the course of the pandemic has resulted in a beautiful community that we only hope will grow. Rebecca, thank you for passing the torch to us and creating the foundation of *Spectrum*, a journal that has created the unique opportunity for undergraduate students to see themselves in print. With that, we hope you enjoy *Spectrum* Vol. 2: The Sequel.

*Hiru Batepola and Mayson Broccoli-Romanowska  
MECSUS Presidents and Spectrum Editor(s)-in-Chief*