

Introduction

Audrey Ronningen
Antigone Bowden

With this issue of *Emergence*, we continue to provide a space for undergraduate literary criticism and fiction. This year's selection includes pieces that deal with canonic works, yet many of these authors also go beyond the scope of this approach in drawing on a wide variety of themes, genres, and mediums in their research. The UCSB English Department encourages an interdisciplinary approach to scholarship, which we believe is reflected in the work of our featured authors.

The first section, "Resurgence," presents the completed works of second-year students in the Arnhold Program. While the texts discussed in these pieces come from many different time periods and are associated with varying literary movements, they are unified by a shared theme: the experience of the socially constructed, marginalized Other. An essay on the dystopian novel *Never Let Me Go* discusses the notion of dehumanization as a consequence of biomedical engineering, which draws parallels with another piece, whose reading of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* explores the colonialism and consequent xenophobia of Victorian England.

In "Response," which showcases the developing projects of first-years, we move to a thematic examination of morality and pertinent issues such as religion, violence, and war. In one piece on French existentialist literature, the author examines the role of children in asking the eternal question 'Why?' Similarly, another author details the ethical complexities of representing traumas such as genocide and torture through the lens of literature.

The title of our third section is "Amorphous," which indicates the experimental nature of its content. While each work included here is grounded in academic research, these pieces transcend conventional notions of literary criticism. Many are interdisciplinary in their subject matter, with one article showing certain intersections between literature and film. Another of our author's work takes the form of a poem, serving as a creative response to the artwork of Romantic painter Caspar David Friedrich,

Research of this nature is often only pursued in a graduate setting, and the Arnhold Program was designed to give students a chance to develop their own projects as they further familiarize themselves with literary criticism. The result of their work is presented in the following pages, which contain a diverse selection of ideas both traditional and forward thinking.

Sincerely,

Antigone Bowden
Audrey Ronningen
Justin Astorino
Maya Jacobson
Morgan Bicher
Morgan Schuler