



*From the Desk of the Editor...*

(A microphone clicks.)

"There is, for me at least, a somewhat fantastical and mesmerizing idea of what Modernity is supposed to look like, or at least appear to look like."

"As a boy, it was called futurism. Flying cars, food that reconstituted in microwaves, primarily Luc Besson's *The Fifth Element*, with me cast as Bruce Willis, and some beautiful, young girl next door type cast to play Mila Jovovich's, Leeloo. And yet the belief in futurism as a boy seemed so much brighter than it is now with all the texting and twerking, Miley Cyrus, and the death of Rock'n'roll. Essentially, futurism is now present-tense modernism, or modernity, but not the modernity we all hoped for in 2017. So what happened? How did this happen? Where did all of that seemingly unmade, yet dramatized nostalgia of what the future should look like go? And how did we become the seemingly bland tourists that we are in the course of human existence."

"Hm."

"Well."

"The book before you, now, attempts to answer at least one of those questions, as a beautiful marriage--a polygamist marriage, if you will--exists here where poetry and prose, are and text are forged together to create a representation of our world based solely through the eyes and pens of these collected auteurs."

"Now, surely you will not believe this book to be unconditionally perfect. What is these days anyway...?"

"And surely you should not take everything you read here as genuine earnestness. Though, I guarantee you might, with at least a few of these poems considered, by me at least, to be pure genius. As well as the fiction and non-fiction pieces consisting of steady hands and moving prose. As I said, this book has a heart, a heart made of art at the center, quite literally, that creates a web of purity that can only come from the minds of serious and well-deserved authors and artists—"

"Authors and artists who, in living and breathing in the twenty-first century, have found a way to pull life from the earth and existence, and express themselves aesthetically utilizing prose, poems, and art."

"So, now, let's begin, shall we?"

"Let's turn the page and dive deep into the imagination of these now published authors and artists."

"Shine a light and begin."

"Begin."

"Now."

"Now."

"Begin..."

-March 24, 2017

