



## Preface

### **P**erceptions of Self in Society as Viewed through Literature and the Arts: A Deliberation on the Fundamental Unearthing of the Individual

Humanists instinctively explore  
social potential through the dual processes  
*of self*  
reflection and abstraction. It is with these  
concepts that we begin to bridge the schism  
(as academics, as poets, as teachers)  
between the more compulsory  
functions of prose and aestheticism... an  
*appreciation*  
that the intrinsic beauty of creation endures.

Literature and Art are the same—  
They help us conceive the illusive nature  
*of self*  
through a vast deluge in the hidden fissure  
of Certainty. Creative visionaries  
forever have the immense potential to change  
the peculiar ways we picture  
individual uniqueness, thus revealing  
*perception*  
as one of the most deceitful of mind games.

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It is helpful then, that we retreat  
 to creative works as a vital expression  
     *of self,*  
 and we should feel a distinct obligation  
 to imbue others with this artistic view  
 of the multitudinous nature of psyche—  
 As it's this type of investigation  
 that allows us to completely develop new  
     *acculturation,*  
 and accomplish empathy sans vanity.

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For as long as I can remember,  
 I have been fascinated with the concept  
     *of self.*  
 In my younger years I sought enlightenment  
 through the writings of Thoreau and Emerson,  
 and as I grew older I found familiar  
 context in Mead's works and Buddhist texts.  
 With that said, I believe that nothing heightens  
     *awareness*  
 more than thoughtful discussion on the matter.

And so, this *Humanities Review*  
 seeks to distinguish how we define that sense  
     *of self,*  
 by exploring the societal lenses  
 through which we so intently identify.  
 The ten contributors to this special issue  
 have carefully selected comments  
 that challenge some commonly classified  
     *reflections...*

They present us with an exceptional view:  
     *on identification* through labeling and ambiguity  
     *on deterioration* through fiction and documentary  
     *on definition* through melody and philosophy  
 and     *on reinvention* through migration and performativity.

They have ascribed meaning beyond the purview  
 of the default, popular theories  
 in order to express ego *on* and *through*  
     *the written word.*  
 And, in the importance of these endeavors,  
 I too firmly believe. So, let us approach  
 this innovation collectively...  
     as we deliberate consciously  
     on this fundamental unearthing.

### Acknowledgements

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