

Editorial

Vera Fibisan

The 19th issue of Route 57 celebrates creative writing and art under the theme of 'dwelling' in all its forms. Within its virtual covers are works of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and art showcasing the talent of The University of Sheffield and the vibrant community that it houses. A 'dwelling' is any place of residence for human, nonhuman, and more-than-human inhabitants. The concept of dwelling is heavily challenged, triggering a wide range of migration events due to the destruction or absence of dwellings as a result of ecocatastrophes, military conflict, or social inequalities. The migratory track then becomes a temporary dwelling place also explored in this issue, a passage from one abode to the next, where sometimes the journey is reversed, either by will, or necessity, or it is not. There is a perception of space and place, as well as a self reflective process.

This is an issue of dwellings past, present, desired and imagined, of dwellings as enclosed or open spaces, where dwellers are running from or towards. It considers the different types of dwellings that humans, nonhumans, and more-than-humans prefer or are forced to dwell in, and how these help shape identities, cultures, and social systems. This is an issue of treasures lost and found, of inhabiting, of the in-between. Within its pages there is comfort, but more often than not, there is discomfort. Bodies resonate with their surroundings resulting in changed or altered relationships to place and space. The works in this issue demonstrate that we have the power necessary to transform or alter our dwellings for better or for worse, and this may require a fight, but it is not an impossible feat.

The notion of 'dwelling' demands intimacy as much as it does community; it allows us to retreat in our burrows and emerge in social connection to inhabitants of other burrows, with the knowledge that all these spaces are in some way connected and do not exist in isolation, wherever they may be. Just like the swift sleeping on the wing, the work included in this issue is a constant reminder that we dwell in shifts of space, light, and air, permanently intermittent.

Experimental Writing Prize - Shortlisted

Head Judge:
Clare Fisher

*The University of Sheffield's
Creative Writing Journal*