

Editor's Introduction

Crossings, volume three

Jane Barter

The cover art for this volume is titled “Pulse.” When I asked its creator about its inspiration, Shanelle St. Hilaire said that she sought to bring together contrasting texture and colour, thereby “creating a sense of strength and togetherness within opposing forces.” The constellation of these forces is pulse, an energy that is our very life. Of course, art is bountiful in its evocations, and I thought immediately of the tragic shooting that occurred in 2016 in the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, as the life force of vibrant young people was forever surrendered to the deadly targeted violence that seems to characterize our times. It struck me that most of the student authors of this volume have had their university career marked by such scenes of violence aimed at innocent life: the Pulse shooting, Charlottesville, water cannons at Standing Rock, the massacre in the Sainte-Foy Mosque.

And so this volume represents to me a signal that this generation of young scholars is unwilling to allow hatred to be victorious. Each of these essays presents a challenge to the deadly xenophobia that has been unleashed since Trump, as authors trace sources of injustice and offer alternative modes of human flourishing—through literature, education, spirituality, political resistance and change. In short, this is a volume that, in spite of it all, is manifestly hopeful. Hope remains a steady pulse, defiant and undeterred.

I wish to thank the student authors who contributed to this volume of essays. They have worked diligently with faculty professors,

mentors (the editors of this volume), and with me in order to prepare the essays that you have before you. Their concern for making the world a better place through critical analysis and constructive proposals for change is inspiring. We, the faculty at The University of Winnipeg, have been fortunate indeed to have worked with them.

I wish to offer my deepest appreciation for the dedicated work of the editorial board: Adina Balint, Michael Dudley, Peter Miller, Matthew Flisfeder, Jacqueline McLeod Rogers, Danielle Gaucher, and Matt Dyce. Thanks are also due to Aaron Demeter who worked diligently as my research assistant throughout this project. I wish to offer special and heartfelt thanks to Michael Hohner for the countless hours he spent typesetting and preparing this volume for publication.

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