

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the 2nd edition of *Caribbean Quilt*. Our first edition is now part of the collection at Ivey Library at the University of Toronto as well as the University of Guyana. This year's publication features over 20 pieces from over 20 authors. These authors are truly remarkable people: they include undergraduates, performers, teachers, PhD candidates, even aspiring professors. Moreover, many of the papers within this journal will be presented at this year's CERLAC Conference held at York University. Some were selected not simply by us as student editors, but by professors who made a concerted effort to have their student's best work showcased.

Aside from our Caribbean focus, describing a unifying theme is something we purposefully avoid, though critical thinking is certainly fuelling this little enterprise. Maybe the best phrase that sums up this edition is "these systems are not our own." 'Systems' as a signifier of the contemporary fixed economic, political, cultural (all good students are now supposed to say 'social') state of affairs may leap from the page more than the rest of the above words. 'Systems' sound omnipresent, totalitarian, menacing and conspiratorial. Most of the pieces found here are not in disagreement: they stress the structural or institutional limitations of the present "post-colonial" situation, and see continuities with the old rather than blindly accepting the self-congratulating, utopian "new world".

The first sixteen to seventeen essays, poems and pull-outs can be roughly broken down into 4 comprehensive regional sections, they should not be read as independent of one another but rather as interrelated and overlapping. The first section focuses on Guyana, the second Haiti, the third Jamaica and the final, the French and Spanish Caribbean. The pieces after these relate to issues of female agency during carnival, gendered and racial oppression in slave societies, migration, tourism, and the environment.

Any type of subversion today is hard to come by and is often doomed from the outset. That is why "our" (in "these systems are not our own") may be more necessary than ever, the carving out of a "we" however small as a response to a vast totality, a type of micro challenge, if you will. Little CARSSU has grown and with it a community; a "we" *has* taken shape that along with the creation of this journal, has been deeply fulfilling for those involved.

Editors,
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