

Letter from the Editors

Upon announcing this year's *The Oracle* theme, we were met with many questions—*how broad is the theme? How strict is the theme? What does the theme mean?*

On **beginnings and endings**, we present a vast collection of works: from the study of where the self ends and the public persona begins with virtual performers to the examination of how nature becomes a subject of honor when observed by society, and how the beginning of a new age of AI and devaluation of wisdom may instead be a phenomenon occurring since the conception of the practice of Philosophy.

This edition is an opportunity to look at the thoughts of a fresh generation of philosophers, and it is no surprise that many of them are occupied with the ethics and metaphysics of virtual realities, Artificial Intelligence, and the environment.

While some of this year's submissions explicitly explored origins and ends, others engaged the theme in more oblique ways: through allusions to nostalgia; through the defense of that which seems lost; by revealing an escape-hatch—a door, a threshold—all the while questioning what it would mean to stand before it, step through it, or linger between. Clarity and consensus are no guarantee. We must acknowledge that our discussions occur in context—shaped by our present, our past, and our futures: beginnings, ends, and perhaps always, necessarily, both.

In a year shaped by accelerating global change and instability, this issue of *The Oracle* showcases the resilience of critical thought and discussion. We hope our readers take from it what they need and continue the work of reflection beyond these pages.

With a resounding “thank you” to the Philosophia team, the rest of *The Oracle* team and, of course, our brilliant writers and creatives, we invite you to read *The Oracle's* 2026 edition. Because what good is art without an audience, or science without peer review?

Thomas Michael Covert-Pareja
Editor-in-Chief, *The Oracle*



Mirabelle Martin
Editor-in-Chief, *The Oracle*

