



“It is true, we shall be
monsters, cut off from all the
world; but on that account we
shall be more attached to one
another.”

– MARY SHELLEY, *Frankenstein*

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

2025 has been a funny year.

When we began work on *Satura* Volume 7 back in January, choosing the theme DEFORMED felt almost playful. I was excited by the idea of shifting away from *homeness* and belonging toward something more off-kilter—uncanny, grotesque, misaligned. I imagined gothic shadows, eerie transformations, body horror. Monsters, even. It felt amazingly unsettling.

But as the submissions arrived, the theme grew teeth.

DEFORMED became less about aesthetics and more about experience. Writers explored what it means to already feel misshapen by the world, to exist outside what is considered “normal,” or to be hurt so deeply that the damage reshapes you. Deformation appeared not only as something inflicted, but as something lived with, sometimes resisted, sometimes reclaimed. I was blown away by how personal, vulnerable, and inventive these interpretations were.

I think we often turn to stories of monsters and deformation when we’re at our lowest — not only to wallow (though, yes, sometimes that too), but to feel seen. To recognize ourselves in fangs, scars, and shadows. To realize that the things that make us strange might also connect us. That we’re not alone in feeling fractured or altered.

This has certainly been true for me. 2025 has been challenging (hence the delay — thanks for your patience) and during difficult moments I tend to lean heavily on sad stories or music. My Spotify Wrapped tells me my top genre was Southern Gothic and I belong to the ‘Soft Hearts Club’. I’m still not entirely sure what that means, but I think I understand the feeling: beauty tangled with decay, sorrow turned into song, monsters rendered tender.

I believe that spirit runs through this volume. Within these pages, our authors and editors have transformed the theme into something artistic, unsettling, and at times even beautiful. We are deeply grateful to the writers who trusted us with such sensitive, intimate work, and to our editors who handled these pieces with care, respect, and thoughtfulness. This volume exists because of their dedication.

And to you, our readers: thank you for stepping into this strange, deformed world with us. We hope you find something here that unsettles you, comforts you, or makes you feel understood. After all, monsters are rarely as alone as they think.

With love,
Verena Meyer