


*“Arts and sciences are branches
of the same tree.”*

- Albert Einstein

The arts and sciences share the same mission: to better understand the world around us, and our place in it. Scientists and artists investigate, experiment, interpret, and innovate—all tasks that require creativity and skill. At their core, both are motivated by wonder.

In this issue, poet Phillip Brown navigates the uncertain times of COVID-19 by exploring themes of isolation and hope. Brown, a former editor of this magazine, contrasts the flow of news and data against patterns of nature—the speed of information and light, the mathematical shape of bird flight—echoing our universal search for order in times of chaos.

Unsplash photo by Muhammad Salman Khan Afridi



Screens and windows light the night,
separate stars in a larger constellation—
still awake, we are lonely together.

Over and over we trace the curves of data
as if we could chart our way through this darkfall,
these hours deeper now with unknowns:

the next hope, next headline. All our discoveries
wait like seeds under soil. Somewhere in the woods
creatures bioluminesce, making their own shine.

Waves ceaseless in their work
polish sand to glass—the moon doubles
and the night is half as dark.

THIS DARKFALL

Through telescope or microscope we find a cosmos,
a history of chaos and choreography, this dance
of progress toward tomorrow.

Earth turns 1,000 miles per hour, and soon
the sunrise will travel 186,282 miles per second
to your eyes. How urgently dawn arrives!

At your back door, you watch a line of birds
shift and arc in the air, parabolic, a restless thread.
You trace this too, hoping to read the answer

to your questions. Though birds are not words,
this morning—like every morning—is a sentence,
and we are tasked to finish it.