

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

The Editorial Board of the international peer-reviewed scientific journal *Culture Crossroads* is proud to present a particularly rich and wide-ranging volume of scientific papers. With 19 contributions from esteemed scholars and experts, this volume captures a rich tapestry of perspectives, theories, and empirical studies on an array of critical themes.

This edition has been completed entirely within our new open online editing system, and by means of an enhanced peer-review procedure – thus the diversity and quality of the articles surpasses our expectations in both scope and depth. We invite you to be acquainted or re-acquainted with this collection's authors and their latest exciting work on issues as varied as arts consumption, public participation, dark heritage, historic architectural styles, television documentaries and narrating mothering experience on Twitter.

In keeping with the goal of the journal to provide space for original interdisciplinary research on a wide range of cultural and creative issues, we have welcomed an outstandingly diverse set of articles. However, for the sake of clarity and user-friendliness, we have divided these 19 articles into four broad sections.

The first section presents eight articles that address arguably more general issues in the ecosystem of the cultural and creative entities. Can cultural consumption be a source of social solidarity? Can there be better systems of recognition and support for cultural and creative professionals? Can translators and interpreters be considered a creative class? Can municipal cultural centres enhance access to cultural services? This is just a selection of issues that the authors debate in this section. The section includes the articles by Liene Ozoliņa and Anda Laķe, Ieva Zemīte, Anthony Hoyte-West, Agnese Hermane and Ilona Kunda, Līga Vinogradova, Žanete Eglīte, Elza Ēķe and Dita Pfeifere.

The second section of the volume zooms in on specific heritage technologies, architectural styles, and personalities, addressing issues related to dark heritage in Žanis Lipke Memorial, the research at Stāmeriena Palace, the value of Ernests Štālbergs' modernism, and the political activities of the poets Aspazija and Rainis.

The authors showcased in this section are Diāna Popova, Zane Grigoroviča and Kristiāna Paula Lībiete, Signe Grūbe, Karīna Horsta, Anna Freiberga and Ieva Kalniņa.

The third section zooms in even further, and the reader is invited to join the authors in their exploration of intricacies of stylistics of specific artists – visual and cinematic –, and includes the analysis of representation of non-human species in ecotheatre in Latvia in three performances. These studies have been crafted by Zane Balčus, Kitija Balcare, Daniela Zacmane, and Iveta Feldmane.

The final section of the collection takes up the theme of language and narrative. We are pleased to present two scientific explorations: Elza Lāma and Gatis Lāma on narrating mothering experience on Twitter, and Elīna Veinberga on comparing phraseological units in Latvian and English.

As you can see, this year's assembly of articles encompasses a broad spectrum of topics, reflecting the dynamic nature of the cultural, creative, artistic and linguistic fields. From the intersections of technology and artistic expression to the socio-economic impact of cultural initiatives, these contributions promise a captivating and nuanced journey. The depth and breadth of insights presented here serve as a testament to the ever-evolving landscape of culture, art and language, inviting readers to delve into multifaceted discussions that transcend disciplinary boundaries.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated authors whose rigorous research and scholarly contributions have enriched this volume.

We trust that this collection will serve as a valuable resource for academics, practitioners, and enthusiasts alike, fostering dialogue, sparking new ideas, and inspiring further exploration into the intricate dynamics of the cultural and creative realms.

Yours sincerely,

**Ilona Kunda**  
Deputy Editor-in-Chief  
*Culture Crossroads*