Editorial

At the dawn of its sixth year of publication, the editorial board of *Ars Artium* beams with a deep sense of elation. The heights which *Ars Artium* has soared within the five years of its publication, add to this sense of permissible pride. Besides getting indexed to various international directories and databases with a view to being visible and available to a wider readership, it is also crowned with the recognition from the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India.

Volume VI of *Ars Artium* consists of seventeen research papers on various topics from different areas within the purview of Humanities and Social Sciences, six book reviews and fifteen poems composed by twelve poets from various countries around the different continents.

The present volume consists of two critical articles on poetry. In his article "'The Divine Image' and 'A Divine Image'", a triadic analysis of a pair of William Blake's poems is made by **Prof. Chiramel Paul Jose,** concentrating on the painting, the illuminated text and their relationship to the *Bible*, and an attempt is made to establish that Blake, unlike in many other 'Innocence and Experience' poems, preferred only the Innocence poem and did not at all endorse the experience version. In her illuminating paper "Spiritual Quest in Vijay Kumar Roy's *Realm of Beauty and Truth: A Collection of Poems",* **Dr. Somasundari Latha** rightfully relishes the relentless quest for spirituality as she experiences it through the lines of various poems by Dr. Vijay Kumar Roy. She consolidates that going through these poems one is enriched and would learn that love allows one to find only the good things in other men and animals and 'that good thing' is known as truth. This absolute truth is the Divine Spirit; and merger of our soul with the Divine soul and this provides us with eternal bliss and happiness.

There are seven studies related to prose fiction inclusive of short stories. Out of them two are critical studies related to the Nigerian predicament of war and conflicts. **Mr. Robert Obioha**'s paper "Depiction of Women as Resourceful Social Service Providers in *Sunset at Dawn* and *Half of a Yellow Sun*", attempts to comprehensively analyze the various portrayals of women as resourceful social service providers during the Nigerian Civil War as is evident from Chukwuemeka Ike's *Sunset at Dawn* and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Half of a Yellow Sun.* As the sub-title of the article points out, **Dr. Evelyn Nwachukwu Urama**'s paper "Literature and the Society: Lack of Patriotism and Unity of Purpose and Nigerian Democratic Government", aims at bringing out the open evidences of lack of unity and patriotism among political class and the populace as represented in some selected Nigerian novels. The paper also explores the commendable job of creative writers as social reformers by highlighting

their suggested ways to buttress great love for the Nigerians' fatherland if they actually wanted the manifestation of 'One Nigeria' as they used to sing.

Dr. W. Meribeni Patton's paper "The Fictional Narratives of Easterine Kire: A New Historicist Study", the sensitive and authentic voices of the tribal people of Nagaland are vitalized as can be derived from select novels of Easterine Kire. Kire's narratives contain deep social awareness and cultural picture that invites us into the real life of the Naga people. What is more interesting is that Kire writes from her own standpoint using historical documents from Naga society.

Ms. Jayeeta Nag's study, "Diasporic Cultural Dilemmas and Ecological Insight in Taslima Nasreen's *Fera*", tries to depict the chronicle of a migrant in Taslima Nasrin's novel *Fera,* where the protagonist has been searching for her true identity. The paper takes the initiative to analyze her journey from the point of view of diasporic literature while giving a stress to some cognate issues like societal constraints, cultural difference, the ethos of diverse communities and identity crisis.

The paper "Examining Margaret Atwood's *The Year of the Flood* as a Cli-Fi: An Effort Towards Survival and Sustainability", by **Dr. Suman Makhaik Kalra** is an excellent study of Margaret Atwood's novel *The Year of the Flood* and purviews it as an important contribution to environmental humanities. The study evaluates the text as a 'Climate Fiction' (cli fi) to find ecofriendly ways to co-habit the planet.

Mr. Vinay Kumar Dubey's paper "Alienated Self in Shashi Deshpande's *Small Remedies*", delineates how the female characters of Sashi Deshpande in general and with special reference to *Small Remedies* suffer from both *anomia* (self-alienation) and *anomie* (alienation from the society).

Ms. Richa Smriti and **Prof. Aroonima Sinha** dwell in their paper "Struggle of Social Classes in Maupassant's Stories", on the panorama of French life at the end of the nineteenth century as is substantiated by the struggle of the social classes depicted in many of the short stories of Guy de Maupassant.

Mr. Goutam Karmakar's paper "Policies of Survival: Where Happiness Epitomises Freedom: A Study of Mahasweta Devi's *Urvashi O Johnny",* presents an excellent analysis of Mahasweta Devi's play *Urvashi O Johny.* The paper makes an attempt to show how people like Johnny, a ventriloquist, tries to survive by searching for happiness which symbolizes his freedom – freedom from all kinds of oppression in dehumanized human condition.

Ms. Tanima Shome's paper, "Colonial Nostalgia and Destabilizing the Imperial Voice: A Study of William Dalrymple and Vikram Seth's Selected Travel Narratives" is a comparative study on the travelogues of William Dalrymple and Vikram Seth. The study focuses on the reversal of perspectives and presents the underlying differences in dealing with the travel narratives of both the writers and enables the readers to decipher the underlying meanings.

Dr. Hemangi Bhagwat and **Ms. Madhavi Arekar** in their erudite paper "On the Margins: Theorising Spivak's 'Can the Subaltern Speak'", shed ample light on the notion of 'Subaltern' which is an essential thread in the realm of Postcolonialism. This

paper traces the history of Subaltern Studies in India pioneered by Ranajit Guha and focuses on the work of Gayatri Spivak who had developed this idea a step further and asks the question, "Can the Subaltern Speak?", and throws light on the comprehension of historical narratives of women's resistance in India.

There are two research papers connected with Cinema. **Dr. Gourav Mathur**'s paper "Archetypal Patterns of Politics in Third Cinema", highlights the notion of 'Third Cinema', and distinguishes it from the character and situation oriented 'First Cinema' as well as from the 'Second Cinema' which focus on a comparative perspective from an objective point of view. Select Third Cinema specimen from Bollywood movies are discussed by the author in his attempt to align them with the prevalent thought and ideology of the day to eke out generalities, predict movements and showcase successful outcomes. **Ms. Poojaba Jadeja** in her study "Existentialism and Hindi Films", brings out the rarely seen relationship of some select Hindi movies, with themes connected to the philosophy of 'existentialism', as Indian movies representing the concept of existentialism are rare and unique.

There are two papers connected with advertisement and its psychology. An enlightening semiotic analysis of anti-obesity ad-images is the purview of the study "Understanding the Interplay of Signifiers and the Signified(s): A Semiotic Analysis of Anti-Obesity Ad Images" by **Dr. Sukanya Saha**. The paper analyses the visual cues (such as signs, images, colors and so on) to captivate viewer's thoughts and communicate the message in the most appealing manner observable in anti-obesity posters, advertisements and images, and examines them for their impact on the psyche of the viewer. **Dr. Saroj Kumar**'s paper entitled "A Critical Analysis of the Select Advertisements with Reference to Beauty Stereotype" deals with the critical analysis of some of the select television advertisements in relation to stereotypical social values in India. The study looks at the advertisements as texts and it analyses them with the perspective of literature. As we know, advertisements not only work as a catalyst to gradual social change but also hint at the change advertisers try to suggest overtly or covertly.

There is a paper on Home Science by **Ms. Imana Pal,** "Black Rice – An Extensive Review" that sheds light on the nutritional values of 'black rice' (better known as 'forbidden rice' or Emperor's rice as in China only the Royals could consume this rice to increase the life span). The author establishes that 'Black Rice' could be the Super Food of the modern world.

The six book reviews are: Vijay Kumar Roy's *The Social, Cultural and Spiritual Dimensions of Modern Indian Poetry in English* (2017), published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, United Kingdom, and reviewed by **Dr. S. A. R. Abidi**; Alison Hackett's *Crabbing: A Collection of Poems* (2017), published by 21st Century Renaissance, Dublin, and reviewed by **Mr. James Lawless**; Muthoni Likimani's *My Blood Not For Sale* (2017), published by Noni's Publicity, Nairobi, and reviewed by **Mr. B. M. Shiholo**; C. L. Kharti's *For You to Decide* (2016), published by Authorspress, New Delhi, and reviewed by **Dr. Somasundari Latha**; Padma Shri Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi's *Nomads of India* (2015), published by National Book Trust,

India, New Delhi, and reviewed by **Dr. Vijay Kumar Roy**; and Ada Aharoni's *The Woman in White: An Extraordinary Life* (2017), published by Amazon, USA, and reviewed by **Dr. Judith Bara.**

The poetry section consists of beautiful fifteen poems composed by **Prof. Ada Aharoni** (ISRAEL), **Ms. Dorit Weisman** (ISRAEL), **Mr. Alan Britt** (USA), **Ms. Ceri Naz** (PHILIPPINES), **Dr. Ira Jha** (INDIA), **Mrs. Elizabeth Esguerra Castillo** (PHILIPPINES), **Mr. Steffen Horstmann** (USA), **Dr. Neal Whitman** (USA), **Mrs. K. Pankajam** (INDIA), **Mrs. Patricia Prime** (NEW ZEALAND), **Mr. Warren Lee Nair** (SOUTH AFRICA), and **Mr. Vinay Kumar Dubey** (INDIA).

We wish all the readers a fruitful reading and happy New Year 2018!

–Prof. Chiramel Paul Jose &
Dr. Vijay Kumar Roy