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# DIOTIMA'S

## A JOURNAL OF NEW READINGS



POSTGRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
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## Editor's Note

Even the most desultory perusal of literature will convince the reader of the canonical superiority of European literature. Da Vinci's phrase '*Cosa bella mortal passa e non d'arte*'—mortal beauties pass away but not those of art—comes to mind. In these times of fragmented feeling, sensibility and belief we need to look back at the works that began it all....

From Ezra Pound to Umberto Eco, a grasp of the classics enable a more comprehensive understanding of modern texts. The Dept of English, Providence Women's College, chose European Fiction as its theme for the 2014 edition of *Diotima's* to show, not only the development of renaissance thought into humanism and later, Modernism. We also wish to emphasize that intellectual enjoyment is but a single facet of the multiple advantages of engaging with European literature. A greater awareness of present day attitudes and the growth and development of certain themes that recur in literature enrich our perceptions of this global village that we live in.

We gratefully acknowledge the various contributions that have made *Diotima's* a reality once again.

We remember Dr. Lalitha Menon, former Head of the Department of English, Providence Women's College and dedicate this issue to her.

Ancy Mathew

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