Reviews

Editors' Note

Dear Reader,

The Reviews section of *Epic Threads: Volume II* turns from creative reimagining to critical conversation on creative work. The pieces that follow consider how the ancient world continues to be interpreted, adapted, and presented for modern audiences, bringing classical texts and traditions into dialogue with contemporary scholarship, literature, and film.

At its best, a review does more than determine whether a work succeeds or fails. It asks what that work contributes to an ongoing conversation: how it interprets its sources, what choices it makes in transforming them, which possibilities it opens, and which questions it leaves behind. The reviews collected here approach those questions from a wide range of perspectives, reflecting the many ways that ancient material continues to invite discussion and reinterpretation.

Volume II also features work from the inaugural *Epic Threads* Homer in the 21st Century Review Competition. The competition invited reviewers to engage critically with modern works that return to the Homeric tradition, asking how ancient epic continues to be reshaped for new audiences and new cultural contexts.

We are delighted to feature four of the competition's prize-winning reviews in this volume: those by Michael Mammarella, Rita Ribeiro Costa, Carlotta Mühlhardt, and Hannah Blosser. Each brings a distinctive critical perspective to Christopher Nolan's *The Odyssey* (2026), demonstrating how a single modern adaptation can generate remarkably different questions about Homer, reception, storytelling, interpretation, and the continuing life of ancient epic.

The competition pieces form part of a wider collection of reviews in Volume II. Together, the contributors represented in this section remind us that reception is itself an ongoing process: every translation, adaptation, performance, scholarly work, and critical response becomes another point of encounter between the ancient world and the present.

We are immensely grateful to each of our reviewers for contributing their voices to that conversation, and we hope the pieces that follow encourage readers not only to consider the works under review, but also to continue the discussions they begin.

Enjoy the Reviews of Volume II.