



William Li



*Tabard 2019*



*Calixta Lehmann*

## *The Freedom to Love*

Kambili E'Denchukwu

I love the sky when it's blue and deep  
sapphire sunset when they are performing. I love  
when the sounds of birds ring through my ears when  
I wake up. I love the thought  
of white winter mornings  
especially on the weekends. I love when the idea of  
friendship is taken seriously and when people are  
treated fairly. I love the color gold and the way it  
dances in the glazing sun.  
I love the sound of music  
being sung by my favorite singers. I love late night car  
rides on warm summer nights.  
I love the taste of the mint tea that I drink every  
night, but I mostly love the freedom of being able to  
love whatever I want.

*Water..... 4*

**Earth..... 22**

*Fire..... 32*

*Air..... 54*

## Mama

Anonymous

From her warm mugs of abuelita  
hot chocolate  
That warmed me up from the inside  
And for a second made me feel safe  
and without worry  
To her steaming bowls of caldo de pollo that had the  
same effect as the hot chocolate,  
Only with an extra kick most likely as a result  
of the Tapatio I was born loving  
From her daily routine  
to have me pray the rosary  
And to reading me the Bible as I lay next to her  
From wandering in her garden  
and being in awe of the beauty of plants  
The countless summer days I spent  
in the living room while she stood five feet away in the  
kitchen, asking me questions  
that I didn't even know the answer to  
My grandmother will forever be the reason  
I'm the person I am today  
And for the rest of my life  
I will keep her with me wherever I go

## *Tabard Literary Magazine*

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Editor: Fernando Ornelas

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# Water

## Friends or Sisters

Elisa Whitmarsh

### Artists

Julianne Alcantara

Yifan Gai

Justin Ngo

Anisa Rillo

Nailea Tejada

Yi Xie

### Writers

Alexsandra Alvarado

Khari Alvarez

Rene Barba Lopez

Kirsten Bautista

Kian Campos

Amy Chen

Kambili E'Denchukwu

Lola Gonzalez

Jaden Hong

Ji'ell Flowers

Carenina Magsano

Jasibeth Mayorga

Daniella Kerenyi

Daniel Soberano

Kylie Suarez

Elisa Whitmarsh

I remember

Life when I was young

Playing with my friends

Always doing something fun.

I remember

When I met my first best friend,

Who's there for me through everything

Each others' hearts we mend.

I remember

Leaving middle school, a sad day it was.

Thought I was leaving her behind.

But wow, was I wrong.

Each others' lives, we are a part of

Through the rough times and the fun.

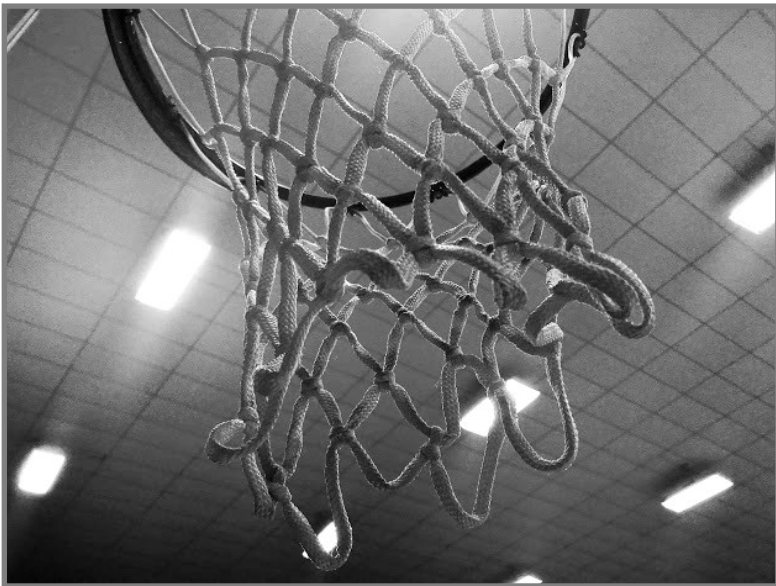
Not another person I could think of giving

All of my time and love.

## *My Love, Basketball*

Dominic Turqueza

You were my favorite thing to do  
When I was feeling any type of way,  
I would turn to you  
Every weekend, everyday  
I would spend my time with you  
You were my happy place  
My escape from doubt and fear  
But as I grew older,  
That love faded  
I got distracted and desired other things  
But I will never forget all the lessons  
you taught me  
Or the memories you made for me  
Or the happiness you provided  
To the sport of basketball,  
I will love you forever



Haozhe Zeng

## *Anchor* *Jasibeth Mayorga*

Like a breath of fresh air after drowning  
Like a sip of water after being in a desert

But now I'm at the bottom of the ocean,  
I thought he'd be my savior  
I was distracted by the flowers and the lies,  
Unaware of his behavior

But when I started drowning I didn't know  
he was the anchor  
My eyes began to unmask  
the stranger I thought I knew  
Attacking my heart and confusing my mind  
He loves me, he loves me not

I thought we'd be everlasting,  
Grasping the idea  
that I need to put myself first  
Fighting against the anchor,  
I am saved,  
Brought to shore by myself,  
Like a breath of fresh air after drowning,  
I am free and happy

*It's All About Grey*  
*Alexsandra Alvarado*

I feel so grey  
Not like the color of the sky when it cries  
But the color of his grey sweats like the cement  
When I walk into the corner store  
And I see him at the front desk  
Makes me feel as if I'm touching  
the grey cloudy skies  
When he smiles at me with those steel eyes

*Blue World*  
*Kían Campos*

Soft shadows  
And wispy clouds  
Bands of color and mood  
Share the sky  
With small birds  
And small flies  
Before the dark.

*Sunset*

Cici Yin

The sun says it's tired,  
Yawning,  
Stretching,  
Even doesn't want to say hello,  
It is hiding in the other side mountains  
You are calling,  
Come back,  
Come back,  
You are anxious that your face is like  
the sunset glow on the sky  
Even if your little hand is swaying  
It ignores you, just left



Fernando Ornelas

## *Red*

Terren Mitchell

Watermelon in the summertime.  
The sweet juicy flavor of red Fantas.  
Strawberry scrapes are not as fun  
as they sound  
and getting all bloody  
Watching the fiery red sunset  
every evening  
On the beach with raspberry  
flavored lollipops

## *Daily Routine*

Cailah Concon

Time for school.  
The sound of the alarm clock.  
Ring, Ring, Ring.  
5 more minutes.  
You wake up,  
Rub your eyes  
And noticed you slept for 20 minutes.  
Heart is beating as fast as an alarm clock.  
Mind is scattered.  
Hands start sweating.  
But you look at your phone and realize  
It's the weekend.  
Go back to bed.

## *White*

Kylie Suarez

What's behind the door  
That shines bright white  
A blank canvas  
In a white room with white flowers  
The white iris of a painter  
The white bucket of pain in their hand

As they pick the white thorns  
It dropped thick red  
As it mixed with the paint  
They took their brush  
And threw themselves  
Into the walls, the flowers and canvas  
They take apart of themselves to make color  
The painter's life is no longer dull





*Nailea Tejada*

## **Back Home**

Carlos Cruz

I remember the roosters in the mornings  
I remember the outdoor breakfasts  
I remember the rides in the afternoon  
I remember the long nights  
staring at the sky  
I remember the long talks we had  
I remember the crackling fire  
and chirping crickets  
I remember laughing and enjoying nature  
I remember gazing at the stars  
until we fell asleep.

## **The Old House**

Russ Li

I remember the old house I used to live in  
memories of the old days are like a symphony  
My grandfather was always near me  
He picked me up and cooked for me  
I remember the smell of dinner  
we used to play chess before we ate  
I remember we watched the show  
that we both enjoyed  
And I turned off the television  
after he was asleep  
All the memories in that old house  
will always be the best part of my memory.



## *Yellow*

*Samiyah Alberto*

The shades of yellow,  
Made me, me  
A crash course into the world with  
A bright blinding Tuscan sun  
The honey shaded days of summer,  
Filled with my earliest memories of  
Winnie the Pooh's bright yellow fur,  
And the happiness that came along with it,  
The lemonade stands,  
The butter spread across a grilled cheese  
sandwich  
The days filled  
with beautiful bright sunflowers,  
The curiosity that came  
with witnessing my first  
Little yellow bumblebee  
The summer of a yellow child

## *Blue Skies*

*J'ell Flowers*

Clear blue skies  
Plastered across the windows  
Parents pack their car  
Packing blue coolers and sunscreen  
Kids grab their blue sand shovels  
Ice cream drips off their faces  
Grandparents gaze into the deep blue sky  
Remembering their youth

## *Safe From the Storm*

*Rene Barba Lopez*

The whistling screams of the wind  
gushing viscously through the air.  
Drops of rain pounding  
on my bedroom window, one by one.  
Ripples of water dancing on the pools of rain.  
The cold waits beneath me,  
ready to crawl up my bare feet.  
I rest comfortably surrounded by blankets,  
Safe from the storm.



*Julianne Alcantara*



*Zhu Xureng*

## Clockwork

Carlos Martin

Time crashed,  
Over,  
And over,  
And over again  
Then crashed again,  
A bit more

These tiny tunnels,  
These tiny tunnels,  
Cannot stand it

The damage,  
Looking like the making of the man  
But these cuts,  
Deep,  
Long,  
And festered  
What a pity,  
But not to them  
Omnipotence is painful,  
But through it,  
Comes bliss

## *How will you live now?*

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil  
Carenina Magsano*

I closed my eyes, falling asleep under the bleak night sky. The dream was a sign, and oh, how the stars have aligned. He looked at me, so handsome and refined. I felt inside of me an aching desire. So I walked up to him. I usually come up short of a complete question, or even a complete sentence. But this time was different. Words rolled off my tongue without hesitation. He responded with a soft touch on my skin and his lips caressing mine. With closed eyes.

I opened my eyes. I looked at the ceiling. I laid there on the bed with empty hands. And empty feelings. I wanted to feel what I felt with my eyes closed. So I took my keys, left the house, stood on his porch, and knocked on his door. He opened the door and we looked into each others' eyes. It was like I saw the stars for the first time. And so, I've been stargazing for 3 years and counting.

Without a sign, the night sky would just be empty, for all of eternity. But it wasn't just the stars aligning. It was me aligning them.

*Sky*  
*Amy Chen*

The sun shone into my room.  
I woke up and walked to the desk.  
I open my book,  
And started reading.  
I looked out the window,  
there were many clouds in the sky.  
Different kinds of shapes.  
I was fascinated  
I was like a bird.  
Traveling in the sky.

*Owl*  
*Jaden Hong*

The sun goes down  
Then you fly around  
In the quiet and dark night  
Your eyes light up with green light  
An eye is closed  
Waiting for hunting shows

An eye is open  
Looking at the one that is chosen  
You are the farmer's hero  
As fast as an arrow  
The bell of night rings  
When you spread your wings



Yihe Qi

## *Will They Notice*

Maya Wright

Should I get contacts?  
Should I cut my hair?  
Do I need to buy new shoes?  
I don't know, maybe

Should I go to the party?  
What should I wear?  
Will I even like what I wear?  
I don't know maybe  
I just won't go

Should I do a sport?  
It will look good on paper  
Will it be too much to handle?  
Will I even be good at it?  
Will the team accept me?  
I don't know maybe  
I just won't play

Will they notice that I got contacts?  
Will they notice my hair?  
Will they notice my shoes?  
Will they notice me?

Will they care if I went to the party?  
Will they notice what I wear?  
Will they like what I wear?  
Will they notice me?



*Justin Ngo*

## *Yellow*

*Lola Gonzalez*

The color of happiness  
Of childhood  
Of beautiful summer days  
Of the white yellow of the bright sun  
The yellow of pineapples  
Of mango and lemon  
The yellow of popsicles melting  
Feelings of yellow  
Pure joy

*A Perfect Day*  
*Elisa Whitmarsh*

The rain  
Pounds on the house  
The earth  
Slightly begins to flood  
The animals  
Have gone away  
To stay warm  
And dry  
The humans  
Do the same  
The sky is dark  
Ominous  
Sad  
Creating a gloomy silence  
Over us all

*The Mandela Effect*

Lexi Cañas

You remember something a certain way  
It goes by a certain name  
And everyone remembers it that way  
One day the name changed  
And I didn't feel the same anymore  
It was like doing open heart surgery  
To a whole city

*What are the Consequences of Silence?*

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

Kirsten Bautista

I walked in the room and the hushed whispers came to a halt. How are you?, they ask. Their wide smiles are betrayed by their glossy eyes. I'm good, thank you for asking. I give them the best smile I could manage before exiting the room. One foot after another. And that's when I heard it, the silent sobs, the quick sniffles, and the sound of a dying heart.

## It All Started In July

Michaela Woldeselasia

July 22, 2002, I took the day off to be born  
I started my life five minutes late  
Making myself comfortable  
after my sister was born  
She says she had five minutes of silence  
before I came along  
But I didn't get the memo, I was supposed to breathe  
But instead I turned blue

I am unique on the inside but on the outside  
I have a double  
Girly vs tomboy from the start  
Comparisons never ending,  
favorites being chosen  
Fighting against each other  
like the world depended on it

Unique in my own ways, crazy  
and weird but proud of it  
Shy on one hand but MOST DEFINITELY OUTGOING  
on the other  
Extrovert vs introvert  
Different in so many ways  
yet similar in the ways that count

## What are the Consequences of Silence?

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

Daniella Kerenyi

The energy from all the students fills the classroom  
and collides with the thoughts in her head. Everyone  
is talking and laughing. At the back is where she's  
sitting talking to her few friends. The teacher asks the  
class a question. Calls on her. She knows the answer.  
But something happens. She can't speak. Everyone's  
looking and waiting for her response but nothing  
happens. The teacher calls on someone else.



Yifan Gai



*A Happy Persona*  
*Kambili E'Denchukwu*

Everything occurred perfectly fine to me  
She jumped, she ran, but most of all she lived  
The energy carried every single nerve in her body

Her increasing desire of happiness  
It was all she needed  
She gave it to her herself  
Dressed in long overalls and feeling free in the  
summer breeze  
She knew what to do, she knew her desires  
She did what she knew, what she loved

Just a happy person you don't see everyday  
rolling down nature's finest, a green bed.  
A green bed in her eyes, a girl from a small town  
Doesn't she inspire you?  
I will get stronger because of her.



## **Consequences vs. Silence**

Avyanah Washington

We never think of consequences.  
We take action without thinking.  
Most are rested in quietude. Have never heard the  
word “social” before.  
Nothing is serene without quiet.  
You won’t know consequences until you  
succumb to tranquility.  
It could make or break you. Limb from limb. Bone to  
bone. Mind to mind. Heart. To. Heart.  
Until, you come back to reality.  
There is no such thing as consequences.  
Silence is a figment of imagination.

## **The Moon**

Lexi Cañas

Love made her shine bright,  
Just as the moon does at night.  
The moon has a dark side,  
And so did she.  
His love for her was great,  
But it couldn't stop  
the moon from turning.

## ***The Mosaic of Color***

*Kirsten Bautista*

As the campfire shined a burning red,  
And the waves crashed into a swirling pit of blue,  
I looked up to see the grey clouds  
And felt a sense of home

Yellow flashed in my mind  
As I thought of the memories we made,  
And a soft purple entered my heart  
When I thought of the bittersweet end

But no matter how colorful the sky may be,  
There’s no escaping the pitch black that follows.  
My mind filled with a bit of uncertainty  
As my dark fear slowly snaked its way into view

But when it’s all said and done,  
I felt a bit of orange  
Melancholy and fragile, but wholesome  
and complete to say the least.



*Anisa Rillo*

## Blue

Taylor Robinson

### Blue

A color of many shades that hold many feelings  
and nostalgic vibes  
From the age of five my first bright blue tap  
dancing costume to the age of fifteen in my first navy  
blue sparkly top homecoming dress  
From my sapphire sixth grade graduation dress to me  
getting to throw my cap in the air at my high school  
graduation, ready to take the next step in my life  
From the clear blue sky  
to the clear blue water of the ocean  
Blue is a color that will never go away  
You can feel blue as the tears roll down your face  
Your tongue can turn a dark blue as you laugh  
with your friends while eating a Fun Dip packet  
You dream of being the baby blue  
sparkly dressed princess, Cinderella  
Or you sit on the edge of your seat as the neon blue  
Riverdale title comes on the screen,  
wondering who was murdered next  
Reading and laughing at the true blue graphic novel,  
which is the second part of a series about a middle  
school boy writing in his diary  
Reading and feeling many emotions as you turn the  
pages of the turquoise chapter book, which is the  
third and final book to a series about a girl that lives  
in a district, plays a deadly game,  
and carries a bow and arrow  
We grow up with the color blue  
It becomes a part of our memories we remember and  
memories have yet to discover

## *Hotel Adventures*

Carenina Magsano

Kids in the hotel room,  
Playing basketball,  
Jumping on the bed like a trampoline,  
Magic shows and TV,  
12th birthday parties,  
No rules for me

Adults gambling in the arcade,  
Throwing up,  
Turning the bed into a painting,  
Stripper shows,  
21st birthday parties,  
No rules for me



Anjel Galbraith

## *The Starry Night*

*Daniel Soberano*

How does it feel?  
To have all the streetlights  
in your life go away  
And the sky stops being so gray  
So when you go and stare  
Outside the asylum window  
You see that starry night lay low  
The rich purple sky  
That make the mountains and meadow  
Look so empty.  
You see a town full of people  
But the view makes you feel  
That there is more life in the starry sky  
Than the town nearby

## *Silence*

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

*Kharí Alvarez*

Silence is a brutal tool. It is viciously precise, yet as ruthlessly blunt as a hammer. It breaks open and shatters conversations with its uncomfortable nothingness. Accompanied with great meaning, it is a mighty weapon. It pierces the other person, but there is no blood. The pain leaves no visible bruises or markings. The cut runs deep, but is completely beneath the skin. The suffering is seen only in the eyes, not anywhere else on the body. It can cause a person to crumble. It brings devastating ruin. It shows no mercy or remorse. Silence is the deadliest weapon that does not kill.

looking forward to life as less man and more animal. Nasir threw away his old life and was reborn a savage. He saw this as the only way to live, liberated from all responsibility and finally able to achieve true happiness.

His remains were found in a field two weeks later, picked to the bone, 15 miles from Granada.



Nia Chinn

he went south, towards the nearest body of water, the Alboran Sea. Unsure of how long it would even take to walk there, Nasir filled his mind with optimistic thoughts of finding what he was looking for within hours. Feeding into his own delusions of an easy journey, he avoided taking any major roads because he was sure he would make it to the sea soon enough, and could afford to spend more of his time in nature. Plus, he was fearful that he may run into a brigade of catholic converters or some other imagined group that would wish to do him harm. Nasir's mind was not grounded in reality, so it was no surprise when he chose to climb hills instead of travel a well-made path.

The novelty of the situation wore off quickly, though, and as soon as he was no longer within view of the city, he had practically given up all hope. It felt like he had been walking for eons, and he had seemingly made little to no progress whatsoever. He saw no sea and therefore no new home. He was alone. His family had not believed in him. In his eyes, the world had forsaken Nasir. He fell to his knees and cried, for he knew he would never make it. Not in this form, at least. And that's when it struck him. He did not have to remain in this form at all. He had already rid himself of all obligations to society or his family. Out here, he was truly free. Civilization had made him a man, but since he was no longer a part of it, he no longer had to be a man. He had come to the conclusion that his life should be one of a beast, not of a civilized man. From here on out, he would act upon all of his animalistic desires and wishes. Nothing would stop him from living in nature, newly enlightened and



*Yi Xie*

# Earth

## Artists

Amber Holland

Anisa Rillo

Joseph Valenzuela

Vincent Yang

## Writers

Trinity Anderson

Aileen Diaz

Ji'ell Flowers

Carlton Hale

Ashley Holland

Kylie Suarez

Dennis Tabora

Veronika Victor

Michaela Woldeselasia

## A Fool in 1492

Khari Alvarez

It was January 2nd, and Granada had just officially been surrendered to King Ferdinand II and Queen Elizabeth I. Granada was now under Catholic rule, and Muslims like Nasir were afraid of what that meant really for them. Although Muslims were promised fair treatment by the new rulers, Nasir had always been distrusting of anyone unlike himself, and he was not able to find much to relate to in the new ruling party. Nasir reasoned that these Catholics would not entertain the idea of having Muslim citizens and would forcibly convert the entirety of Granada, one by one. He decided that it would be best for him and his family to leave before they had the chance to have their culture ripped away from them.

Nasir's plan did not go over well with his wife, who was of the uninspired opinion that Granada was their home and that their child would be raised here. So Nasir did what any man of such a strong conviction would do, and abandoned his wife and child, leaving them to fend for themselves. The heartbreak belonged solely to his wife, for their child was too young to understand, and Nasir was too heartless to care. He left his home with only what he could carry on his back, and set out to find his new home.

In fact, his plan was not very well developed, and as soon as he had snuck away from the city, he had very little idea as to what he should do. So



## **The Fist**

Veronika Victor

When moved in  
*Swipe*  
It runs away  
*Click Clack*  
Closer and closer  
*Thump Thump Thump*  
Jumps back still compacted  
*Thud*  
Flattened out still a ball  
*Smack*  
Fluid mosaic  
*Swoosh*  
Hurt bad  
*Groan*  
Bad, real bad  
*Froze*  
Untouched

## **Flowers** **Ji'ell Flowers**

Flowers are as alive as we are,  
They grow and mature into larger plants,  
Like kids grow into adults,  
They slowly bloom into their unique selves,  
Like people grow into who they are,  
They die and take part in change,  
Like people die and leave families  
to continue on,  
Flowers are as alive as we are

## **Beautiful Nature** **Dennis Tabora**

The trees stood tall as they pierced the clouds.  
The grass was being pushed to the left  
as a strong gust of wind flew by.  
The birds chirped as the sun slowly rose,  
And the flowers glowed as the sun  
reflected off of them.  
All the beauties you notice,  
When you admire nature.



Vincent Yang

## The Color Green

Satchel Greene

A beautiful color is what you are  
 Calm & soothing by far  
 It's my namesake so I'm not fake  
 Verde will always pull rank  
 The color wheel goes round and round  
 It will stop on the best color around  
 Everyone knows what it is  
 My namesake is the biz



Maximiliano Mendoza

## **Life's A Lot**

Valeria Hernandez

Life is like a roller coaster,  
with many twists and turns.  
Maybe even burns  
We never know what will happen next.  
All we can do is hope for the best.  
Life's like a game of man players,  
But somehow, more than one winner.

## **Memories**

Gianfranco Campos

I remember when we first met.  
I remember you were there,  
when I took my first breath.  
I remember you had left, and I was happy.  
I remember you weren't there,  
to see Jordan and Abby.  
I remember years went by,  
and we never spoke.  
I remember seeing you at the mall,  
and I almost choked.  
I remember that you looked  
exactly like all the pictures.  
I remember you said  
that I'd become a pitcher.  
I remember seeing you for the last time,  
And I remember not saying goodbye.

## **Woods** **Kylie Suarez**

Mysterious and beautiful  
Immovable mountainous trees  
The gentle breeze  
That teases the morning  
The adoring rivers and greens  
Almost like a distant dream  
That seems luxurious  
The various sights and heights  
The dark nights with twinkling lights

## **Blue** **Ashley Holland**

Looking up, the blue sky is there  
Not only that, I see my Mom's blue eyes  
With that is so much comfort  
Taking a nap  
I'm cuddled in my blue blanket  
Hand knitted from my grandma  
Forever priceless  
Petting Bentley  
Admiring his blue collar  
My best friend

## What is the Shape of Your Body?

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

Michaela Woldeselasia

Do you ever wonder where the sun goes when its rays aren't touching your skin? How the tears of the clouds fall upon the roses? Or what happens before a bird learns how to fly? I wonder who is there to see it rain in the middle of the ocean. Free to do whatever it pleases while not under the watchful eye of others. Do you ever sit and watch a plant grow? Seems like such a childhood task, but somehow brings satisfaction nonetheless. I wonder what is going on in the depths of the night while I am fast asleep. I like to be in nature. I lay down and count the stars, getting lost, without a doubt, in the vastness of the sky. That doesn't discourage me though, in fact I see it as a challenge.



Joseph Valenzuela

## Have you prepared for death?

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

Kirsten Bautista

Fast forward. Young ladies should never cry in public. But she didn't care. Her grey eyes were gloomy and dark, the tears being painfully wrenched out one by one. And her cries. Louder than thunder, harsher than lightning. It ripped out of her throat like a caged animal just begging to be set free. Her body shook with so much force, she was afraid that she would shake the world along with her.

Days turned to nights, nights turned to days, until finally, all her pain washed away.

## Girl with a Mandolin

Daniel Soberano

She is risen from the gray  
And is here to stay  
She is so invisible but so clearly there  
Minding her own business  
with an uninterested stare  
She is her own little world  
And it's just her, and her mandolin  
And she doesn't care  
She has what she wants  
And you've had your share

# Air

## Artists

Nia Chinn

Anjel Galbraith

William Li

Maximiliano Mendoza

Fernando Ornelas

Yihe Qi

Zhu Xureng

Haozhe Zeng

## Writers

Samiyah Alberto

Khari Alvarez

Kirsten Bautista

Gianfranco Campos

Lexi Cañas

Cailah Concon

Carlos Cruz

Kambili E'Denchukwu

Satchel Greene

Valeria Hernandez

Russ Li

Carenina Magsano

Carlos Martin

Terren Mitchell

Isaias Pineda

Taylor Robinson

Daniel Soberano

Dominic Turqueza

Veronika Victor

Avyannah Washington

Elisa Whitmarsh

Michaela Woldeselasia

Maya Wright

Cici Yin

## Earth Trinity Anderson

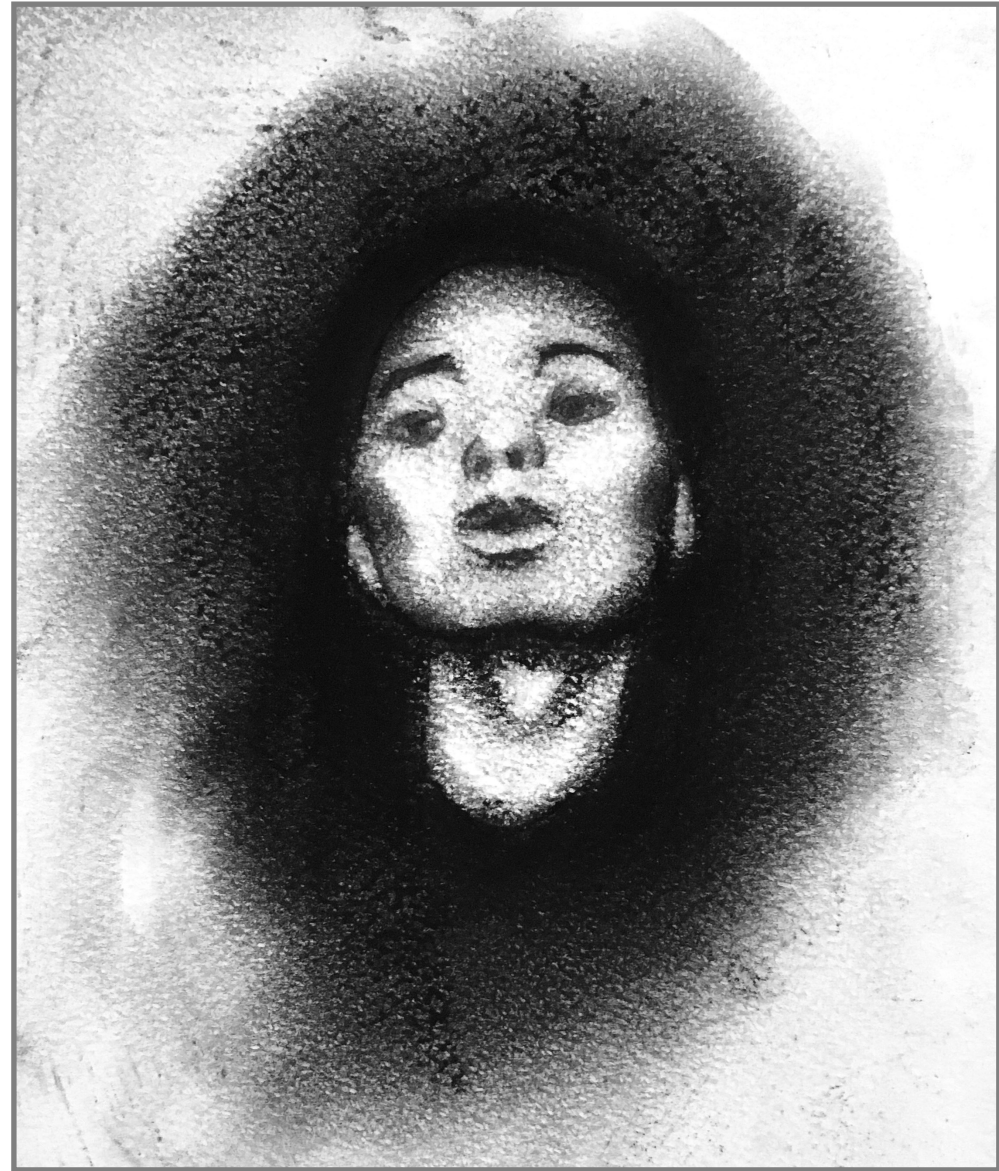
Rain droplets  
pounding  
knocking  
on the skin of the ocean  
fish swim  
as if all is calm  
miles away  
Volcanoes erupt  
spitting out lava  
many spurts  
further down  
depression ends  
rain is gone  
flowers unleash  
the day is not over  
but more good news is to come

## Yellow Kylie Suarez

Yellow, the color of happiness.  
The different shades of amber and gold  
Glistening honey dripping  
off the beehive  
Ripe lemons hanging off the tree,  
Begging to be picked  
The golden retriever next door  
with the golden locks  
Wakes you up everyday,  
To the gleaming pale sun.

## **Homage to My Eyes** **Veronika Victor**

Wide and bright, they twinkle  
in the dark of night  
The sight and might to see the future  
To look beyond the surface  
These eyes hold power  
A dark oasis of flowy tears  
The water of a golden fall shoots  
from within them  
These eyes hold experience  
The fight, The scar, The hit, The beat  
down, The celebration, The unionization  
These eyes are lost  
These eyes find the found who once were lost  
They search the depths of your soul burning into  
the very heart you say is  
the reason you love me  
These eyes live. These eyes win. These eyes are.  
These eyes can.  
These eyes.



Monica Cruz

Love is Art  
Samiyah Alberto

Love is art,  
Sculptures of two bodies,  
Connected with stone,  
A paintbrush dipping into paint,  
Being covered with something so beautiful,  
A blank canvas,  
Waiting for that beloved paintbrush,  
ready to become what it is has always dreamed of

Love is art,  
No limitations  
Everything is within its grasp  
Love is art,  
So beautiful it will leave you with a gasp

What I Love  
Carlton Hale

I love my mama, my grandmama's foods and their love. I love my brotha who gives me pain sometimes I love the feeling of when I look fly. I love making people smile and laugh. I love understanding things, work, literature and object. I love my name because I do, and also all the people's lives I've turned around. Not to mention all the people I've taught life lessons to help them live better lives.



Amber Holland



## **What is the Shape of Your Body?**

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

**Veronika Victor**

A forest densely packed. Not a crevice left untouched. The curve of every leaf fit into its brother or sister almost like a puzzle. Life touching every corner. When they hit the forest floor not a sound is made. Or maybe it is. But who is there to hear it? Perfection in every way possible. The epitome of beauty. In its shadow is where I stand.

## **Growing Tree**

**Aileen Diaz**

A life is a growing tree,  
The roots extend,  
Leaves fall,  
It changes its theme,  
Humans are growing trees.

## **Red**

Yeshua Campos

From the first blood cell to  
Old age rage.  
Red is everywhere.  
Red is the first color we see,  
And is color that attracts us.  
Red shoes, logos, toys, and clothing.  
All of red attracts us.  
From purple, scarlet, pink, and orange.  
Many colors are born from red.  
Like if you add yellow,  
And get the fiery sun.  
Or you add black and get the Jordan 1s.  
Red is something we need,  
Red is fire, which we use to feed.  
Red is warmth, comfort,  
Red are roses that make you smile.  
Red is R E D.  
R is romantic.  
E is energetic.  
D is dynamic.  
RED is a plethora of beautiful things.

## Red

Joseph Hernandez

Shades of roses and brick  
The sun is bright,  
But it burns hot red when the fires burn  
The lights of the room turn dark red  
My knife in my game turns into ruby red  
Bright and shining  
It turns into a crimson web red  
My head hurts  
My eyes turn into candy apple red  
Lying on my bed,  
It turns to maroon

## Life's A Struggle

Jackey Yin

Walking on roses  
The spikes hurt  
Drain the blood from the wound  
Keep walking and walking  
There shall be the light and hope  
Waiting  
By the end of the road



Anisa Rillo

# Fire

## Artists

Monica Cruz

Kylie Suarez

Yi Xie

## Writers

Samiyah Alberto

Kirsten Bautista

Jamie Bernabe

Lexi Cañas

Sara Cushing

Aileen Díaz

Chase Durkee

Kambili E'Denchukwu

Daniella Kerenyi

Carenina Magsano

Tiffany Mangle

Piera Miller

Taylor Robinson

Logan Silva

Dennis Tabora

## This Was the Storm

Samiyah Alberto

Mother Nature had a plan

The creatures would run,

Fly,

And swim freely

The plants would always grow

to full bloom,

The rivers,

Lakes,

And oceans,

Would fill up more of the earth

Everything would be peaceful

and beautiful,

But then the storms rolled in with

Hammers,

Nails,

And guns

Homes begin to take their land,

Creatures began to hide,

No longer able to be free,

This was no storm with rain,

Clouds,

And thunder

This was the storm of the humans

## An Endless Dark Void

Anonymous

Why do I feel stones at my feet?  
Why can't I free myself?  
I want to run, but I can't.  
I only feel pain.  
Why is that?  
What if all I wanted was to be free?  
Would anyone even notice?  
Would anyone even care?  
The fresh air I've always desired,  
Is simply one arm's length away from me.  
Why don't I reach for it?  
Am I too scared?  
Why does my chest feel heavy?  
Is it from the water's pressure?  
Or is it the lies filling up inside me?  
My body is a cup.  
It's being poured with my problems.  
What will happen when the cup overflows?  
An abundance of emotions.  
I don't want others to clean up my mess.  
What if my problems affect those I care about?  
Is this why I feel so lonely?  
I've sewn my own mouth shut.  
How can I be helped if I don't know how  
to ask for it?  
How can anyone save me?  
If I just let myself go,  
Into an endless dark void.

## Silence is Why We Hear Breathing

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

Kambili E'Denchukwu

Hush, Shh, don't say a word  
Wait, stop, it's a no  
Tomorrow, next week, next month  
By then they won't be on earth  
I hate you, I'm angry, I'm leaving  
Two hours, two months I don't see you  
Two years, two cars come with hazard  
When will I see you again  
Silence, it's dangerous, it's wasteful  
Fill it with truth and reason  
Silence is why we hear breathing  
So don't make it the reason for death

## Who are you and whom do you love?

*Inspired by Bhanu Kapil*

Kirsten Bautista

They told me we were playing a game. I was the  
grandma, and Nana was the little girl. In this game I  
had to give her food and water every two hours. Who  
knew Nana had such a love of tic-tacs?

## Expectations

Tiffany Mangle

Expectations shall be the death of me  
I've set them much too high.  
They're much too far out of reach,  
Yet if I fail to meet them now, it will be known.  
She used to be so good at this.  
For her this used to be so effortless.  
None of this has ever been an effortless task,  
And anyone who thinks that is foolish indeed.  
Anxiety took control  
It made me one of the best  
Made them think I was better than the rest.  
It created these expectations to which I cling  
For when I fall below them  
I might not survive the fall.

## The Art of Procrastination

Tiffany Mangle

Procrastination is an art my dear,  
And it is one that I have mastered.  
Those who look upon me and think  
It is merely due to distraction,  
Well in reality, they haven't got a clue.  
For if you take all of these distractions from me  
My brain will simply search for more.  
Take anything, all my entertainment if you must  
The tick-tock that is screamed by the clock  
Suddenly becomes much too loud to ignore.  
Take away all the sounds, all the light,  
All of the distractions by day or by night,  
Lock me in a blank room with nothing,  
Nothing but my project to do.  
My brain will take off on an adventure,  
Though the wall is what my eyes will see,  
My head will be in another galaxy.  
My dear, distractions do not cause procrastination.  
Rather, it is lack of motivation.  
Try to trick yourself into focusing all you like,  
Without motivation, you won't last through the night.



Kylie Suarez

## A Glorious Fall

Logan Silva

I'm the best and worst I've ever been

It must have been a dismal spark

My mind is in the dark but I've never been so hopeful

I feel a storm approaching

But it's bringing nothing but greatness

I have a fire that rests at the back of my throat that  
reached down my spine

But I'm not sick, I want this

Every choice and chapter led up to this,

I will not back down

I am ready for the lightning and thunder

No man, woman or anyone or thing can stop me now

I'm burning,

Turning a new page,

I catch fire and tear a hole through my expectations,

All the way to the ground.



Yi Xie

## Ice Cream

Aileen Díaz

I enjoy you  
Your coldness  
Just like a goddess  
From love to hate  
Every flavor is okay  
The sadness that I have  
Of you melting in half  
Sorry for making you wait  
It won't happen  
Again.

## Red

Chase Durkee

I can now slam dunk/jam like throwing  
red strawberry jam on two slices of toast  
My jump shot is wet like  
a fresh red watermelon,  
as my teammates and I move on the court  
We look good and professional,  
I like red glistening cherries.  
Most of my shoes are red,  
like fresh ripe red strawberries  
As I'm here on Earth till the rest of my days,  
I'll have a bright red blood  
in my body and veins.



My Love  
Taylor Robinson

My love for you grows stronger and stronger  
You're always there for me whenever I need you  
    You comfort me  
    You never let me down  
You welcome me with open arms  
    and know how to love me  
Whenever I'm with you, I become full of joy  
and I forget everything going on around me  
When we're away from each other too long,  
    I can't stand it  
I need you now and forever  
    food  
    Oh, how I love you so  
    food  
    I'll never let you go  
You don't have to tell me,  
I know you feel the same too

A Neon Sky  
Carenina Magsano

An endless sky of neon lights  
Through bustling streets I'm walking by  
Blazing hot and awfully muggy  
Where dreams arise in smoke and sweat

An endless sky of neon lights  
Through bustling streets I'm walking by  
I'm blinded by multitudes of colors  
Hectic streets and glitzy hotels  
But the vibrancy is so serene

An endless sky of neon lights  
More luminous than the sun  
Breathing in the musty air  
But the nicotine tastes so sweet

An endless sky of neon lights  
Monumental sights of opulence  
Never touching the ornate sheets  
The moon doesn't wait for me

1991

Jamie Bernabe

Waking up to Full House every  
chilly morning, hoping for rain  
feeling nothing but the warmth that began to hit at noon  
but soon everything changed.  
From watching The Fresh Prince of Bel  
Air on a Saturday afternoon  
to **BREAKING NEWS**

March 3, 1991

**Rodney King**

SAY HIS NAME an African- American who  
suffered a brutal beating  
from **FOUR** police officers

March 16, 1991

**Latasha Harlins** a 16 year old African  
American  
that was shot and killed in a corner  
store

because she was accused of  
“stealing” a bottle of juice

**NO JUSTICE WAS SERVED.**

Riots began to break out in South Central  
my home,  
hundreds in grief and **anger**  
after losing many of their own

My Life

Daniella Kerenyi

You wouldn't have known me a year ago  
We were complete and total strangers  
But now, you're the person who ruined my life  
I know you can't hear me

Of course you can't, you're in a coma  
I just got out of surgery  
A broken rib and leg  
Not too bad

I want to come and talk to you  
Let you know that I forgive you  
I forgive you for driving drunk,  
I forgive you killing my parents,  
I forgive you for killing my brother,

I forgive you for all the pain  
I know when you wake up,  
You won't remember this,  
But know that I forgive you

# Once Broken

Lexi Cañas

You finally got over it  
All of it  
At once it felt as if your world was over  
But now it all feels perfect

It was hard to let go  
I know because I am hurting  
Now that I see you  
It all feels so silly

At times you wanted to leave the Earth  
Only to see that now it is so beautiful  
You've met all your goals  
And have an amazing family

Now that I see you  
I have hope  
I want to live to see it all  
I want to be as happy as you

You thought there was one for you  
But there he is, your soulmate  
You walked down the aisle not nervous at all  
Because he is the one

Everyone goes through those tough times  
It only makes you stronger  
Now that I see you  
I know I can do it

November of '91

There was a major change in music,  
the people now had a voice.

**Tupac Shakur**

my favorite artist,  
an upcoming legend

had recently dropped one of his greatest hits  
“*2Pacalypse Now*”

soon to release his hit single

**“Keep Ya Head Up”**

and **Ice Cube** a rapper from N.W.A & actor  
& songwriter

known for his storytelling about the lives of  
P.O.C

released **“Black Korea”**

Both songs were dedicated in memory of  
Latasha Harlins.

High-waisted denim jeans  
cropped Fila and Champion shirts  
from the 90's, yet still in style

Love  
Piera Miller

It has never been an infatuation,  
L- O- V- E, love is an action.  
It is never just referred to your partner,  
And you aren't bound to love the ones who share the  
blood under your skin.  
It is deeper than liking,  
More responsible than caring.

It is you wanting to put your life  
on the line for them,  
When you would fight their battles for them,  
Love was never meant to be an emotion.  
It's when you never want to see them cry,  
be sad, or angry,  
It's when you want to make sure they smile everyday,  
that they're happy.  
Love was never meant to be about you,  
It's meant to focus on the person, the people  
who surround you.  
Love was never meant for personal gain,  
LOVE is meant to be used more than once  
so the people around you never feel the same.

What I Love About You  
Dennis Tabora

I love how you keep me company when I'm bored.  
I love how you always do everything right.  
When I'm with you I feel full of joy.  
When I'm with you all of my worries  
disappear in an instant  
And I don't know how to make it up to you,  
But maybe this poem will do.  
Many people say you'll make me dumb.  
What they don't know is that you make me feel  
less lonely

Love Poem  
Sara Cushing

Love is forgiveness  
Love is happiness  
Love is hurt  
Why did I do this to myself  
You hurt me in so many ways  
All I want to know is why  
I can't even hold your hand  
But I love you with a love  
No one understands