

cover art delicate by meredith wiggins

flight staff

kat mcdonald wilson copy editor peyton lea design editor bren mcdonald tisha shrestha lauren graham aleena davis

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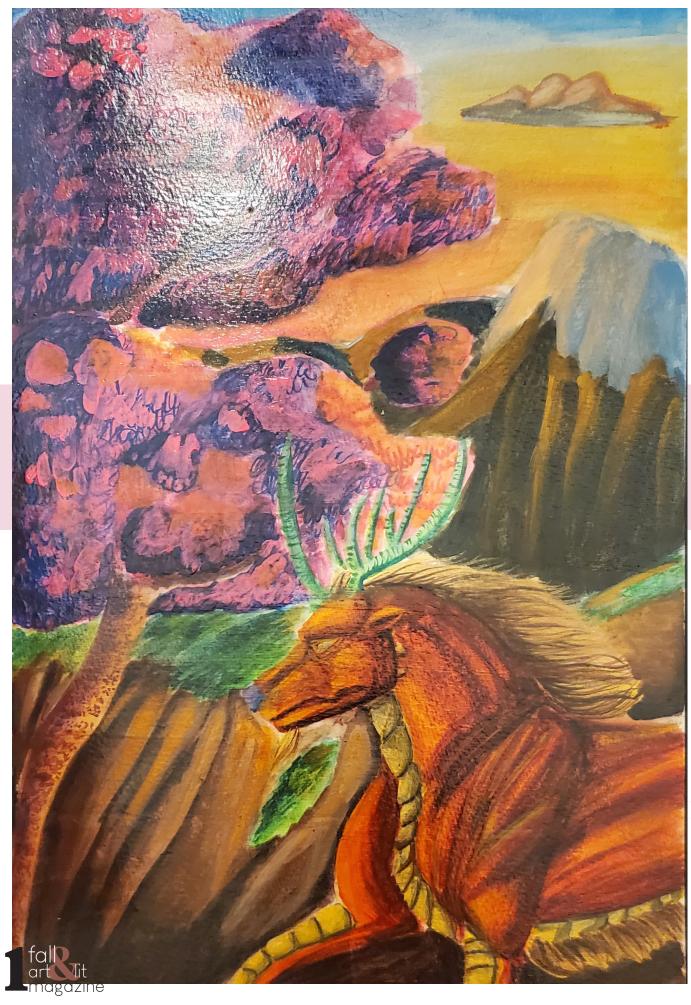
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art by jessa warren

chan





creature

it creeps through the space between my carpet and my door moving in the dark along my bedroom floor circling my chair at my desk where i sit struggling to work, open a new tab and pick from an array of useless websites i use to waste my time

to distract myself from the contents of my mind

but alas, i must work, failing grades at my

i stare at rows of words and read to no avail with nothing to distract me my head becomes clear

the creature, it creeps in my empty ears it fills my skull with a numbing cloud and every searing thought becomes deafeningly loud

balance

art by jazzy adams







frosted Story by elijah poile

I was in a frozen tundra when I first laid my eyes on her. She was a teenage girl, about fifteen, wearing a sparkling white dress with encrusted jewels. They were the most beautiful diamonds I have ever seen. Her hair was light blue, cascading down her back in beautiful, shiny waves, with purple flowers pinned in them. Her nails were sharp and covered in frost. In her left hand she held a sleek metal bow covered in sapphires. Her arrows had sharp icicles on them. What intrigued me most of all were her eyes: one of them was dark blue with swirls, like a storm, and her other eye was purple, and cracked. LIke if I could touch it, it would shatter. It looked like it was made from glass. Her skin was pale and fair. Her lips looked smooth and had blue lipstick.

I saw her walking among the trees and gathering berries. Her movement was smooth and graceful, like a dancer, or a hunter. Then she starts doing actual hunting. She spots a gray wolf, takes out her bow, nocks it, and lets it fly. The arrow hits the wolf's chest and it goes down. I follow her from tree to tree, trying to be as silent as possible so she wouldn't see me, but I failed and my foot landed on a trig. The girl slowly turns around and sees me. Her eyes narrow and her eyebrows raise. I brace for the worse, an arrow to pierce through me. But she puts her bow on her back, sticks out her hand, and says "come with me." I get up and take her hand. It feels cool and smooth. I feel a powerful aura come off her in waves, freezing me. I work up my courage and walk with her through the forest. That is when my entire perspective of the world changes! There is magic everywhere.



dance on moon

waxing waning

poem by augustus prune

you asked me to wait for you - but how can i?

when there is so much work to be done? i can't help but look down upon you though it's hard to see you from up here.

bathed in my light you scuttle, shining like the shell of the green beetle you narrowly missed with your foot. i squint at you the shuttle in my eye blurs my vision and the stars aren't nearly enough.

i sit in the sky and i melt and i melt until we can't see eachother anymore and then i start anew changing and growing and expanding and you look upon me with fondness and i begin to feel content with waiting.

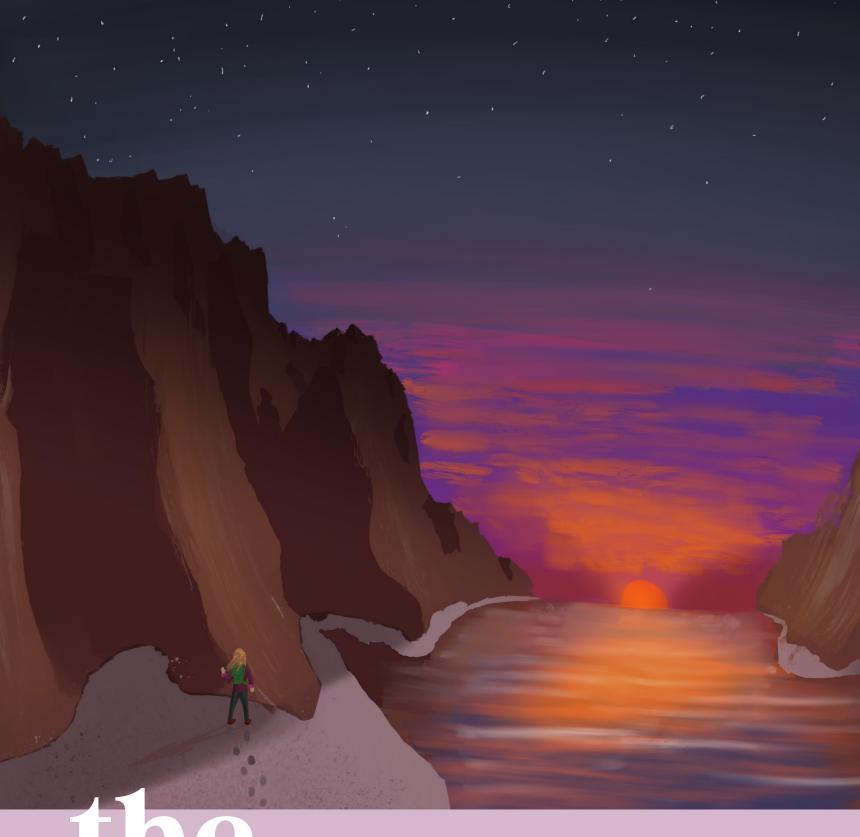
photo by amberlyn barrera



fall art lit magazine



blue by Aidyn Angelle Watchers



the art by luca the two states of the luca the l

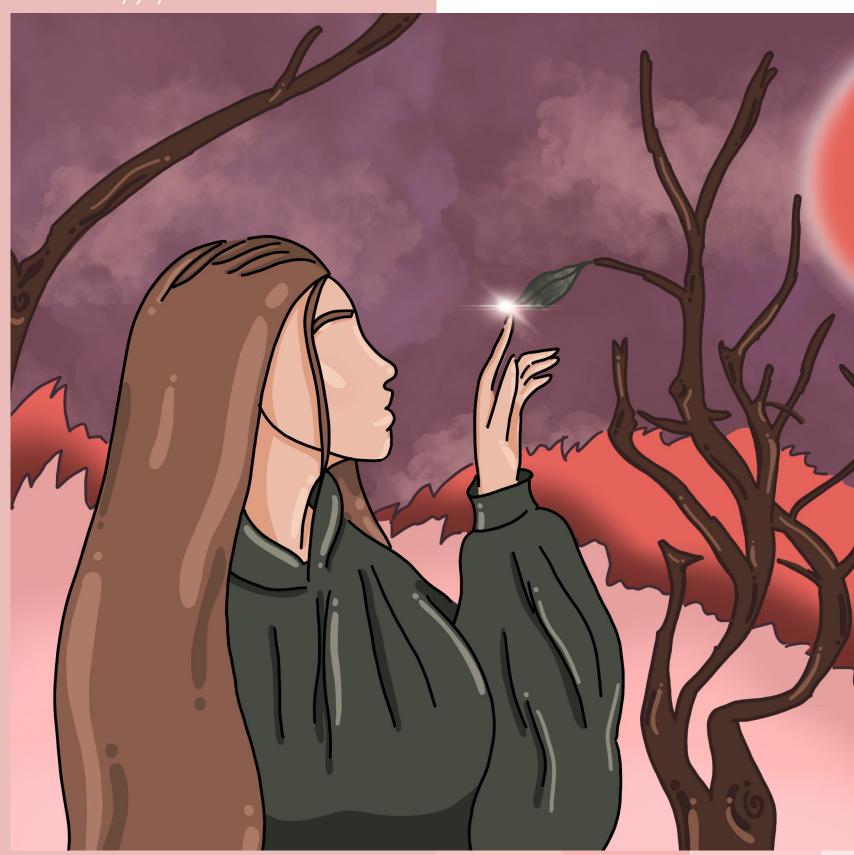


youngustus prune

my toes bury themselves in the sand tiny grits of pale pink cautiously - i tiptoe to the edge of the water

i brace for the crispness on my skin but instead i find warmth the pale blue rises around me so i hold my breath and let it happen

only to find, when my lungs give out, that i was always able to breathe.







trees poem by eris lorde

Belligerent, irregular trunks, supporting limbs, reaching out towards the bright endless bewilderment we call the sky. Fingers flowing gently with warm summer air rushing past. They dance with the elegance of the fae but wear the masks of giants. Quiet beasts, whispering their wisdom to all those who wish for knowledge.

Old are they who carries all the wisdom of the owl, knows all the secrets of the lynx, and stands with all the strength of the bear. Drawing many in with promises of adventure. Warning all those unworthy, of stepping foot on sacred grounds, for there are many creatures dwelling within them. Twisting roots dig into darkened soil. Gripping the earth as their lives depend on it. They offer no home to those who wish harm upon them. Granting access only to those of curious nature. Though aged wood cannot guarantee they'll walk out with their lives.

They sing the songs of old and new. Haunting melodies of life and death. Warning us of dangers yet to come. Should we choose to listen to the ancient things? The whispering trees.

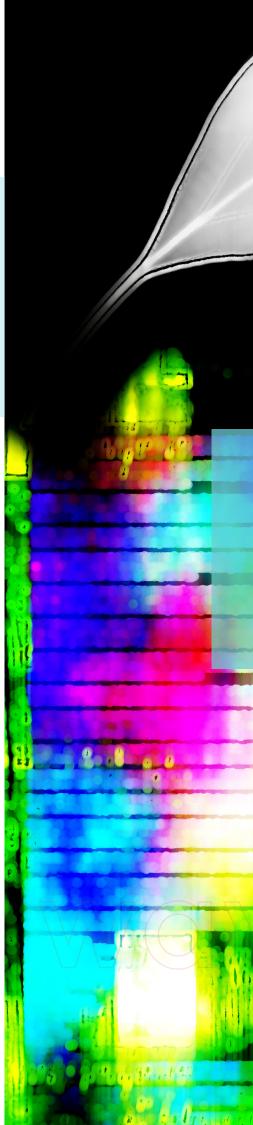
the cycle of change by megan uvaney



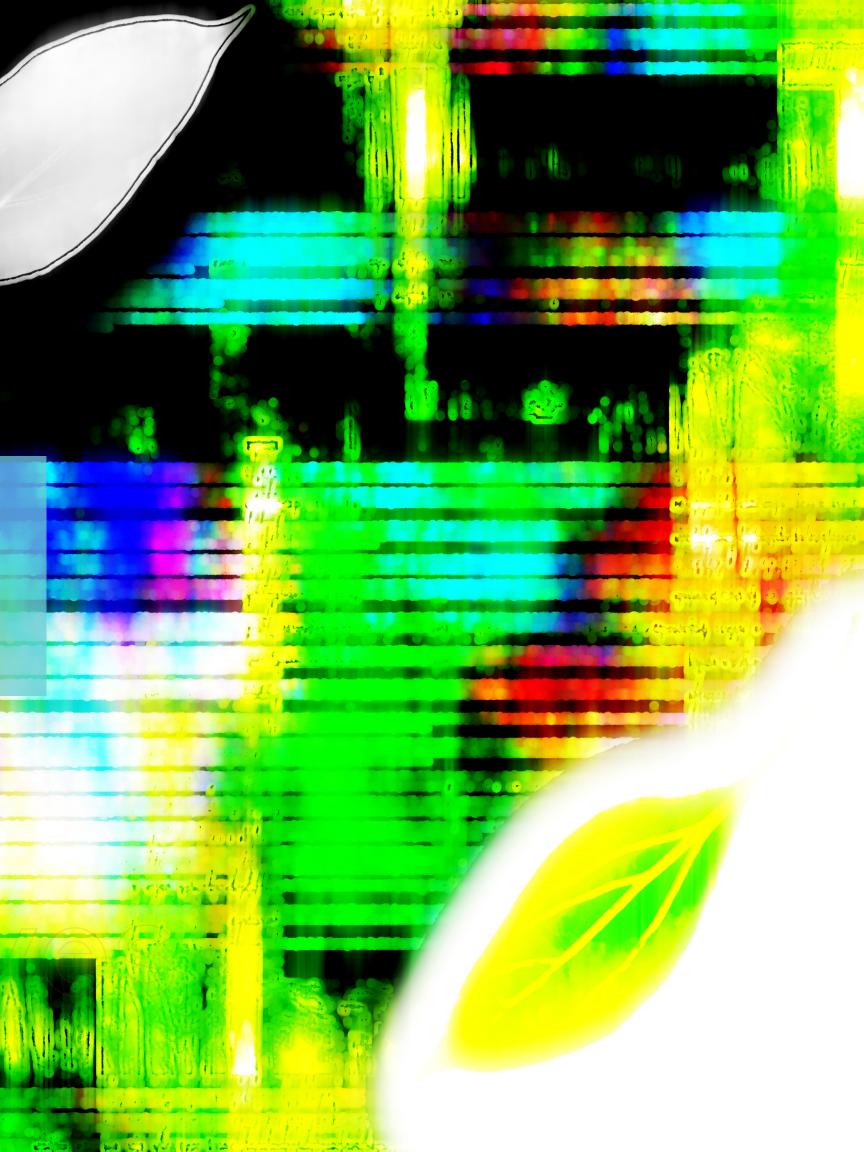


temporary bliss

art by john zey











poem by augustus prune augustus prune

a moth to a ceiling light i flit around you, unwanted i ignore attempts to shoo me because i cannot ignore you though i know that you are not my sun.

my wings slow as i descend up? my bare feet tinker along your warm translucent surface and you are generous though i know that you are not my sun.

i am bathed in warmth the orange light you emit so effortlessly has left me awestruck i cannot bear to leave you though i know that you are not my sun.

i cannot see the rays on the horizon i race to you instead i want to embrace you you, for a moment, flicker away and i know that you are not my sun.

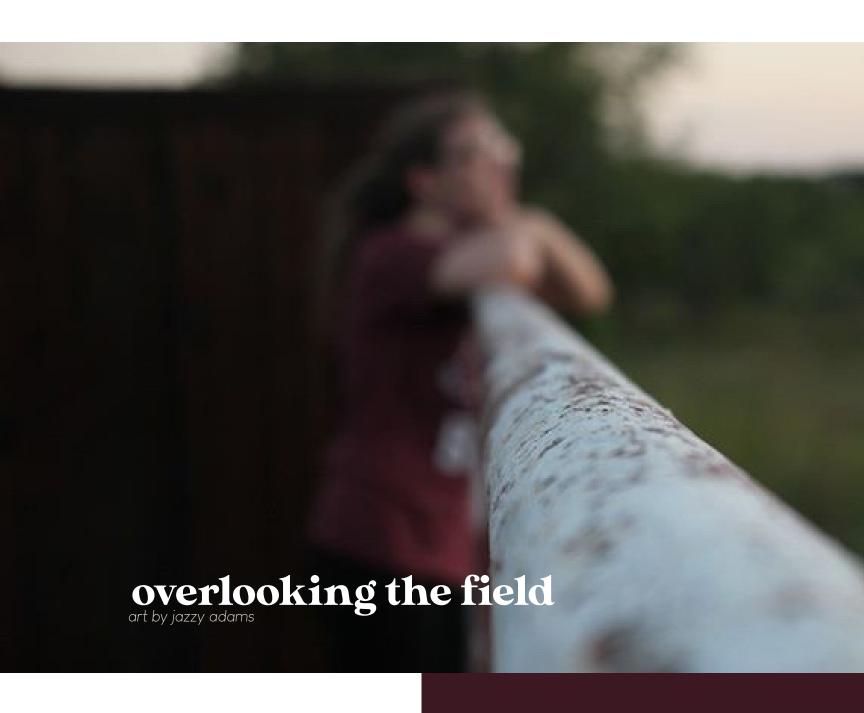
i know that i must leave you i know your deceit will be my downfall and yet i will find myself here tomorrow fall lying, still, on my back.







demociacy art by lilliann nunley





I'm gonna sell my things and buy a fiip phone, save three numbers—be on my way. No sense of obligation to hold me here, nothing to grab on and beg me to stay. I'll pick a suitcase and lose the rest, rebuild myself from the ground up. The parts of me that return with ease will be the ones that were always there, with no baggage or people who knew me, the Julia I create will be of my volition.

I'm gonna chop my hair and sail across the ocean, never mind that I'll get sea sick, fresh off the boatsomewhere remote, and immersed in a culture not yet mine.

There's something appealing about ignorance, the fear and excitement of being behind, I wanna throw myself into a foreign feeling—the feeling of my feelings being mine. I'm ready to have a set of traits that are organic...not the product of other people. I'm ready to have answers for small talk that I don't have now. "What are your hobbies?" And other questions, I hope one day I'll have an answer.

I wanna be something untraceable, a scattered thought on someone's wind. I want to change my name and buy a sailboat, to be lost and never heard from again.

It'll all be thanks to that little fiip phone, that forced me to cut ties with what I've lost. But I'll be lighter for it, and kinder, too—it's easier to be with less shadows on my face. I'll live to be one hundred and pass down my wisdom on someone who I see myself in, and when I get to wherever I'm going, I'll say I was happy in the end.

page design by peyton lea



art by jazzy adams



