

2020

# lit mag



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lit mag team

The Oracle Staff thanks all contributors for submitting their works of art to this year's Literary Magazine.

Due to the volume of submissions, we were not able to publish all the pieces received.

hannah adams  
cassidy chang  
alina choi  
amber huynh  
sky jung  
kristen perez  
angelica sano  
sarah son  
jois talla  
phoebe um  
jillian warren  
amy weng  
isaac yang

[troyoracle.com/litmag](http://troyoracle.com/litmag)

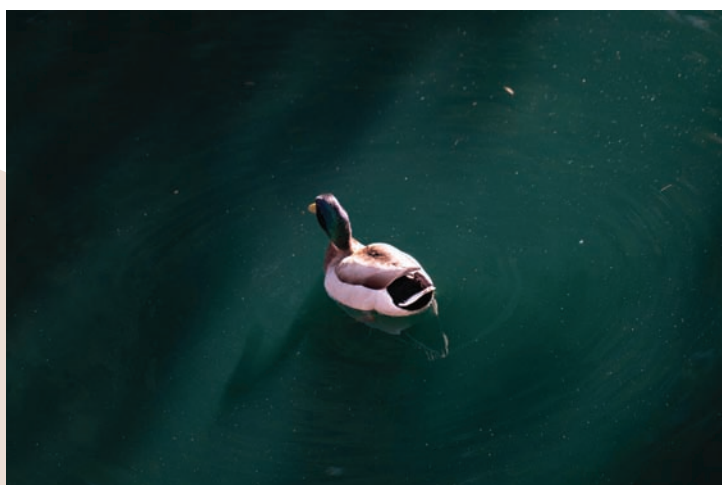
Visit our website for digital mediums and additional artworks.

## featured music

Part of Your World - Korinne Young, senior

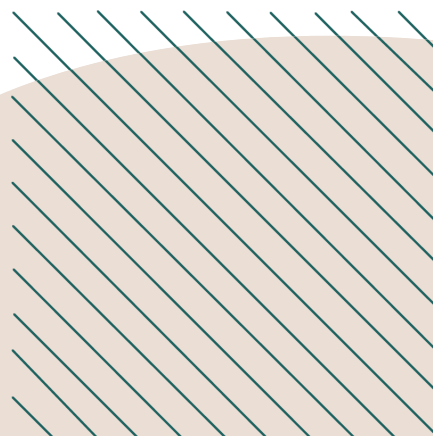
## featured films

Listen - Lillian Lin, senior  
Wrapped Up - Miranda Nicusanti, senior  
A Shot in the Dark - Riley Yen, senior  
Reverse - Phoebe Yao, senior



front cover by phoebe um

▼ Natalie Nguyen, senior



back cover by kristen perez



madre de la plaza de mayo

▲ Jessica Wallihan, senior

# Hope

▼ Alessandra Gonzalez, senior



▲ Sarah Yoon, senior

# Halmoni's Garden



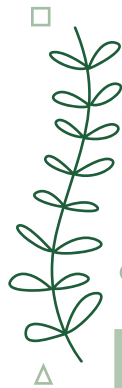
# Summer

Summer gave me peace; it brought him and I together  
 No distractions, no stress  
 Just Love.  
 Gave us bonding structure, I fell in love.  
 Dates, picnics; pizza and soda  
 Exploring of nature and each other  
 Held his hand, felt safe  
 All I could think about was how much I l o v e summer.

Summer turned into fall  
 Seasons changed, so did you  
 I hate that I have to look at you everyday  
 Who even are you?  
 You meant everything to me; now it's just your memory  
 that remains  
 I hate that I still love you  
 All I can think about is how much I h a t e summer.

▲ Dariela Pineda, sophomore

▼ Jessica Wallihan, senior



# Goose

▲ Shreeya Jayabharathi, junior

▼ Bea Rosete, senior







▲ Noah Kim, sophomore

## but she was still beautiful

Her colors are all muddled  
She wonders where she went  
Where'd she gone  
The bright colors  
She wondered how it left her and why  
It wouldn't come back  
She wanted the hues back  
She wanted the warm colors  
So tired of the black, the grey, the blue...  
She wondered where she went  
And if she'd ever come back

▼ Anonymous

▼ sprouting | Diya Patel, sophomore



▼ Hadia Srass, senior

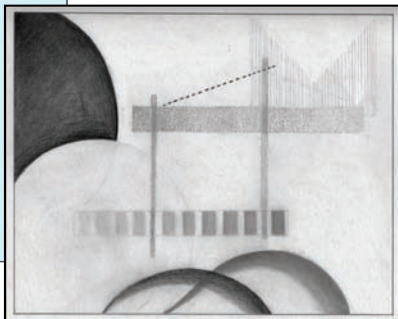




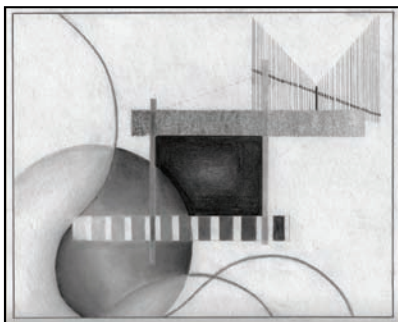
# grand slam

i was  
a theatre kid  
after closing  
night and  
you  
were a  
denny's server

◀ Korinne Young, senior



▶ Samantha Huang, senior



Bea Rosete, senior ▶



▶ flower boy | Diya Patel and Kayla Sim, sophomores

## Smoking Skeleton

▶ Kayla Nguyen, freshman





pink skin, chilled knuckles  
 milky, swirling constellations  
 hide on top of mountains  
 and breathe stardust  
 into your lungs  
 fingers interlocked  
 a quiet kiss  
 a quieter sunset bleeding  
 orangish-redish-gold  
 into the horizon  
 ... and love is love is love  
 empty roads disappear  
 into the twilight  
 a pulsating bassline  
 erupts from the radio  
 choked laughter, aching ribs  
 cracked windows, biting wind  
 singing too sore  
 joy unspoken  
 only present and resonant  
 in the slowing hour  
 ... and love is love is love  
 as you start loving her  
 she'll become more pretty  
 then you last remember  
 and her laugh will  
 dance around your heart  
 as you start loving him  
 he'll become more handsome  
 then you last remember  
 and his eyes will draw you in  
 warmer and softer  
 ... and love is love is love

## Love is Love is Love



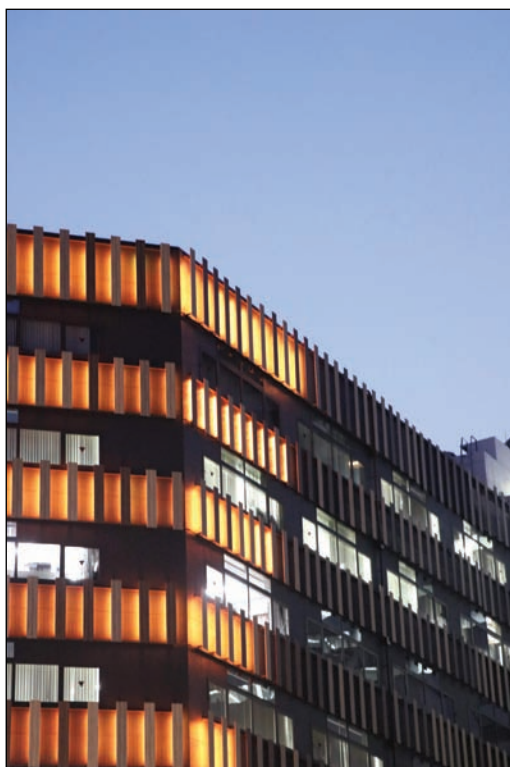
▲ Andrea Florendo, sophomore

▲ Lauren Patag, junior



## Pathway

▲ Mariah Godoy, senior



▲ Bea Rosete, senior

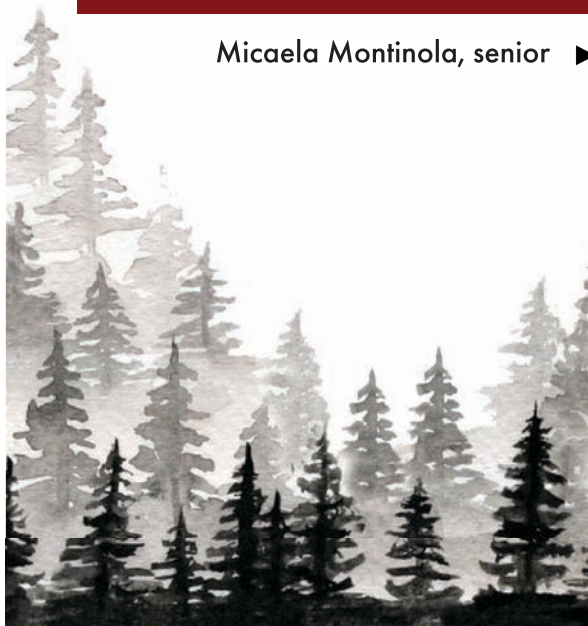




◀ Dominic Fitzgerald-Lafrinier, senior

# simple geometry

▼ Yilin Chen, sophomore



Micaela Montinola, senior ▶





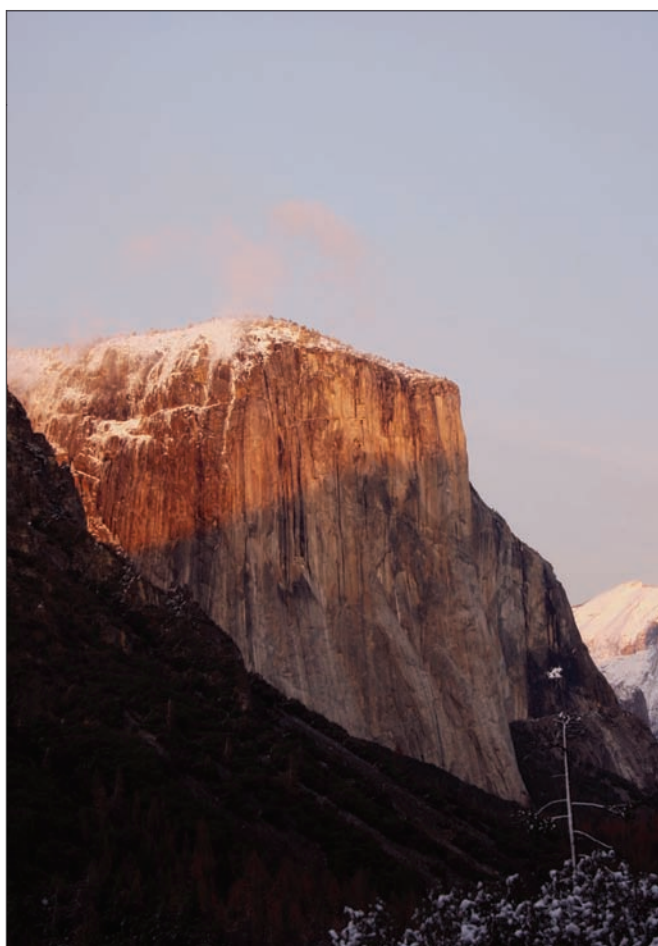
# Dream City



## Silent Thoughts

▼ Adele Novak-Sandner,  
sophomore

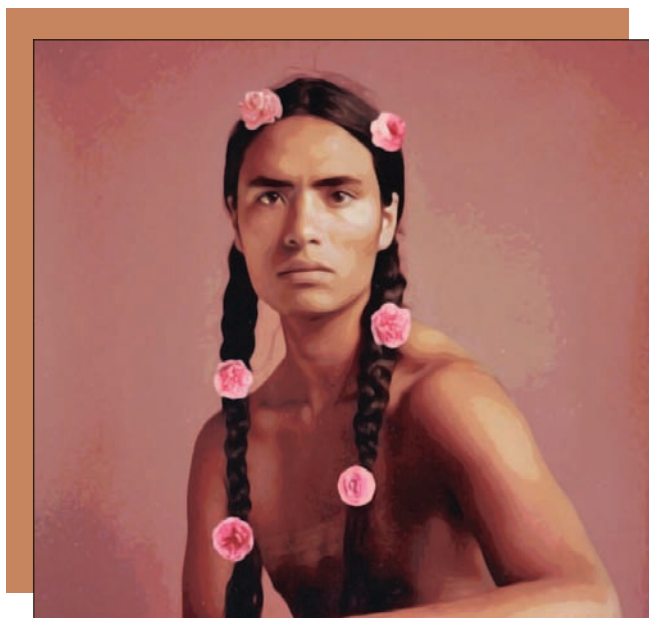
What does it feel like to be alone?  
In calm, in peace, or left in pain.  
A time-honored tradition of ages past?  
Or soft waves, the sound of water, rushing in the air?  
Is this your way to start anew?  
To ask life for a second chance.  
Or a third.  
A fourth.  
Worth all the chances in the world.  
To think and find.  
Energy and life.  
Anew.  
Again.  
Breathe...  
We are not alone.



▼ Nikki Suh, Senior

## Half Dome

## Strength



▼ Alessandra Gonzalez, senior



# Isolated

▼ Manal Ahmed, freshman



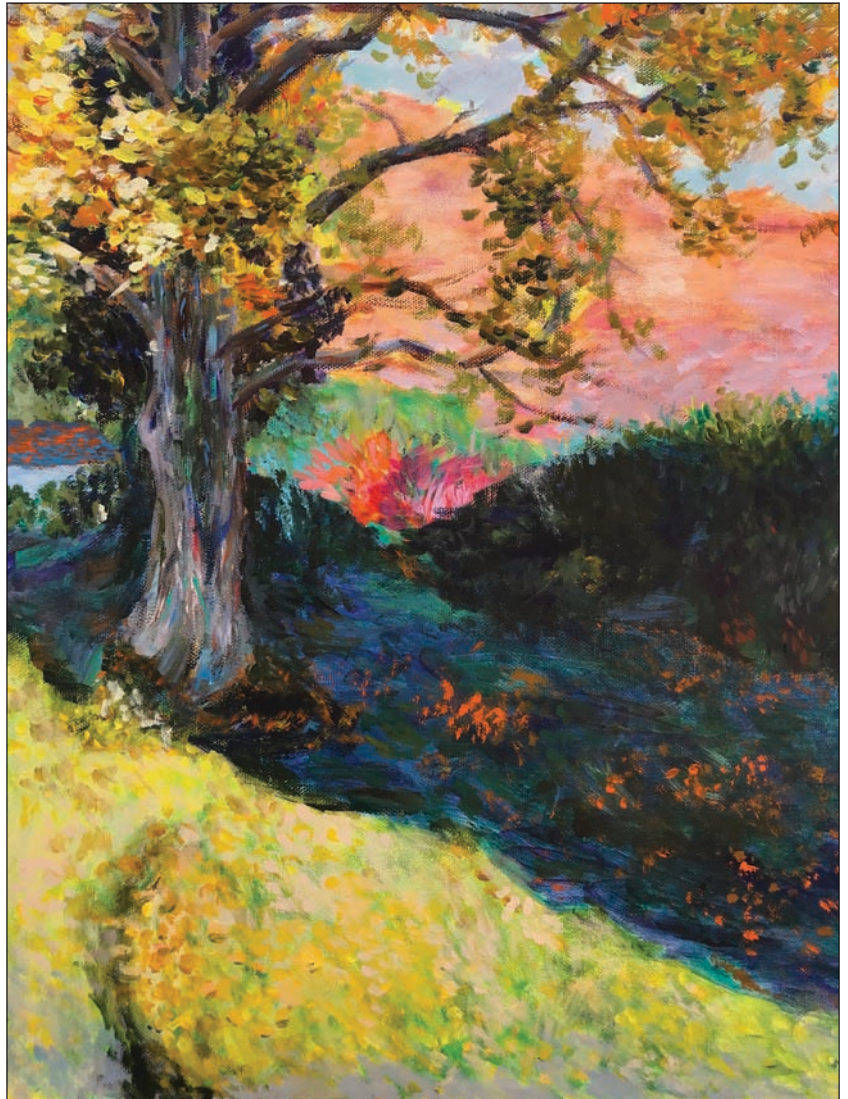
# Flames

▼ Muhammad Atiq, senior

The flickering flames  
The wavering winds  
Monsoons of sadness  
Engulf without whim  
Challenging the flames of happiness  
Joy, burning bright as ever  
Sadness, the one to pull the lever.  
Casting remnants of flame in the rain  
Glued to life, an infinite frame  
Sadness stuck in time  
For it, is joy's only fine.  
In the distance came another flame.  
A glimmer of hope with an eternal  
claim.  
That no candle may burn alone  
One light is another's home  
No light on its own



▲ Lillian Lin, senior



▲ Maxwell Tsao, senior

# Autumn Leaves

Reflections



# you believed in the embers

As dark as the tears  
The lonely  
The depression  
Makes me  
There is still some light  
Whatever was left  
To show me just how  
Much  
How much  
There was to love about you  
And even though I'm some sort of black hole  
You stayed  
and never gave up on that little light  
That was left

▲ Anonymous



# Mania

▼ Micaela Montinola, senior

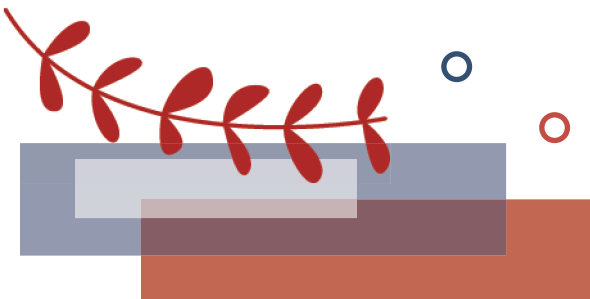


▲ 12 Circles of Life | Miseok Kim, junior

▼ Dominic Fitzgerald-Lafrinier, senior



# July





## The Sprint | Milo Brusckhe, junior ▼

Crunch  
Crystal fall beneath your feet  
Punch  
Ancient cycle now that it's complete

And this land  
Is flat as the sea  
Journey unplanned  
Anywhere you're hoping to be?  
Across the tide

The power's implied with each stride

Breathe  
With your chest and try to relax  
Painting  
Beyond continues to parallax  
To signify  
An iota of progress  
Please deny  
The right to regress or suppress

Somewhere away  
A call to obey  
Back into the fray  
From your relay

Basin of white  
Hands all filled with sleight  
Your magic has given me back my sight  
But the water is bad  
Hope no spirits are mad  
I must return to the night  
Conducting a touch of your light



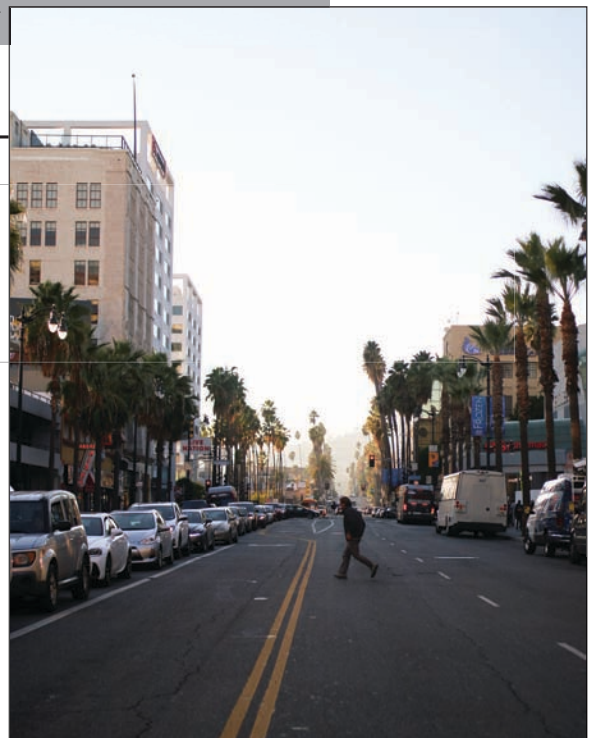
▼ Bea Rosete, senior



Society's Flaw | Kayla Sim, sophomore ▼

## Wandering Through

Kayla Sim, sophomore ►



# ..... Façade of Winter .....

We aren't smart.  
I don't know anyone who really  
knows And isn't just pretending.

My heart is beating in my eyes  
They seek the truth  
Find nothing but lies  
And you may think that sounds  
bad  
But the best lies—  
Within them there is some truth to  
be had.

It's raining where I am.  
Another backdrop that lets me  
pretend  
I'm anywhere else

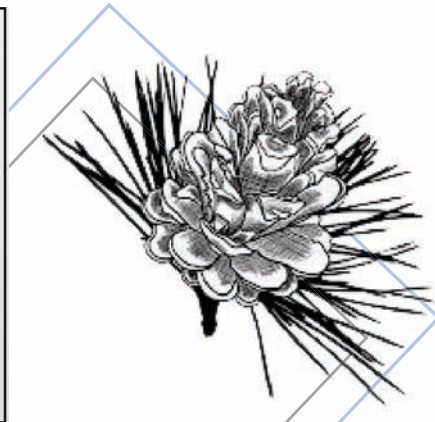
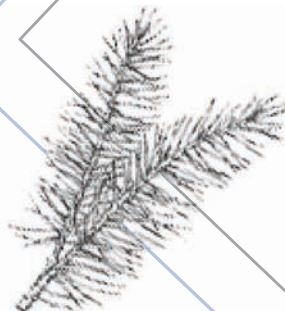
This weekend I dreamt we died  
I felt bad to see you hurt like that  
But I get the feeling  
All those guys  
Who say they don't care about  
anything  
Are mostly pretending too.  
Which is why when I played this  
song  
It reminded me of you.

And reminded me I'll never be  
Anything other than what I am.

▲ Milo Bruschke, junior



▲ Jisoo | Arden Tran, junior



▲ Kookie | Arden Tran, junior

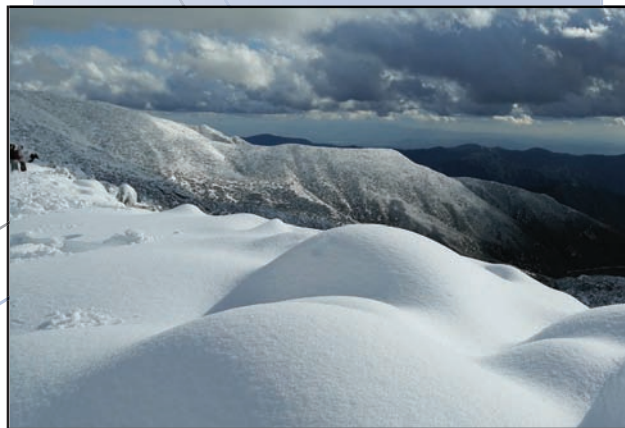
## Ammil

n. [uh-MEEL] Devon

The thin, glittering layer of ice that  
gilds leaves, trees and other exposed  
surfaces.



▼ A Flow of Cold | Andrea Nguyen, junior



▲ Shirley Jia, junior





◀ Sean Sison, junior ▼



▼ Victoria Estelle V. Illescas, sophomore

## Our Own Peace

One welcomes the silence,  
the alienation, and the calmness.  
Who prefers the sun, the heat,  
and the summer.

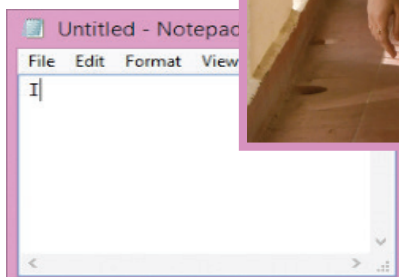
Another welcomes the noise,  
the companionship, the rush.  
Who prefers the snow, the cold,  
and the winter.

Different interests, same purpose.

Another enjoys the the order,  
the organization, and directions.  
The one who prefers sitting still,  
standing in a straight line,  
sticking inside the box.

Another enjoys the chaos,  
the disorganization, and misdirection.  
The one who prefers moving around,  
being active, and stepping outside the  
box.

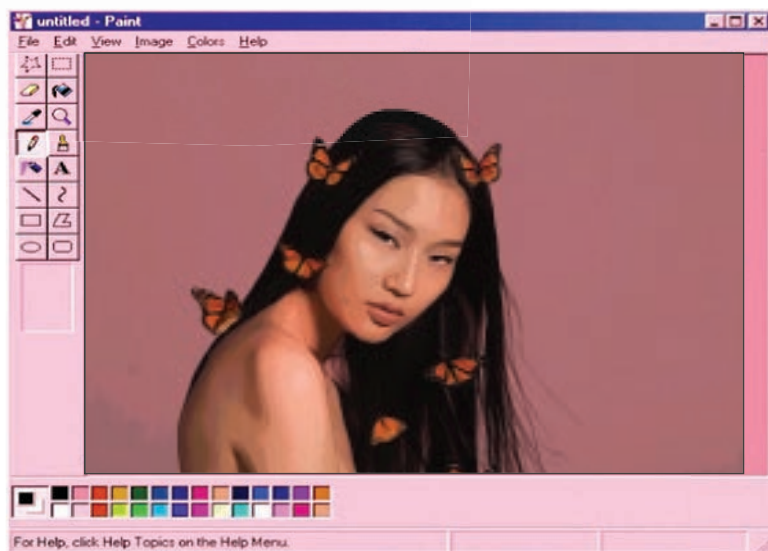
Everyone has different desires and  
thoughts,  
but it always leads to the same outcome;  
Our own peace.



Muhammed Atiq, junior ▶

## Driven

Passenger of his taxi.  
Passenger since birth.  
Driven by himself,  
Unaware of his worth.  
Endless driving,  
Not living but surviving.  
Limited by priority,  
His driver,  
Insecurity



▲ Alessandra Gonzalez, senior





▲ Bea Rosete, senior



▲ Alexis Rylaarsdam, junior



▲ Jessica Wallihan, senior



▼ Miranda Nicusanji, senior

