

Fall Issue 2019

Dying Alive August Burgo

For a soul, who dwells extensively on being fundamentally alone, She appreciates people. When they smile and laugh in pain, It helps her feel less afraid. She can sympathize without pity. Maybe you'd recognize a part of her journey.

At night, when the sea flashes bright, the waves crash on all sides. She dips her head under water to dampen the sound of thunder. To dive into wonder, is a beautiful answer.

In the day, when the sun shines, she will spend her time sitting still, trying to float.

If you rock her boat, she will fall over and sink.

So if you care, come prepared.

Provide stability from the brink.

When she speaks softly, and her tired eyes glint, listen to them patiently and nod to her hint. A good dog stays close when he spots a fog.

From the beginning of time, what wakes a soul and makes it whole inside, Is its end.
We are dead together, old friend.

Young Lovers, Carve these words. August Burgo

Two names are carved as a promise, thick and rare. As the years go by, the letters pull apart and expose what's bare. A secret whispered on skin we couldn't say, we shared, with limbs and knots. As kids, we fell into its chips, climbed its tips, and saw the sun rise. The shade kept us safe, gave us a place, like a mother's care: always there, everywhere, without a word to ruin the world. It doesn't mind us, dies to grow for us, knows us more than we know us and still, we're unaware.

While we reaped, it reached and weeped for us until it fell, depleted. We've sown our sorrows in its tread.

Made our bed of frames in its stead.

Burned its bark and left our marks deeper than intended.

Our oldest companion, we've taken advantage of.

And so the names we wrote underneath it's crown have come down.

No proof of us remains now.

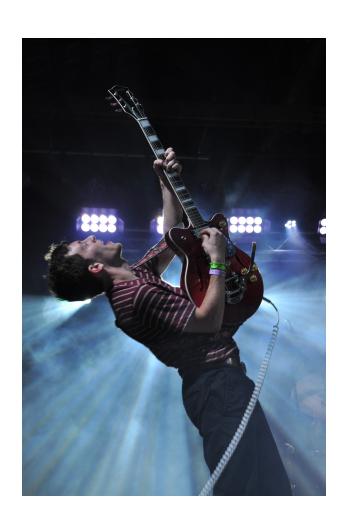
If the spark in you is true, find yourself in love with a moment to spare, sit beneath the tree that gave to you and let it be there.



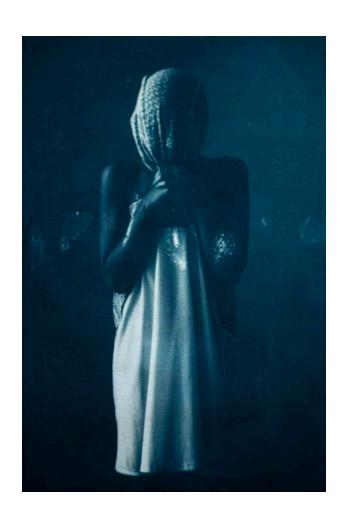
Untitled Lee Walton Digital Photography



Krysten Heberly Priscilla Renae Digital Photography



Krysten Heberly Arson Daily Digital Photography



Theresa Newell Dark Memories Photography Soaked my cyanotype on fabric in tea, coffee, coffee

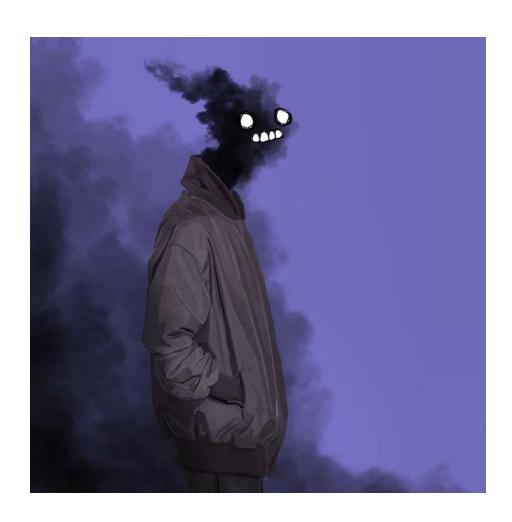


Theresa Newell Betrayed Photography-Cyanotype on fabric using the sun and black watercolor paintgrounds, and cocoa



Theresa Newell Restless Photography--Cyanotype using the sun and black watercolor paintv





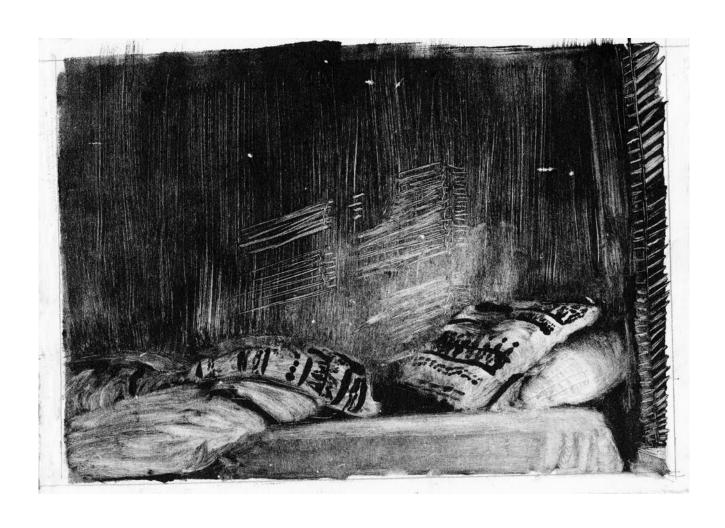
Smokhed Salvador "Satch" Serrano Photoshop Digital Painting



Camrynn Coale Tim Boardman Cameron Herring Thylacine, Ink, watercolor, collage



Jackelopes Timothy Boardman Linoleum Print 9x12









Austin Garner The Introvert Digital Drawing



THE EXTROVERT



Austin Garner The Ambivert Digital Drawing





Reyanne Wilkie Untitled Digital Line Drawing







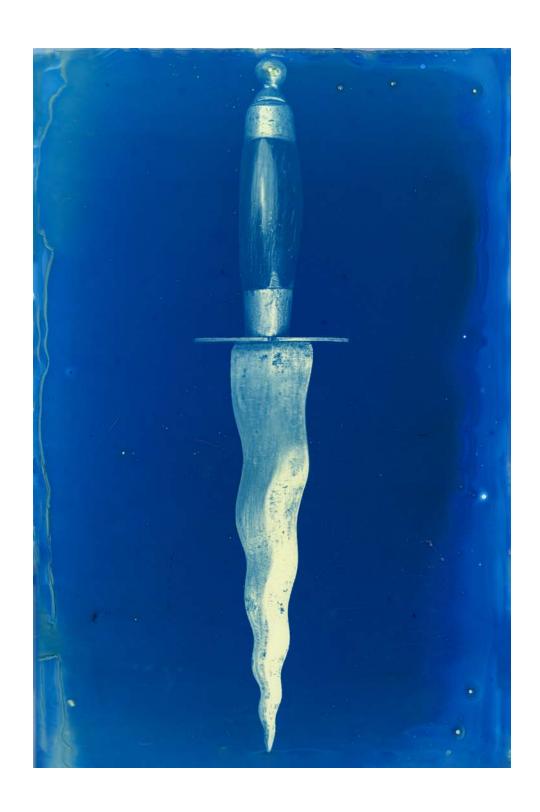


Black and Blue Dorian Leto Invisible Man hardcover, wire, charcoal, ink









Jessica Leigh Mason The Kris Cyanotype On Glass-Historical Photography





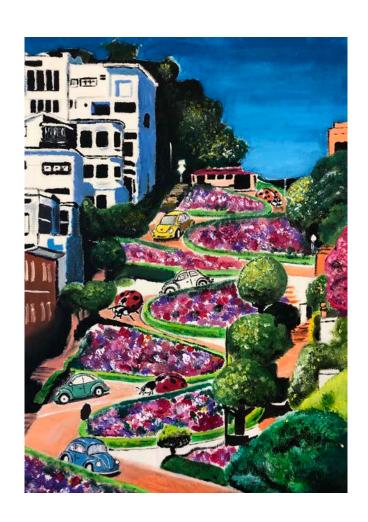






Keila Rodriguez-Salazar Mi padre en mi lugar feliz (My dad in my happy place) Acrylic





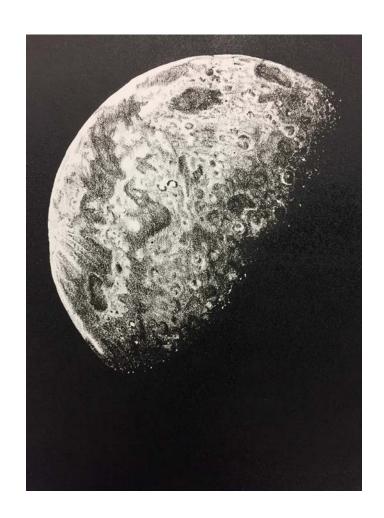


Ernest Kroi Fluttering Across 7th Avenue Chalk Pastels

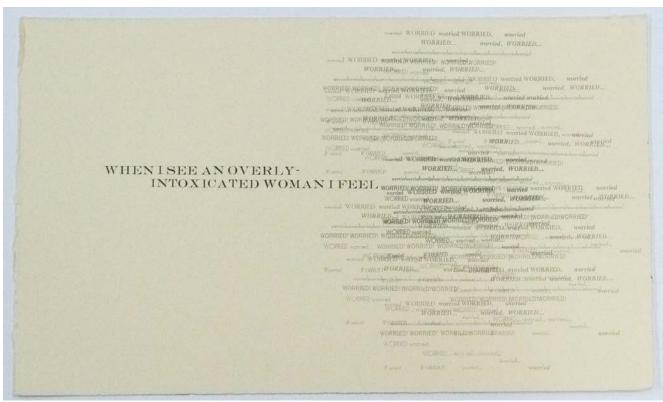












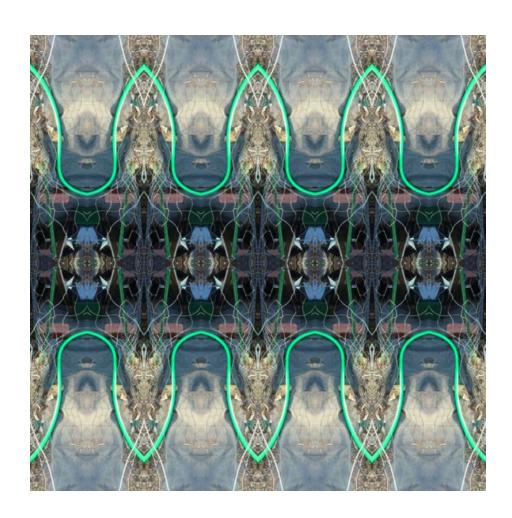
April Honbarger

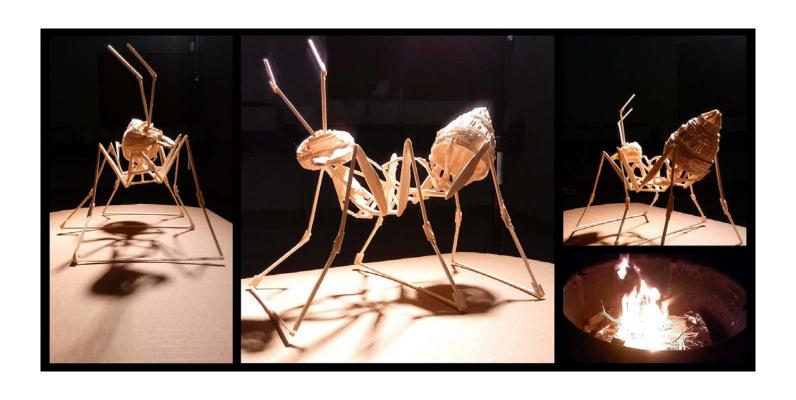
Intoxicated Man, Intoxicated Woman- Letterpress on BFK Rives.

I asked 500 women to take a survey after I collected the data I printed their responses to the questions. I was interested in how many answers had similar answers, and how could I give these 500 women their own voice? For the question "How do you feel when you see an overly intoxicated woman?" 90% of the answers were "worried" For the question "How do you feel when you see an overly intoxicated man?" the answers were similar in that most felt in fear for their safety, or repulsed.

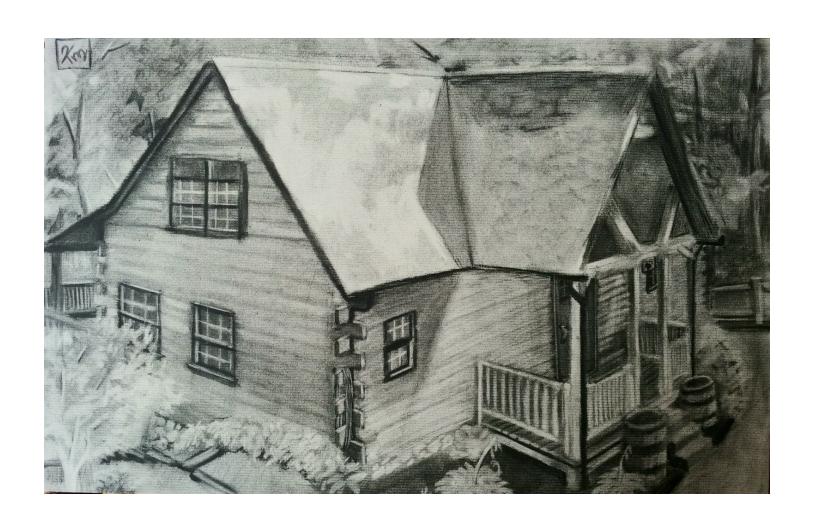


Sydney Lee Lewis St., Greensboro Arboretum, Green Hill Cemetery, Reyonalda Gardens, Westerwood Bridge Quilt





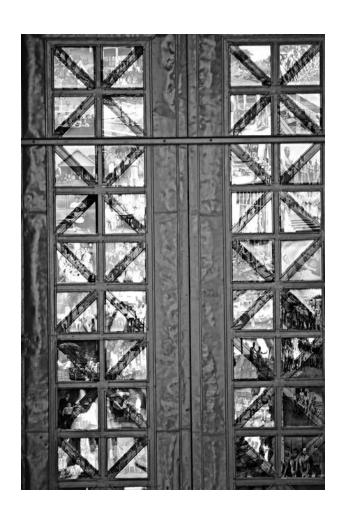
Keeley Martin Ant Spring, 2018 Matchsticks and Hot Glue, 12" x 6" x 8.5"



Keeley Martin Mountain House July, 2019 Charcoal on Paper, 17" x 11"



Lena Dominique Rodriguez-Gillett Subconscious Love Ink Drawing



Lena Dominique Rodriguez-Gillett Opa's War Door Digital Photography Collage 03-17 Playdough Alissa Wu

I have never held a hand of a man
But I have rested in the creases of his palm
As he rolls me
Squeezes me
Breaks me
Into something he wants me to become
And if I am bruised
And if my bones have broken
He'd say to me
"Don't worry my dear,
this is how a lady should be,
for this is what a lady is to me"

An Ode to My Hips Alissa Wu

Proceed cautiously
But I know you are eager
To venture your hands below my waist
For every bump and dip your fingers meet
Is a little gift sincerely from me
Trace your lips along my stretch marks
And taste the heat from which they are singed
From a lighter lit by fortitude
On the outskirts of my skin
I esteem over all my curves
As well as all my straights
Because when I grew and I shrank
For when I bled and when I birthed
My hips never did forsake

How repetitive, Songbird, that short melody Will outlive us both

As sharp as
A belt of vines
Teeth aligned like wild spines
Of angled tines lined with
Feathers of hooked fur and
Blood

Wrapper hobbling across the beach Till the water sticks it And drags it under

Wind through the branches A skinny tree clings to its Shivering leaves Run By Brittney Akpuogu

You need to leave your bed.

Before you smile, you need to feel cared for. And before you feel cared for, you need to see your friends. And before you see your friends, you need to go out and find them.

But before any of that.

You need to leave your bed.

These words were what finally spurred Wren's long dormant limbs into motion, finally dusted off the gears in her mind and let them spin at their own sluggish, yet steady pace.

Passing friends greeted her as she trotted through the apartment lobby at her own steady pace, but she found her legs unable to stop, her body unable to give them more than a passing greeting of a fleeting nod. Where was she going? Was she going anywhere? A bit disettled, yet curious, she allowed her paws to lead the way, right out of her apartment complex.

Only once she was away from the passing glances of the streets of her little town did her pace begin to quicken. Trotting became jogging, jogging became running, and running became darting, darting so quickly the foliage of the sunlit forest that surrounded became deep clover blurs, the rays of sunlight dappling through the trees could hardly catch respite on her pale skin before she was bounding through the shadows once more, wild, curly locks of white flung back by crisp winds.

The motive hadn't hit Wren yet, if there was anything. Had there needed to be? Running was a mindless thing, a cure for a mind that overloaded itself all too frequently. There was no time to look for a motive. But she hadn't needed to. The motive was all over, in the burning of her lungs, the ache in every stride, bobbing and weaving through the trunks and the bushes and the undergrowth the forest had to offer. The motive was the mindlessness.

And for a moment, she inherited the wings of her namesake, her aching limbs became weightless, and in her strides she almost glided.

As reality caught up with her muscles she came to a slow trot of a stop, heaviness weighing down her bones again all at once, as she plopped down to take a seat. How far had she gone? Just where had she gone? Oh, this was... rash, it was rash! And how good it felt to be rash! How good it felt, after weeks of letting herself lay still on the floor of the warriors den in all her anguish, to be anything at all!

She let herself exist there for a while longer, muscles aching, reminding herself she was alive.

And after a long while of sleeping through sunrises,

she greeted the peaking sun with wide eyes and baited breath.

Emma Albrecht I Miss You

It's been a year and I still miss you
It's been a year since you left and I miss you
It's been a year since I've seen your face or heard your voice
And I miss you
I miss our conversations
I miss asking you for advice
My hand misses holding yours
I miss the warmth of your hugs
Fuck I just miss you, ok?

But

I don't miss the way you made me feel
When I got so angry
That I slammed my head into the wall
Repeatedly.
I don't miss your family
And how they made me feel like I was nothing
I don't miss having to compete with you
On everything
But fuck I still miss you

How come you got to call all the shots?
Why didn't I get a say in any of this?
Who put you in charge of this relationship?
I don't remember doing that three years ago
I don't remember much from three years ago
I don't remember who I was without you
Is that why I miss you?
Because I lost myself in you?
Because it feels like without you I am nothing?

That can't be it

I know I am someone outside of our relationship
How come I can't remember her?
How come I can't remember what it's like without you?
How come I can't imagine my life without it being tangled up in yours?
How come I am the one left grieving and you get to move on so easily?
How come I never saw it coming?
How long had you been planning this?
Months? Weeks? Days? Hours?
What if that night had gone differently?

All questions I will never get answers to
But fuck I miss myself more than I miss you
How I used to smile and light up the room
How I used to care so much about my friends
How strong and independent I was
How I would never let anyone get in my way
I hope I find you again one day
I hope I find myself again soon

Con guión y todo Keyla Marquez Vergel

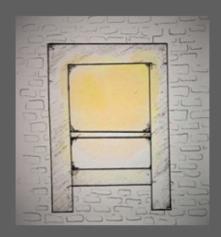
Me pierdo en lo entremedio. A mi voz la busco pero la encuentro más rápido en inglés. Aunque mi primer idioma sea el español, me encuentro siempre en el entremedio. Encuentro mi voz en el spanglish.

Mis padres no entienden mi inglés. Mis amigos no entienden mi español. A veces yo no me entiendo a mi misma, y de nuevo en el medio como un guión.

Cubana-americana pero a mi patria le soy fiel.
Simplemente cubana,
elimino el guión.
¿Pero cómo puedo cuando no he vivido la Cuba que vivieron mis padres,
mis abuelos,
mis antepasados?
De nuevo en el medio,
Queriendo cohabitar en las dos identidades pero sin poder.

Escribo mi propio guión. En el, todos me entienden. En el, soy cubana y nadie me lo hace probar. En el, encuentro los dos idiomas al mismo tiempo.

Mitad de mi corazón se encuentra en La Habana, por eso vivo en las dos identidades. Ya no me encuentro en el entremedio. Soy simplemente yo, con guión y todo.



there's a window in front of me
across the street
it has the softest orange light inside
and it's making me feel like
the loneliest person on the planet

i've never had a place where i've felt at ease
i look over my shoulder and tense my muscles
wherever i go
i can't tell if it's nature or nurture
but i want that soft orange light

Lines Tyler Pufpaff

I am that faded line erased, Redrawn, and erased again Because it just doesn't quite fit in.

I realized though that maybe I was just being drawn on the wrong sheet of paper.

My genome obviously forgot To include the essentials That are required at social events From which I always find myself leaving.

Am I supposed to be just as less impressed with reality as they are?

I keep asking myself: Am I going somewhere? Hell, If I knew, would it even help me get there?

Someone asked me why my hair was so gray at 25. I responded: I'm just dying quicker than everyone else. She didn't like that.

I drive more tobacco into the ground, Screwing its disease into the earth. I wonder if I'm headed into the earth too.

I felt as though any ounce of real Had seeped out of my pores, And I glossed with the agony of days That pass too soon Would not find something real again.

I found myself; drawing lines on tombstones Insensate, when I related myself to a line Incorrectly drawn.

Now in another reality Looking down at myself, With the lines drawn on my arms I saw something real.