

ORPHEUS

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SYLED STAHL

THIRD YEAR FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

What is your obsession?
I am very passionate and genuinely obsessed with leading a very creative, meaningful, and fulfilling life.

CATHERINE BRIDGE FOURTH YEAR MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Three weeks. Three lifeless weeks. Time dragged its feet as I dragged my spirits through the desolate season. I sat on the window seat in my childhood bedroom and watched the snow cover my sixth birthday present. The lonely swing set trembled in the cold, and I pulled my matted, sapphire blanket tightly around my hunched shoulders. I turned from the window and shut my eyes. Melancholy rippled through my skin. I needed to escape.

As I opened my eyes, I glimpsed a corner of red from beneath my unmade bed. The pale green comforter reached to hide the stark red edge from view, but my observant gaze was not fooled.

I stretched my numb legs in front of me until I stood before the side of the bed. I knelt down. Once upon a time, I feared plunging my hands into the abyss, but, at 22, I steeled myself to conquer my irrationality. I grabbed the red corner, and slid the object across the sandy carpet.

A rush of recognition overwhelmed me. The shoe box. It's altered surface was painted to read "Autumn and Spring: Confidential."

I had forgotten all about it. Time seemed to do that. It allowed me to forget.

I gingerly lifted the lid and caressed the top layer of relics. The icy glaze over my eyes melted and dripped over my face.

Notes. Pictures. Ticket stubs. Theater programs. Knick-knacks. Drawings. Warm waves of moments crashed over me. I picked up a sketch.

Mr. Lipke turns his back to write on the chalkboard. A girl leans over and drops a crumpled piece of notebook paper on my desk.

"I see those doodles in your notebook. I have some, too. Wanna share? I'm Autumn, btw."

Under the note, I see a caricature of Mr. Lipke. Droopy ears, pointed nose, buck teeth. I laugh uncontrollably, and Autumn

bursts out with snickering. Suddenly, the picture disappears. I look up. Mr. Lipke stands over me and peers at the paper.

He shouts, "April, Autumn, see you in Saturday school."

A visitor at the door distracts Mr. Lipke and he leaves the room. I dart forward and take the masterpiece from his desk. I exchange smirks with Autumn, my friend.

Autumn's laugh burned itself into my mind seven years ago. That sound. That face. I wiped my cheeks with my sleeve, before rummaging through the memories again. I felt a frayed edge, and pulled.

Autumn traces my fingertips with the edge of the gift.

"Can you guess what it is?"

I can't. I snatch at the softness on my skin and open my eyes. Green and Brown knots. Our colors. Our friendship.

"Happy birthday, April. I made you a bracelet," she says as she ties it to my wrist.

I hug her, and lean over to switch out the lights. We lay down in my oversized bed. I reach over for her hand and squeeze. She squeezes back.

"Goodnight, Autumn."

I observed the tattered object in my hand. It's once vibrant colors had whitened with age. Seafoam and Sand strings. I let it fall through my fingers and I continued exploring.

I knew what I was looking for now. The last of us.

The final piece. A sharpness aggravated the back

of my hand and raised my skin. I grasped at it.

I tearfully carve aggressive lines into the wooden bridge with the pointed edge of a rock. Autumn sits beside me.

"You cry all the time," Autumn jokes. I try to laugh with her. A pathetic attempt.

"It won't be that bad. We can visit each other...and we still have summers together." Even her enthusiasm fades. She knows it won't be easy.

"I wonder what it would be like if we went to college together..." Saying it just feels painful.

I stop maiming the bridge. Still clutching the rock, I look up at the umbrella of trees overhead. A leaf drifts down from the oak and falls on my lap. I brush it off and gaze at Autumn. She notices the object clasped in my fist. Autumn offers her hand and I pass her the rock.

She rolls over and scratches: Autumn and Spring.

I clutched the rock until my knuckles were snow white. Suddenly, I dropped it and my blood flowed, again. With clammy hands I picked up my phone and I called her.



I can sense him returning from the darkness; the vibrational pull, the sensation of disintegration, forced back by a phosphorescent burst into the tenebrous corner where I reside most days. Desperately seeking egress, a relocation of my perpetual conscious to a body that lets me inhabit it for the time I need, not this temporary shared asylum. His disoriented face swims up in front of our mirror, looking disconcerted, rattled, hands bleeding from the knuckles. I can read his thoughts: what deviation from my path have I been taking, how did these lacerations appear upon my skin, what squalid journey has my body taken me on in what seems to be unconsciousness?

I chuckle at his unawareness, but still I find myself shoved maddeningly to the claustrophobic background, my private cove from which I watch through the oriel windows of his eyes. His fraudulent imprisonment of my psyche makes me writhe; our mutuality is abhorrent, and he usurps my autonomy by shoving my needs away.

He is so soft and deplorable, unable to break free from the comfortable societal milieu, relying on his pedagogy to wield power; I prefer to take it with my hands. His epicurean sensibilities cause me intolerable discomfort, while I suffer in vain, wishing to be visceral, corporeal, martial. But I am trapped while he capers along with his insipid friends, spouting nonsensical platitudes and indulging in spineless forms of immoderation. Speaking inanely, imbibing bourbon at a rate befitting a drunkard, incentivizing further my need for freedom.

But sometimes, sometimes, I worm out of the recess in which he imprisons me and I flood out, percolating, expanding nearly infinitely to blanket his consciousness with my, if I can be candid, superiority. When my hands are at the reins, blood courses not only through my veins but through the dark gutters of the streets.

Interestingly, he never interrogates me about the source of his hand's bruises or the anonymous blood congealing in the sink; it's as if he's intimidated by my power, or else he doesn't know its reach.

His ineptitude in the face of my recreation makes me feel unstoppable, scintillating like there are electromagnetic sparks coursing my veins. For if I can hide my degeneration from even this closest of my friends, how would any other fool follow the trajectory of my deceit? The intensity of my hatred for my unwitting host is mollified slightly by the ingenuity of my malignancy.

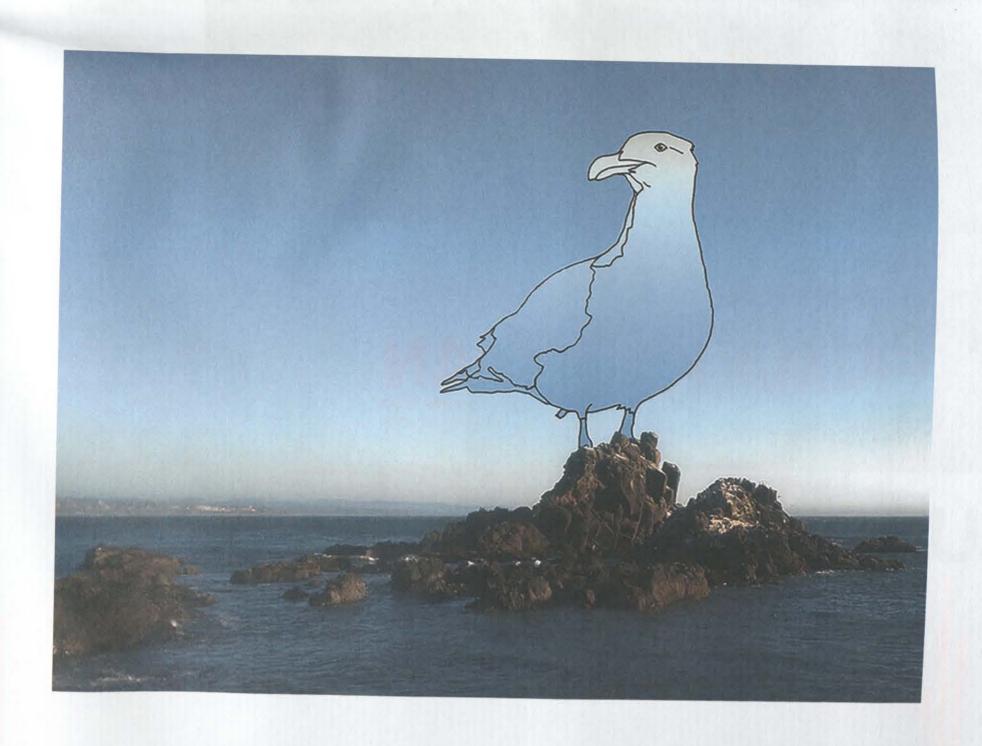
I look in our mirror and see his terror-stricken shadow move behind my eyes; I observe him dispassionately as he beats against the gate to his penitentiary in a helpless affray. Remembering the suffocation of that space, I feel vindicated watching him voiceless, motionless, in the place I have escaped.

I can sense him returning from the darkness and internally I howl; I struggle against my excruciating withdrawal from freedom, waiting for the next snap of his mind that sets me free; I long for the day when I am he, and he is no one anymore.

What is your obsession?

Day to day life gets boring without a little change in your rhythm. Seeing things differently is the key to the creative process.

JESSE CHATCHE CAND MIXED EDITING VALUE SECOND YEAR GRAPHIC DESIGN





THEOUGH THAU FINAN SECOND YEAR

SECOND YEAR GRAPHIC DESIGN

GOLD RUSH

COMMUNICATION - PR

My skin is gold but my scars are silver

Put there on accident

Put there on purpose

Precious and tragic.

With the blooming of rubies on my flesh

and the sapphire of tears,

I have carved

and I have poked

and I have scraped

and I have begged.

I have mined for all that I am,

and paid with the only currency I have.

The black at my ribs

and the white at my knee.

The shape on my wrist

and the number at my elbow.

The lines on my forearm

and the lacerations on my memory.

Crown jewels —

glittering and invaluable.

Innumerable.

Ornaments,

tarnished,

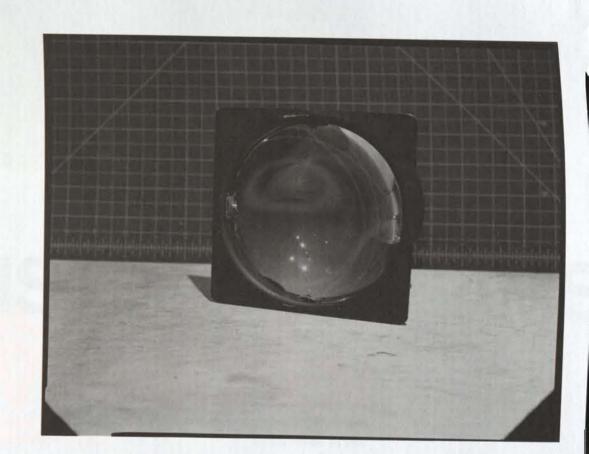
discolored,

and ruddy.

I bought them with my tragedies.

A cave of unceasing riches.

But I am not a gold rush and my jewels are not for sale.





PHOTOGRAPHY

AFORECAST OF FALLING BOUGHERTY

ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY

"What are you going to do about it?"

Dark clouds roll in And like pizza dough under a rolling pin Soul's spread thin,

Smack

Thunder begins

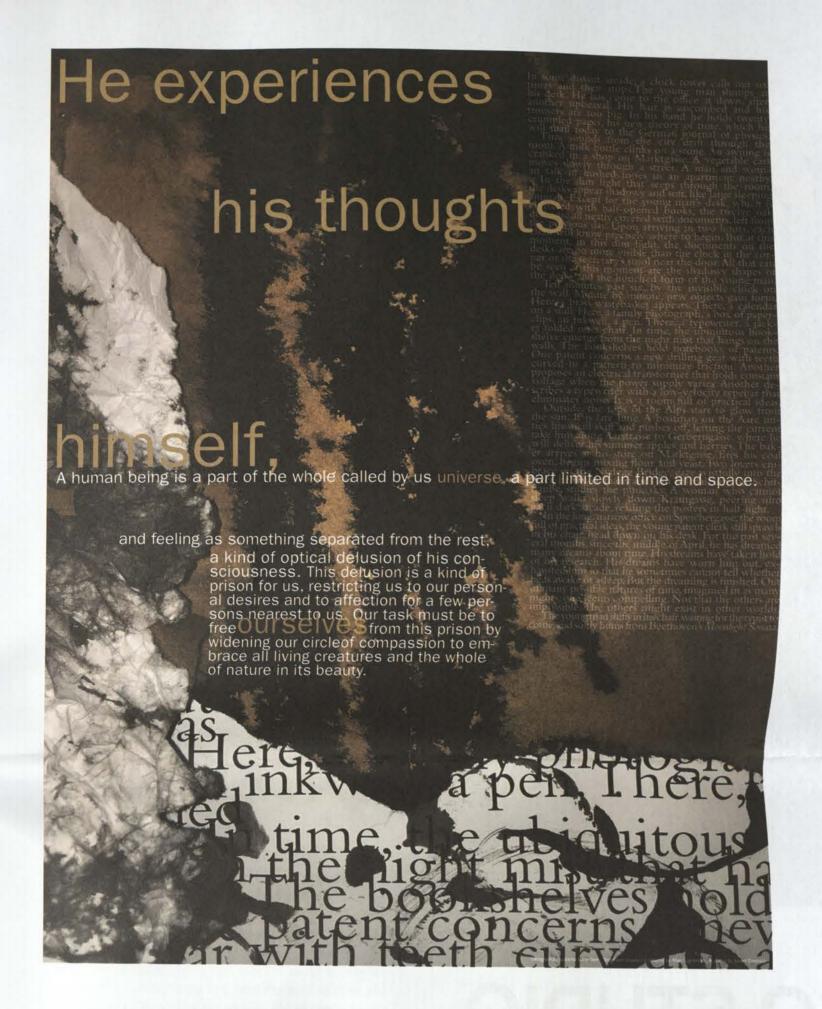
A burning flash of white light
This is what a lightning strike is like
Impact
No life
Control goes from between the eyes
To somewhere outside
Everything gets pulled tight

Smack

Strike two
Mouth tastes like blood, metal, bile
Stainless steal souls from broken bodies; beguiled
Heat spreads like a fire; wild

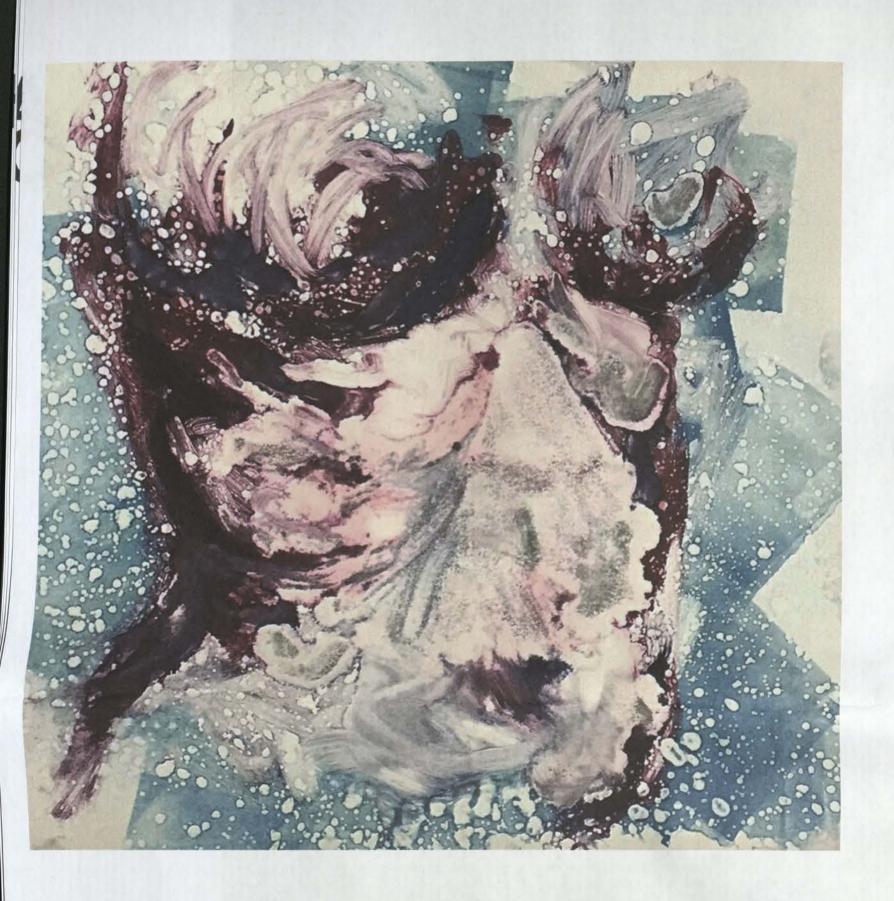
Smack

Strike three
But this isn't a metaphor anymore it's a fight
And by the third strike
You're out—
Out of your fried mind and into the fire
What comes after the hit only feels higher
For a second suspended





THIRD YEAR GRAPHIC DESIGN



FOURTH YEAR FINE ARTS

RACHEL POLANI FOURTH YEAR PSYCHOLOGY AND ENGLISH

Jess woke up before her alarm with her mind pushing back the onslaught of memories as minds do on days like this. Streams of hazy light shone through the slits in the blinds, disrupting the darkness of her small bedroom, and highlighting the turned down picture frame on her dresser next to the modest dress she'd selected the night before. With the sun's urgings and her alarm clock flashing 8:30, Jess sat up, hugging her knees and blankly surveying the room. She would have to face it eventually, and she knew that. Face the quiet upstairs, the tears hiding in the corners of her eyes, the sounds of pacing at night coming from the kitchen, but not yet, not this morning. Gathering strength, Jess placed her feet firmly on the carpet and set about getting ready for the morning, welcoming routine. On her way to the bathroom she glanced down the hall at the only other door, almost wishing, but it was closed.

Back in her room, Jess changed into her predetermined dress, black like her mood. The sound of hangars clanging resonated behind her, and Jess turned to see a familiar child with dark cascading curls riffling through her closet, throwing garish outfits together unto Jess's bed, and pulling at the ends of other brightly colored pieces she couldn't quite reach. Lanie, an outspoken 8 year old just starting to outgrow her baby face, directed her thoughts at Jess without pausing her endeavor to match highlighter pink pants with an all sequin shirt, "Jess, why are you wearing that dress? It's so...blah."

Jess resisted the urge to smile, "Because, it's *customary*. Why are you tearing apart my closet?"

"Because it's customary." Ignoring Lanie's sass, Jess looked back at the mirror above her dresser to apply her make-up. Lanie gave up her searching, obviously not finding a suitable alternative outfit, and approached Jess, settling next to her in front of the mirror. "When do you think mom will let you do my make-up? I want long eyelashes too."

- "I had to wait til high school."
- "I don't want to wait that long. Do you think mom would let me at least wear lipstick today?"
- "I highly doubt it."
- "Jess, when you graduate high school, do I get your room? Your room has a bigger window."
- "I don't know. Can we stop talking about the future? I need to focus on getting ready for today."

Disappointed, Lanie started fiddling with objects on the dresser, flipping over loose change and running the beads of a sparkly homemade necklace through her fingers, until she noticed the picture frame. With both hands she reached out slowly, picked it up, and placed it so the two smiling girls with dark curls were facing Jess. "Looks like you accidently knocked us over."

- "Oh yeah. I must have hit it with my elbow or something."
- "Today won't be that bad, Jess. At least we will be there together."

Both girls jumped as the voice of their Aunt boomed up the stairs, "Jessical Please come down. We are waiting on you."

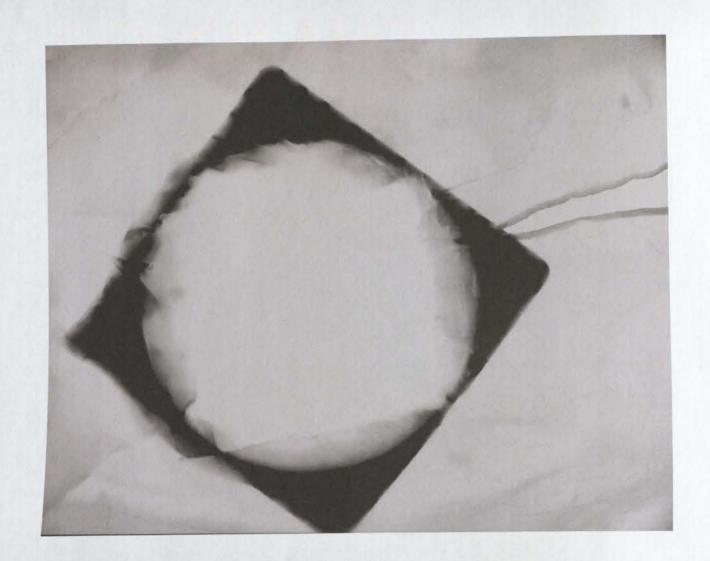
- "I have to go, Lanie." Jess said slowly, clicking the clasp of her necklace.
- "I'm going to miss you, Jess."
- "I miss you too." Jess whispered as she passed Lanie and walked towards the steps. With one last look at Lanie, standing frozen in the doorway to Jess's bedroom, Jess swiftly made her way down the stairs to find the kitchen empty except for her Aunt Sharon.
- "Where is everyone?"
- "Your parents are already on their way there," replied Sharon. "Your mom cries when she thinks of her laying there in that place all by herself."
- "Yeah. I could hear mom pacing last night. She must be exhausted." Jess holds back the tears attempting to siege the fortress she'd built around herself the past few days. "Well, I guess we better get going."
- "You're all ready, then? Why are you wearing that necklace?"
- "Lanie made it." Jess glanced down at the ring of sparkly craft store beads dangling around her, clashing with the somber mood of her high neck black dress. "She would've wanted me to wear it today. She hated black."



PERNEATH ALL PRINTING GLOVES SETTE POURTH YEAR FINE ARTS



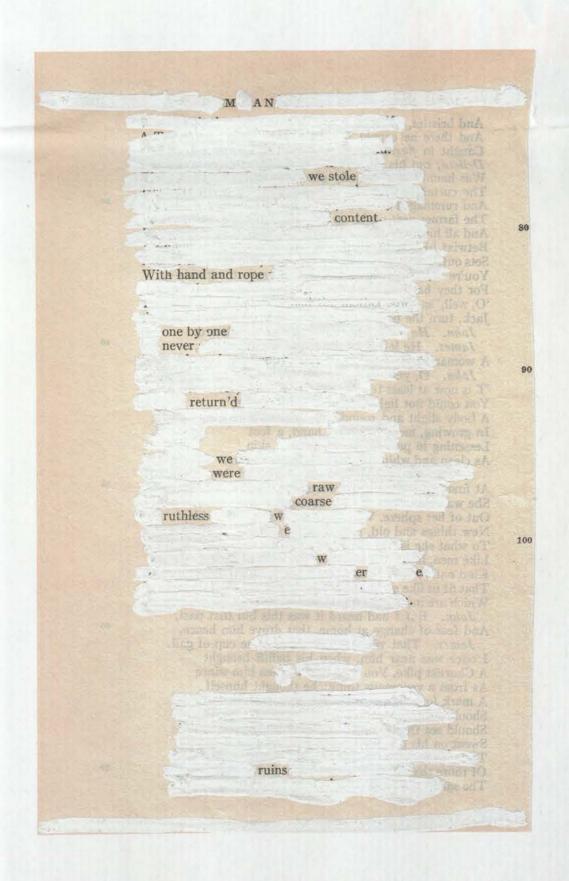




OK BEYPHIKO FOURTH YEAR PHOTOGRAPHY

GABRIELLE BORELECTION FOURTH YEAR SOCIOLOGY ENGLISH

SOCIOLOGY, ENGLISH, WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES



SPER EAR POETRY MCLOUGHLIN FIRST YEAR

Loss is not depraved emptiness,

but the widow learning her own arms aren't long enough for the itch that haunts her back, and the resulting

drive to the drugstore to buy a gnarly plastic backscratcher whose touch knows none of the Tenderness of 61 years of marriage

and whose withdrawn alien fingernails rake and tear not knowing these

were Hallowed Grounds Loneliness is not a pervading Silence, but a groggily whispered Good Morning that escapes on a straying yawn before she catches herself, erases decades of habit

to make Aloneness

ENGLISH

TAYLOR UNTITLED THIRD YEAR FINE ART





entropy: your hands.
fevered dreams of running, holding,
arpeggios in ivory.
catastrophe to reach your eyes.
they are not hazel
like you say, they are
grass
and deer
and times I've seen you cry.

erosion: dancing with you.

arms like downpours, my body a rock.

I could be sinking but you are shaping me instead.
getting worn from talking of you
thinking of you
listening to recordings of your voice.

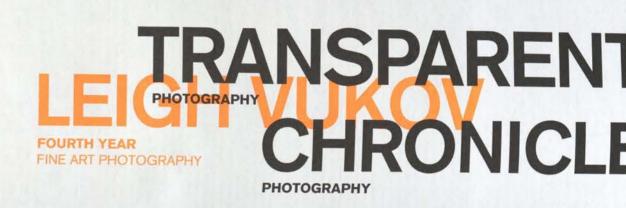
your voice is a cricket I am a silence to fill.

disintegration: my resolve.
on the porch the couch is clouds
I am composing letters in my head.
but I can't move to realize them.
I am sinking in instead.

trespass: memorized paths with stranger feet waking up in your sheets but without you. crossing the room to kiss your eyes green

and dear and not crying now.









PEACHY DREAMS MONOPRINT ON STONEHENGE

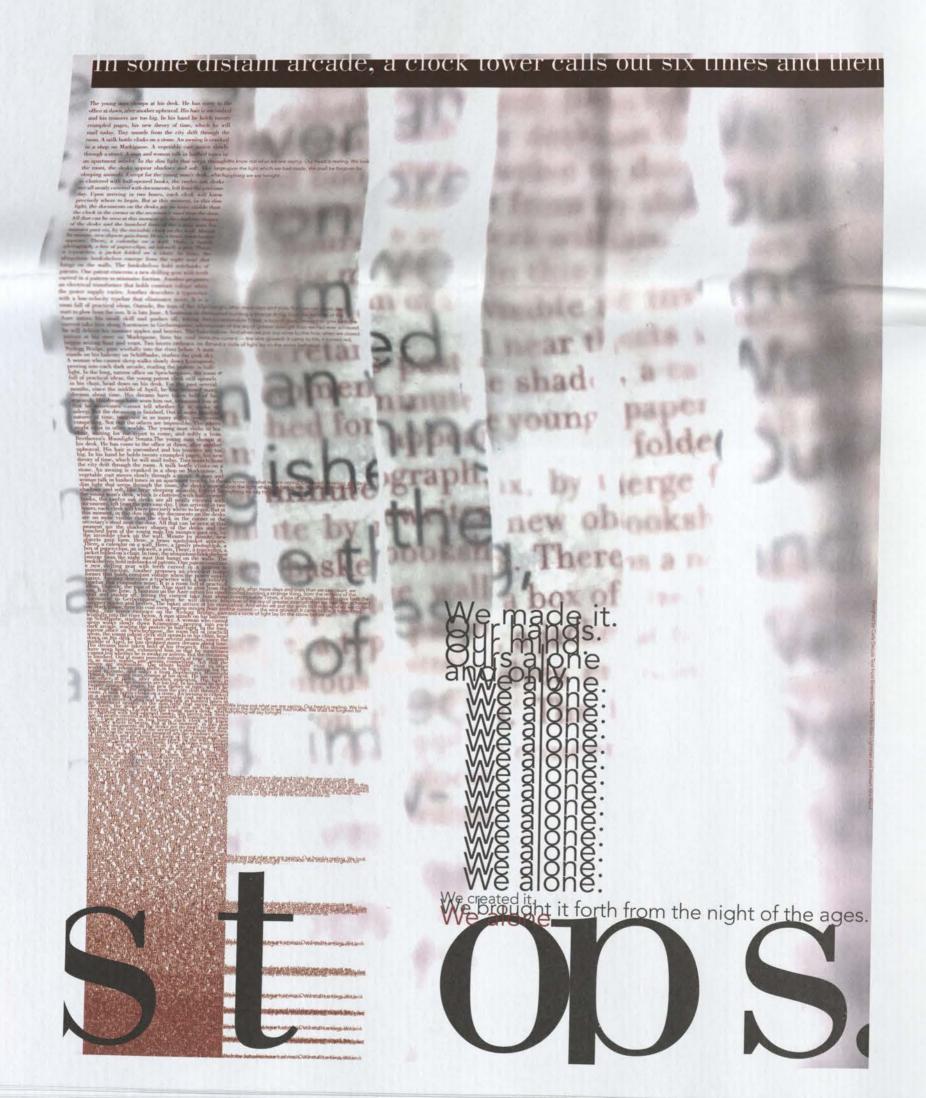
FOURTH YEAR FINE ARTS

TRANSCENDANT PHOTORAPHY LORGINARY THIRD YEAR

FINE ARTS











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