



St  rt

Youth Presenting Art 2016



**Proud to support the  
StArt Youth Presenting Art Festival**

**We are working together with SuiteLife Arts for Youth  
to make a difference in our communities**



## Statement From StArt YPA Senior Co-ordinating Mentor

Since 2011, founding StArt Youth Presenting Art (StArt YPA) team members Veronica Almeida, Travoy Deer, Melissa Mather, Osvaldo Sales, Cherise Solomon, and Melicia Sutherland have committed their time and talents to the creation and maintenance of an event that provides their peers with accessible arts focussed activities including: interactive workshops, honourarium based employment opportunities, and presentation platforms that enable young people to contribute their voice creatively to Scarborough's cultural mosaic. Because of their efforts, the team has garnered community support, and inspired many young people to get involved.

This year Terra Pham, Jhanelle Porter, Elee Stalker, and Connie Tong expanded their involvement beyond participating in festival activities, and joined the StArt YPA team. Bringing with them a fresh perspective and enthusiasm which has been injected into the creative process of this year's event. They are a welcome addition to the team!

Through collaboration, this dynamic group of young people have successfully mounted the 6th annual StArt Youth Presenting Art festival. They have, once again demonstrated, that the contributions of young people can impact a community in a positive way. "#StArt YPA". I stand and applaud them....BRAVO!!!

Looking forward to working with the team again next year!

### **Denese Matthews**

*SuiteLife Arts for Youth, Founding Artistic Director*

*StArt Youth Presenting Art, Senior Co-ordinating Mentor*

## Statement from StArt YPA Business Mentor

Year Six – Changing of the Guard

The intrepid youths that comprise the Start Youth Presenting Art (StArt YPA) inaugural organizing team are making me a proud mentor as they pass the baton for the management and realization of StArt YPA annual festival and workshops to a new team of youth.

Mentorship is often a give and take relationship between the mentor and mentee and the learning goes both ways and many times the 'ah hah' moments occur long after the initial intake sessions have passed. This year, I am in awe at how much learning has taken place over the last five years as the outgoing team assumed the responsibility for mentoring the incoming members as a truly natural next step. Yes I am very proud, and welcome these newcomers of eager, inquisitive, talented and hardworking youth artists to the management and realization of the 2016 StArt YPA annual festival and workshops.

### **Marva Ollivierre**

*StArt YPA Business of the Arts Mentor*





# ***Our Scarborough***





# *Start Team Statement*

In my 4 years of being involved with StArt Youth Presenting Art, I've had the opportunity to experience it to its fullest. Starting out by participating in workshops, presenting my photography in the gallery, and then seeing the festival as a whole for the first time with my friends was an uplifting experience. Having my work shown in the magazine, as well as talking about it with fellow artists allowed me to gain confidence in my art. That experience enabled me to be inspired by and appreciate other techniques and ideas. It also allowed me to actualize my goals of presenting my works to others. The festival is something my friends and I both look back on, and look forward to every year.

StArt YPA has been such a defined and memorable event in my artistic and personal growth, that I've recently become a member of the StArt YPA team to gain experience, connections and knowledge in new ways. I am now part of a team whose committed hard work and passion goes into every one of those details that everyone gets to enjoy during the festival week.

As a team, we feel encouraged when we see participants or audience members finding meaningful experiences on their own journey. Scarborough's community members have so much creativity and passion, that we feel it's important to maintain quality workshops for everyone to participate in, that are accessible in location and free of any charges. The team enjoys bringing liveliness and fun to an area of the city that gets overlooked far too often.

We want to continue celebrating and showcasing the art of young people, and encouraging them to pursue their passions. Seeing progress in all of these areas fuels us to keep the festival going. As a team, we are proud of how StArt YPA continues to bring an array of talented artists from a diverse community together, in a creative and safe environment where they can collaborate, forge new friendships, and experience new things. These are all important elements in building healthy communities.

The StArt YPA initiative has enabled us to provide our peers with transferrable skills that enable them to lead new initiatives, become mentors and be more prepared for employment. We bring the festival back each year because we like to see people being positive contributors to the community in these ways.

Congratulations to those of you who have participated in the festival and have gone on to further realize your dreams.

# Our Scarborough Community

*Zipporah Yohannes*

Scarborough is where we become more dependent on others than ourselves.

Where we discover our favourite foods by having dinner at a friend's house

Learning how to eat with chopsticks at 9pm when you're used to eating dinner with a fork and knife at 5.

Where we learn about different cultures through day to day encounters without having to search it up online

Understanding the reason for Eid when you've grown up in a Hindu family

Where we find our taste in music by hearing it from the person next to us on the bus

Discovering your love for 90's hip hop on your way to ballet

Where our sense of style is inspired by the people we pass on the street

Leaning towards bright colours after noticing the saris in the store window

Where we see different shades, styles and beliefs that are different from our own, but decide to soak them in rather than drain them out.

Scarborough is where the dependence on our surroundings is what makes us all so different, yet all a part of the same community.

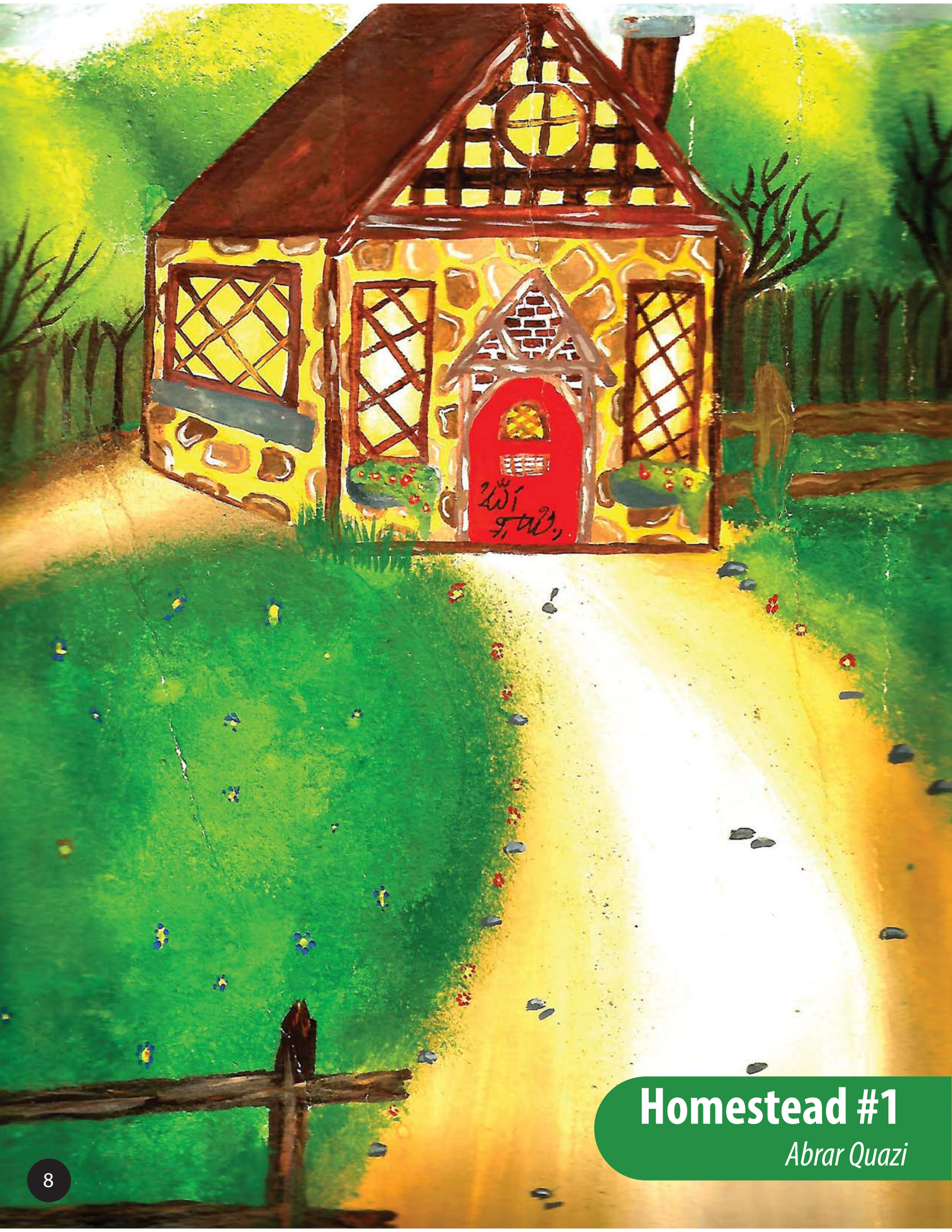




## Special One

*Terra Pham*





# Homestead #1

Abrar Quazi



# Homestead #2

*Abrar Quazi*







# Winter Blues

*Renee Hodges*

This feeling you get when the sun starts to set.  
Is the feeling of loneliness, pain and regret.  
The snow starts to fall and you think you've seen it all.  
But when the boredom and the fatigue comes  
It makes you want to crawl in a comfy ball...Under your  
sheets and covers, but this feeling starts to call.  
The Winter Blues...how do you do?  
I am sitting in a cage, don't know what to do.  
But I refuse to let this Blues let me lose...  
I don't want to feel trapped with this annoying view of  
winter...winter.  
Winter...How do you do?  
I heard you were Blue's friend....I thought you were  
the happy, jolly one...what happened to you?  
You brought Blues along and have him sing his song...  
but why oh why does Blues have to make us feel so  
wrong??  
I understand that blues is the emotional one...  
He is never stable in these cold, bitter days...  
But why oh why do these blues have to exist near  
the upcoming holidays?  
Dear Blues, I got something to tell you...  
And whatever you do... do let it fly by you  
Just listen to what I have to say...don't take what I say too  
personally...but blues can you just go away??!

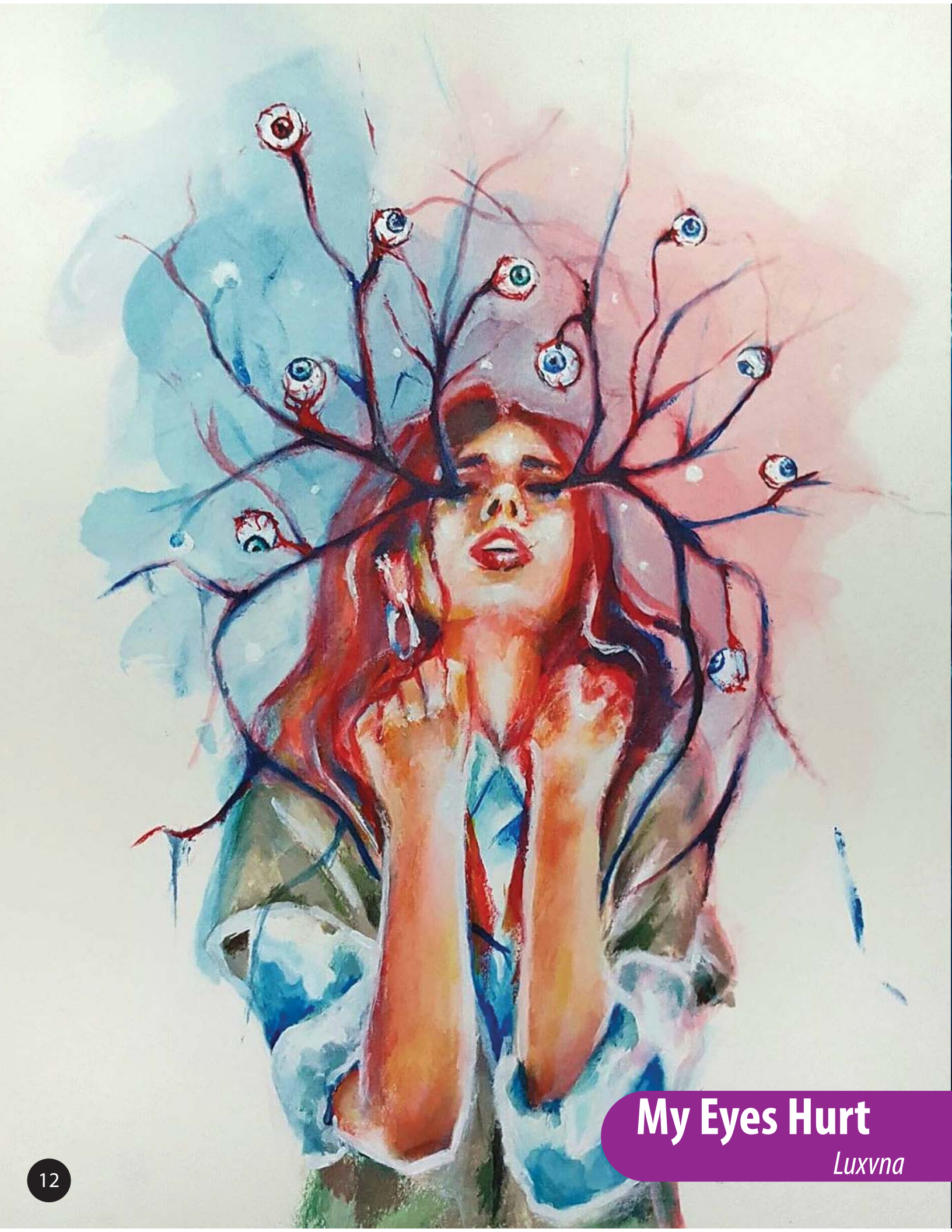


# Threatened Territory

*Riley Ashley Mackenzie*







# My Eyes Hurt

*Luxvna*



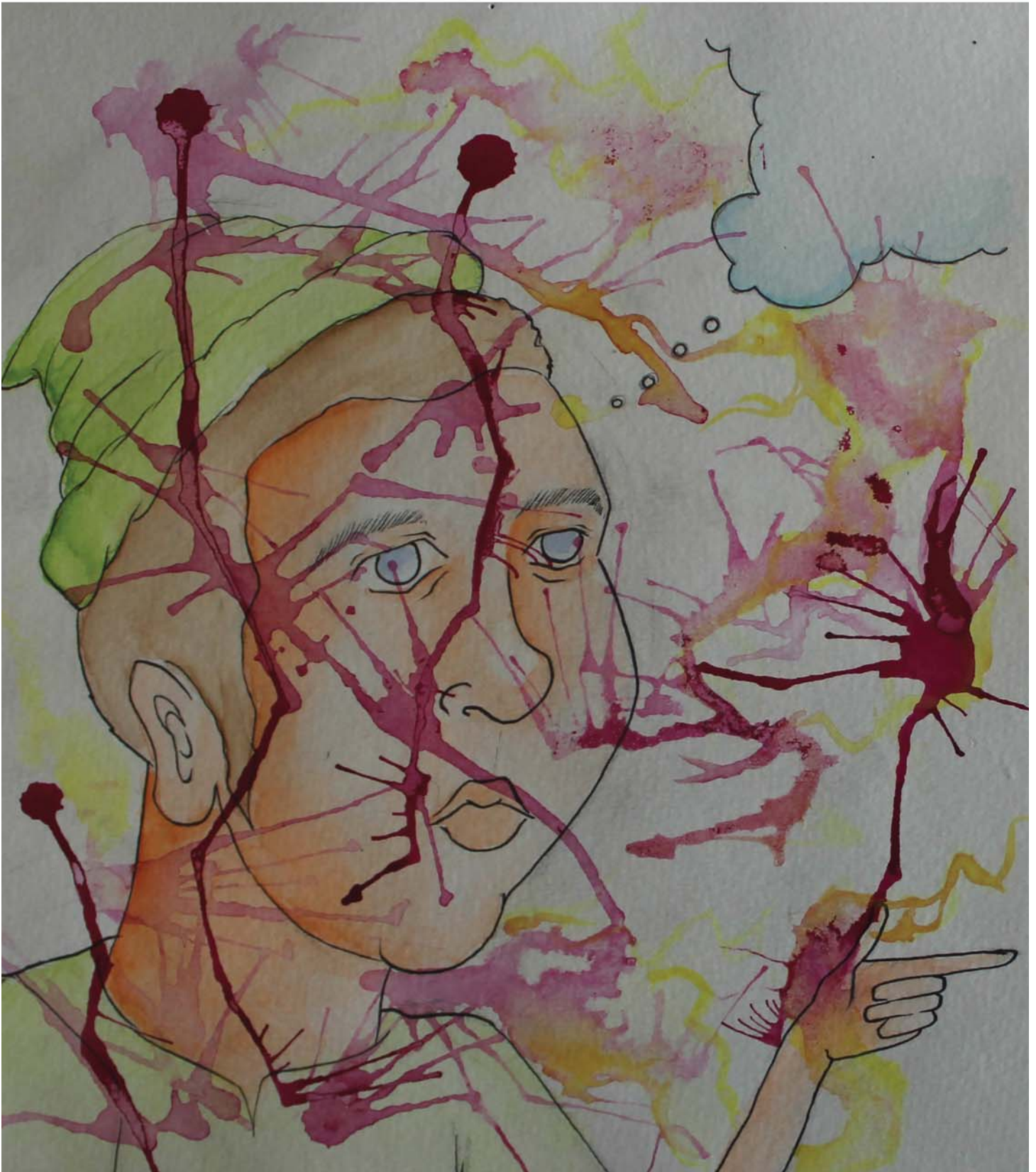


# Jellyfish Wish

*Uthayakumar*



# Portraits of *Leyland*





# Dan and Tyler

*Adams*





# Celebrity Status

*Cassidy Lue*

Behind every celebrity there are the people that made it all happen

The smiles, the fans, the money, the team, the hope and pride but most of all the opportunity some lucky enough to get somewhere and to make their dreams come true. Making the impossible, possible to people who never through it was possible. Now since the wanting is done and the dreams are finished we are brought back to reality, still coping with life as we know it as the celebrities bask the fame and glory we give to them... but why? Why are we so influenced by these people? Why are we so crazy to meet regular people? We cry when we meet celebrities but we don't cry when we meet strangers, and that's just the thing... Celebrities are just strangers. We don't know who they really are once the cameras are off and behind closed doors...

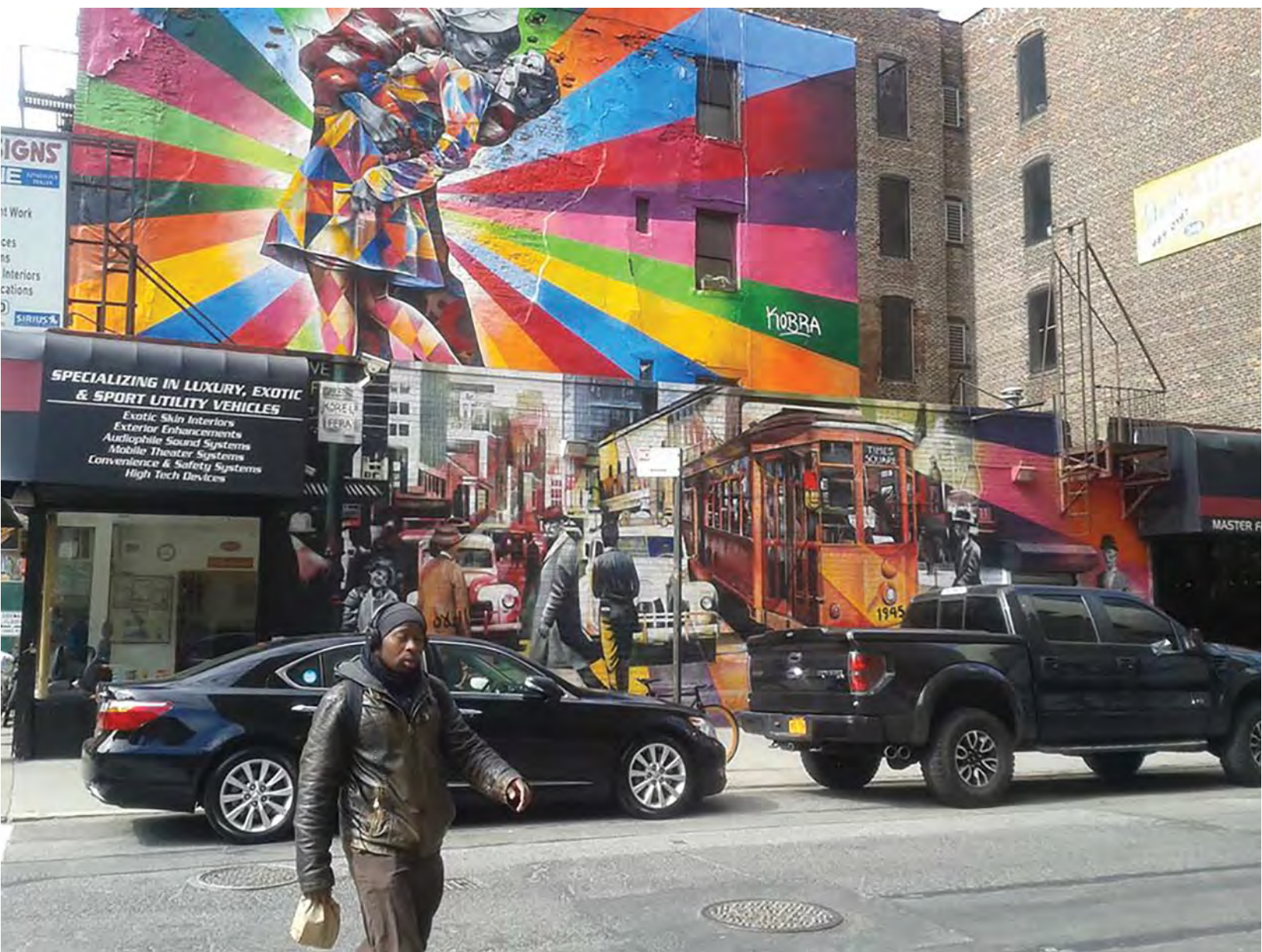
Why do we do such things? Why! Ever think why? Why are celebrities better than us? It's almost as like high school and letting people become our "leaders" and "Populars" because we didn't take the initiative to break the boundaries and take control. We basically put people on a pedestal because we as human beings always need a leader. But why? Why are we such sheep? Following the herd, following the crowd... always just following.

And that's what we do with celebrities. We listen to their music, we go to their concerts, we worship them like Gods but this brings me back to the question.... Why? Sometimes it seems as if it's us regular people are just important as them... hell maybe we are even more important. Reason why? Because without followers, you could never be a leader. Their empires would collapse before their very eyes. Smashing and crashing because no one is spending money or time on them, all they'd have worked for would have disappeared and in the end they'd be seen as just people. But then again, what do I know?

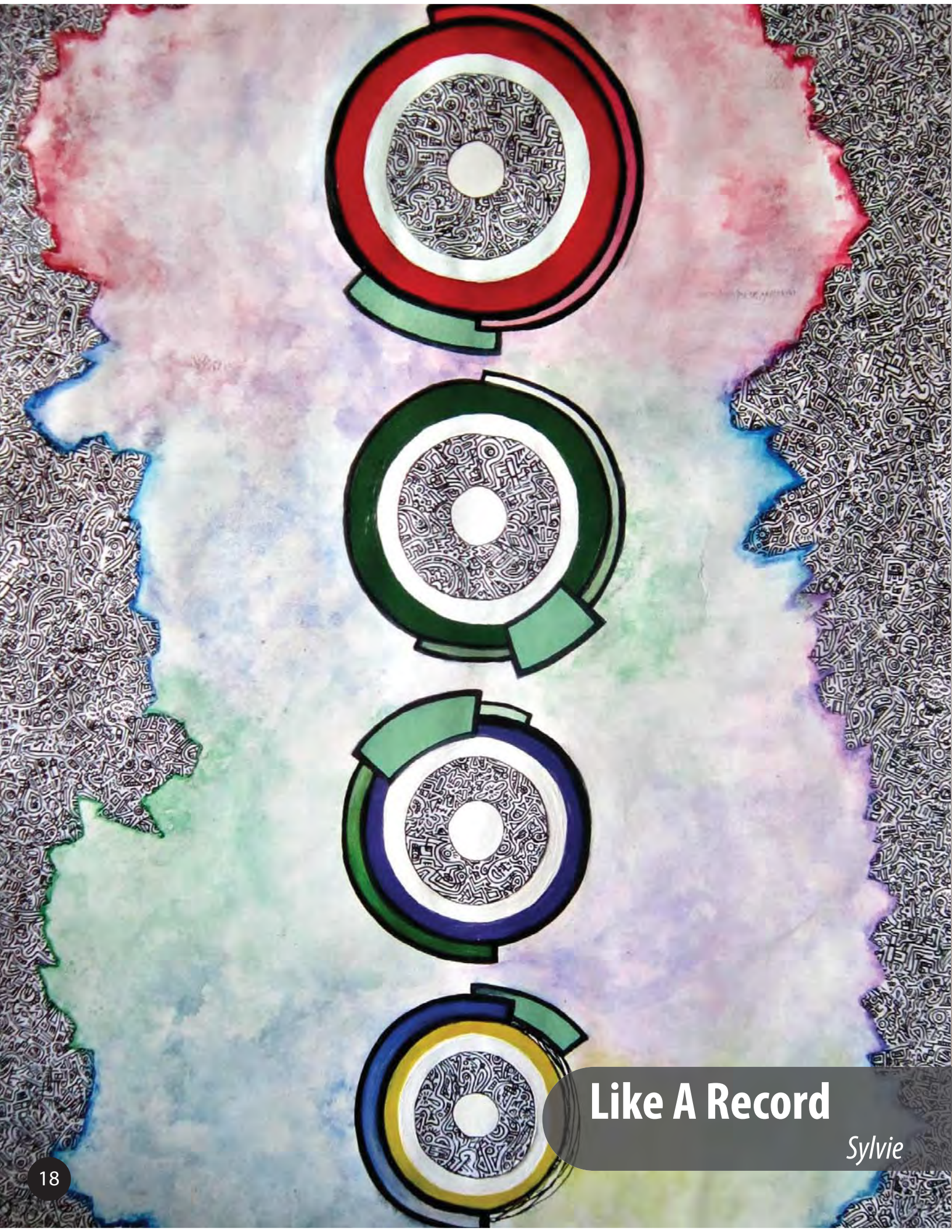


# Friday's Characteristic of New York

*Wasifa Noshin*







# Like A Record

*Sylvie*





**Sillibi**

*Stojanovski*



# Ruby Throated Hummingbird

*Rubaiyat*





# Beyond The Waves

*Ashna*





# To My Future Daughter: Dear Bay Girl

Nirosha Balakumar

I'm sorry.

Sorry for having to bring you into a world like ours,  
Sorry that you will forever have to fight for the power.

The power to speak without being called weak;

The power to explore like never before.

The power to make a choice and use your own voice;

The power to live your life before being made a wife.

My darling, I am so, so sorry.

First a soft, pink blanket is what you'll be wrapped in,

Predetermining your gender, never giving you the  
chance to be your own defender.

They'll strip you of your choices and  
will silent your voices.

Society will put you in its place,  
making you nothing but a nameless face.

The stereotypes, the rules, the regulations,

Baby girl promise me that  
you will fight each one with refutations.

They'll try to hold you down and enclose you in boxes,

Feed your mind with constant lies,  
that is nothing but toxics,

They'll tell you to be like a girl, run like a girl,  
throw like a girl, talk like a girl,

DO IT LIKE A GIRL.

And I'm telling you honey,  
sometimes you're just going to want to hurl.

They'll try to shape you and define you, to hide the  
separation between sex and gender,

You're going to hear them say "Hey let me mend her."

But my dear baby girl don't listen to them, don't give in,

Create your own definition of  
a woman and look from within.

They'll laugh and call you weak,  
because your demise is what they seek.

They'll keep you from cars and exclude you from sports

But honey when they do that,  
you go build yourself a fort.

Not a castle with a tall tower,  
now don't give them that kind of power;

To rescue you, to save you,  
to be your knight in shining armor.

You my darling are a QUEEN and can go much,  
much farther.

A Queen that rules her own kingdom,  
One who has fought long and hard for her freedom.

You will treat all your citizens with love and care  
But never forget that you are the Queen my dear.

They may laugh and point, even call you names

And if you're anything like me,  
they'll say you have to be tamed.

They'll prevent you from exploring  
and try to block your curiosity

But never let anyone trivialize your philosophy.

They'll try to put you down but honey you got to show  
them who runs this town.

They'll tell you you're not good enough to succeed,  
that you'll never achieve.

They'll say that you're not pretty enough,  
that you just don't got the right stuff.

You'll have days when you want to give up,  
give in to the societal structure

But my hope for you is that you can be the rupture.

The one that breaks the walls of double standard,

The one that stands there and continues to banter.

Take that pain and anger and turn in to passion.

Prove them wrong, and the way you do that,  
will be your choice of fashion.

The media will try to paint you and array of images,  
But they are to observed and analyzed with grimaces.

There is no such thing as perfection because baby girl,

You are a one of a kind selection.

So don't compare yourself and wonder if you'll ever be...

Just keep looking in that mirror  
until you truly love what you see.

Embrace you body, your feelings, your sexuality,

Never let them make you feel like an object or a causality.

You are so much more than what you believe,

If only you knew what I could see.

Don't be ashamed of your pleasures,

Or let them tell you how to be measured.

Do what makes you feel happy

And have the courage to say NO,

if that feeling ever becomes crappy.

Wear what you want and express who you are,

Because you are not obligated to stay closed up in a jar.

Open the lid and set yourself free,

Until you can finally say "I really am me."

So stay strong and keep fighting,

Through the thunder and the lightning.

I promise to always be there,

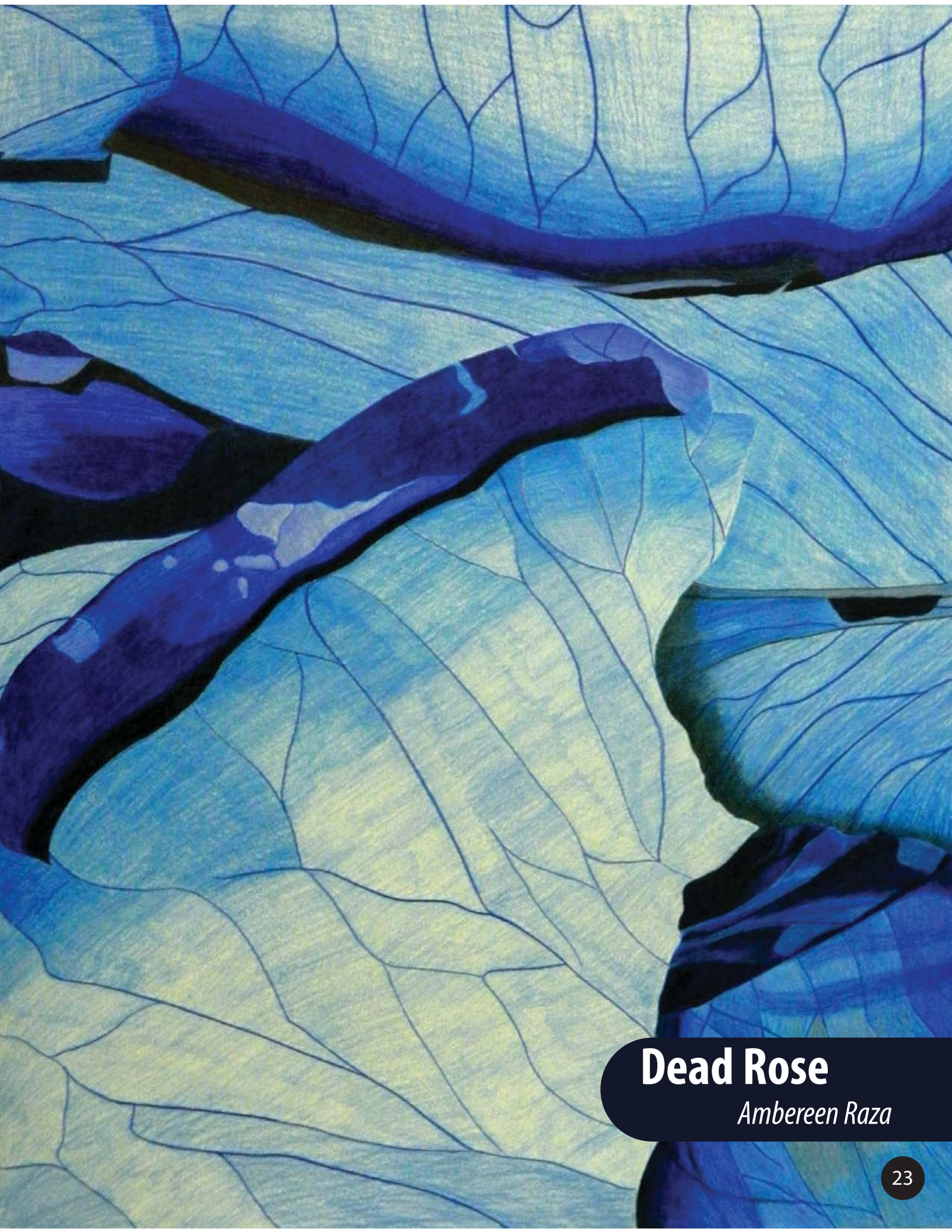
Through the darkness and the light.

Baby girl you're not alone.

I promise you, this is our fight.

Ontario





# Dead Rose

*Ambereen Raza*



# Love

*Cassidy Lue*

Love is like a rose...

It starts it's journey with being a seed and within time it grows

It blooms to be a very beautiful flower,

and it's a symbol that holds much power.

But when it gets abused, dishonored and ignored

becomes fragile and weak.

It will dry, and wilt and wither as it then becomes bleak

If you begin to pay more attention to it, you could nurse it back

to health but if not then the rose will face sudden death

Not being able to sprout up, once again.

You could save the remains or leave them to it's end

If not saved, you'll have nothing to show

And like love it will become something that you used to know



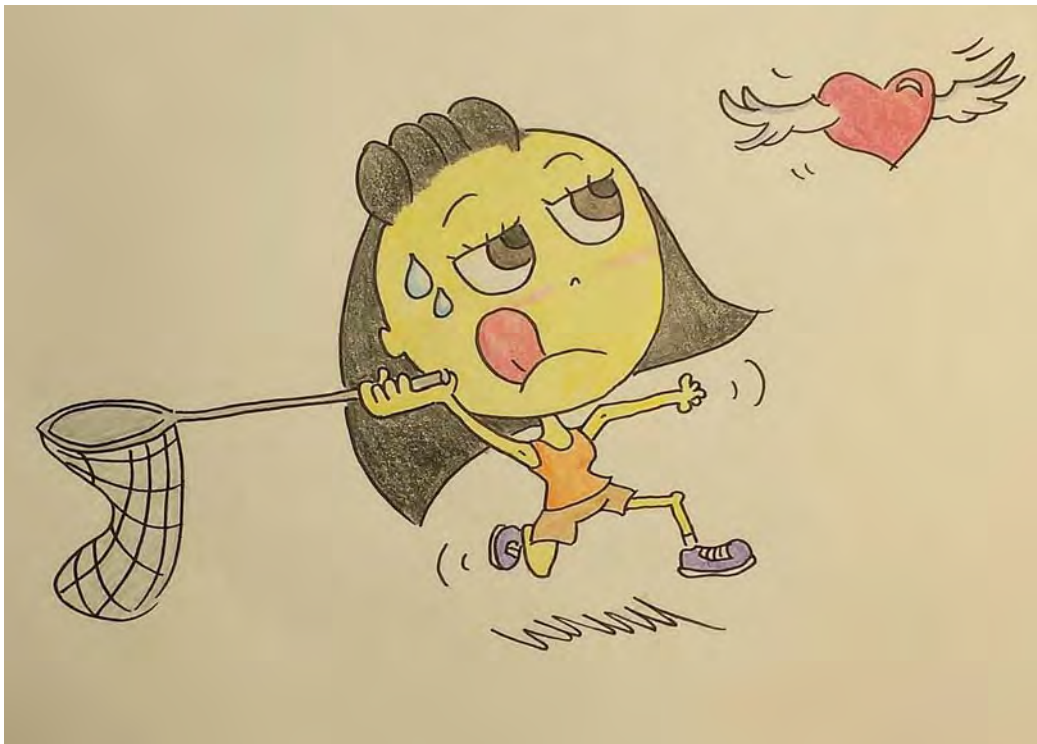
# Caveat Emptor

*Caitlyn Coll*



# I Spy With My Little Eyes / Cure For The Itch

*Sophie Wang*





# Frankie's Dream World / Koala

*Brandonn Martin*



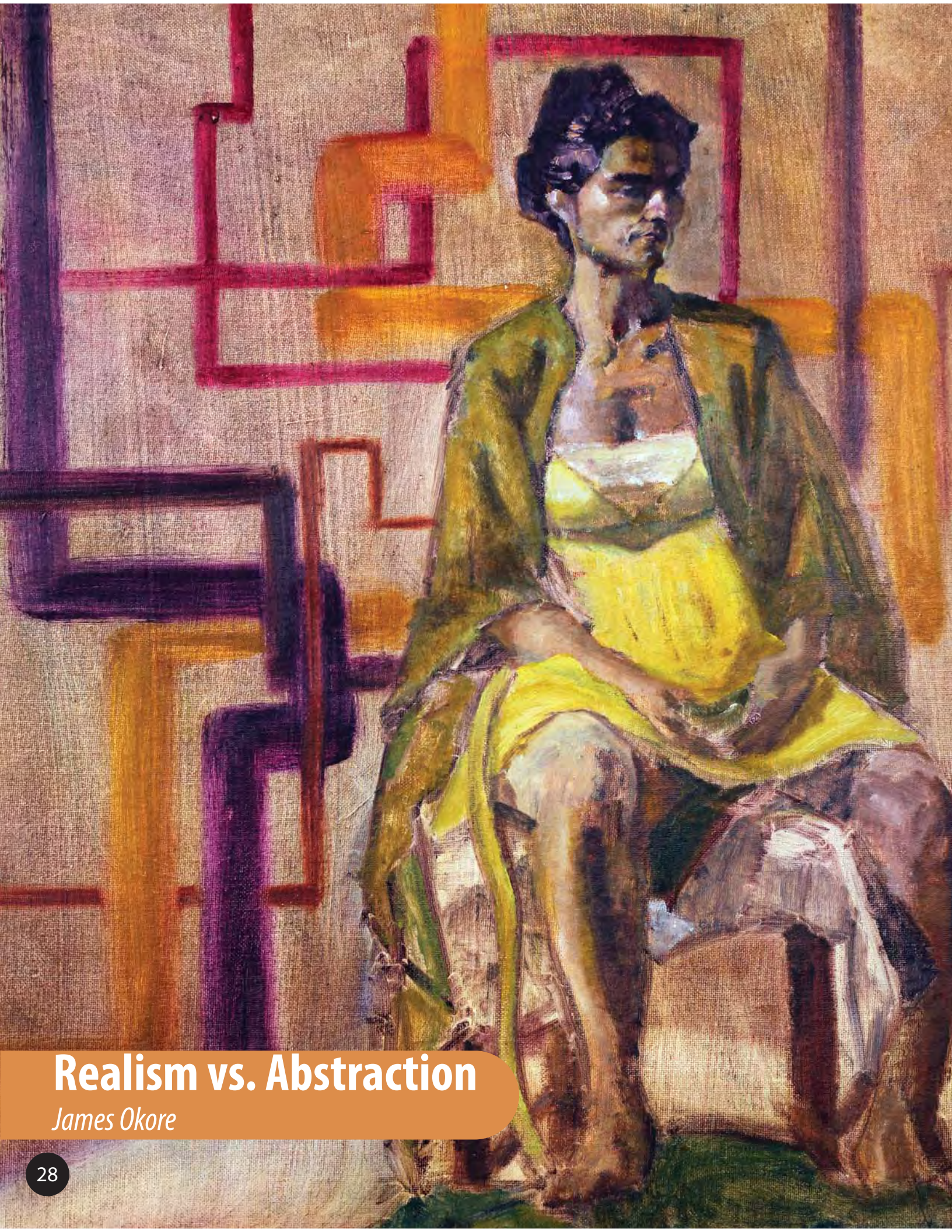


# Magic Ball / Pure Night

*Hristina Belevski*







# Realism vs. Abstraction

*James Okore*

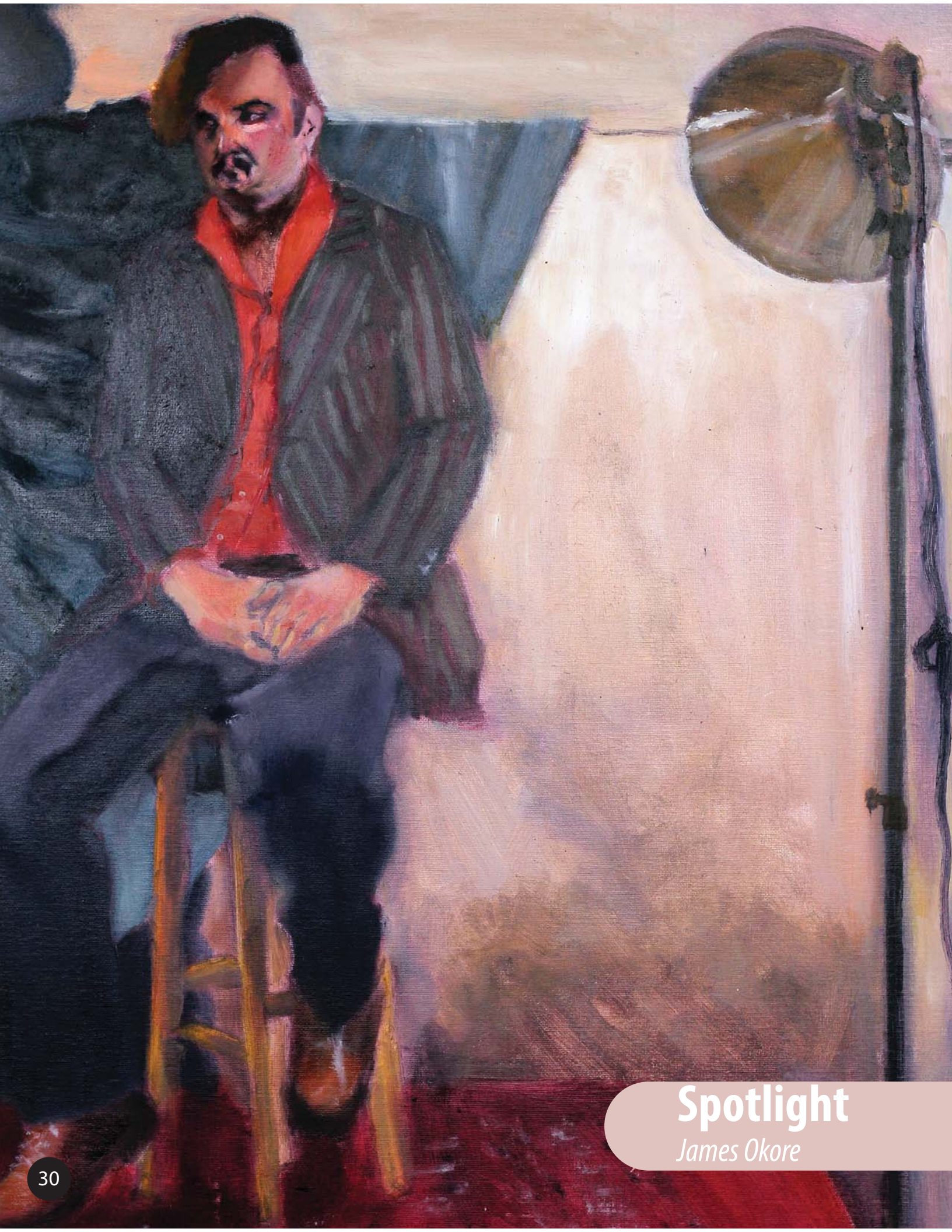


# Pink Pollen / Orange You Glad it's Spring

*Kailey Stevens*





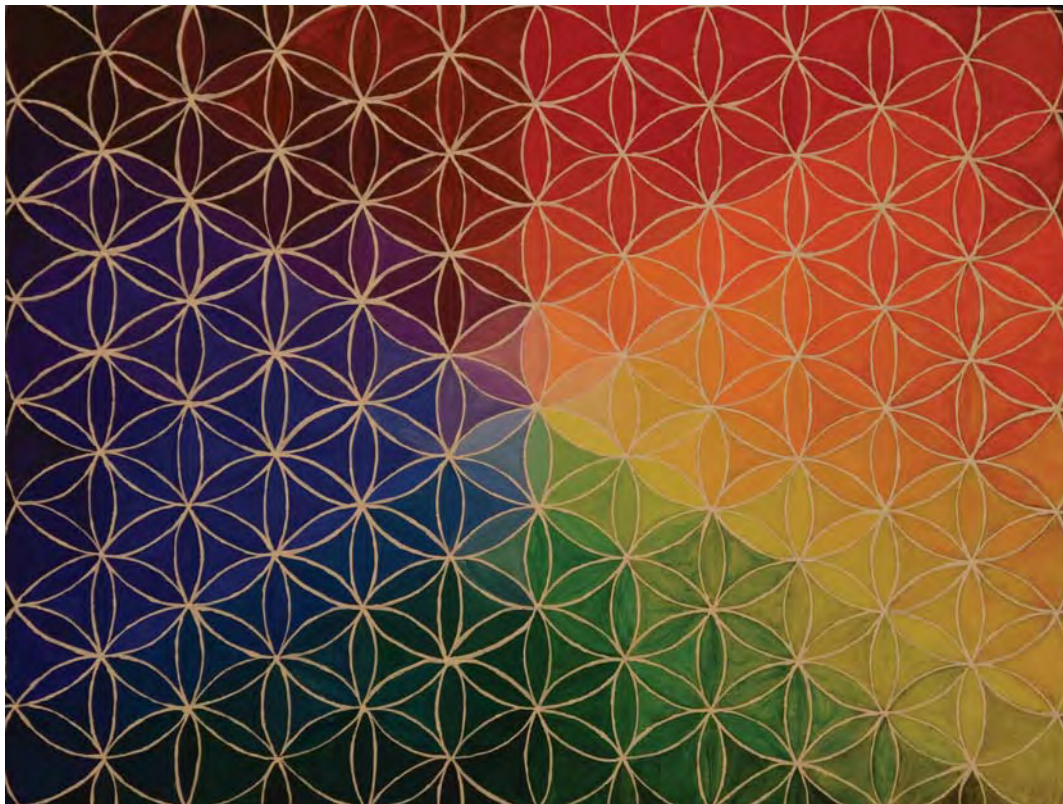


**Spotlight**  
*James Okore*



# Escape land / Unify

*Natalie Plociennik*





# START YPA



Abrar Quazi



Ambereen Raza



Brandonn Martin



Caitlyn Coll



Hristina Belevski



James Okore



Kailey Stevens



Leyland Adams

## VISUAL ARTIST



Luxvna  
Uthayakumar



Natalie Plociennik



Riley Ashley  
Mackenzie



Rubaiyat Ashna



Sophie Wang



Sylvie Stojanovski



Terra Pham



Wasifa Noshin



Dayna Brown



Jackelyn  
Aherene-Quinton



Kayana Neil



Selvy Sathieswaran

## SINGERS



Sesimani Kalolina  
Gooden



Tomiko Stanton



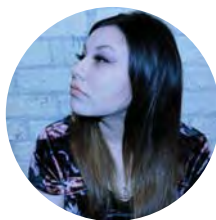
Wasifa Noshin



William Ye



# ARTISTS



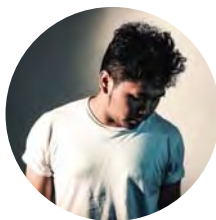
Bella McWatch



Cassidy Lue



SMZ  
Christopher  
Dundas-Robinson



Michael Morales



Nirosha Balakumar



Odyssey  
Omar Martinez

## SPOKEN WORD / RAP



Q. Tyler  
Aarons-Montague



Renee Hodges



Roham Kazeminejad



Sabali Nation



Yannique Ewers



Zachariah Musiq  
Fernandes



Aria Culzac



Moses Everton  
Thomas

## DANCERS



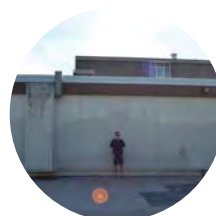
Mullkisse  
Kiki Calixte



Ashes Anahata  
Abiel



Charmie Deller



David Park  
Arkson Band

## MUSICIANS



Jason Yoo



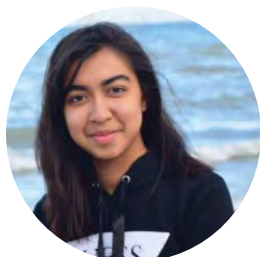
MaryCarl Guiao



Nima Azadi



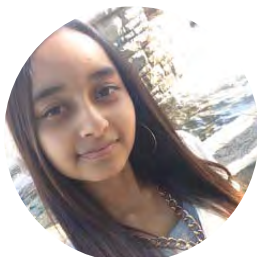
# Volunteers



Adrita Kazi



Alexandra Vidal



Amanda Ghany



Amy Zhao



Caitlin Lee



Chelsea  
Obeng-Asumeng



Dona Dodaj



Edwina Chu



Fariha Khan



Isha Cheema



Jiayan Bian



Kay-Ann  
Ormsby



Patricia Lee



Rain He



Sakshi Khanna



Schae-Ann  
Ormsby



Selene Lee



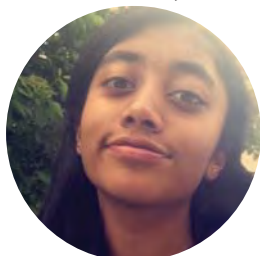
Subaydah Aden



Sumaiyah Moral



Thevani  
Ramkumar



Vaishnave  
Manoharan



Vicky Wu



Winky Cai



Yannique Ewers



Zarin Mukta



# StArt Team Members



**Connie Tong**

Festival Manger &  
Community Outreach



**Cherise Solomon**

Festival Assistant Manager



**Elee Stalker**

Assistant Social  
Media Coordinator



**Jhanelle Porter**

Lead Social  
Media Coordinator



**Melicia Sutherland**

PR & Marketing Manager



**Melissa Mather**

Volunteer Coordinator



**Mimi Starikova**

Assistant Social Media  
Coordinator



**Osvaldo Sales**

Lead Gallery Coordinator  
& Graphic Designer



**Terra Pham**

Assistant Social  
Media Coordinator



**Travoy Deer**

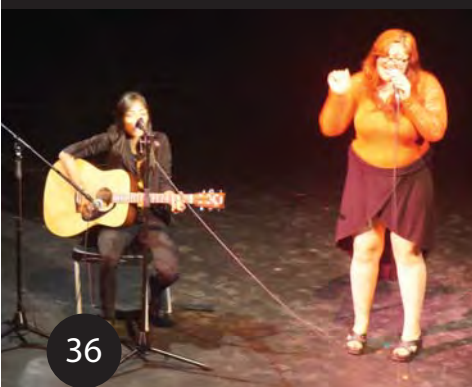
Workshop Coordinator



**Veronica Almedia**

Marketing Assistant &  
Copywriter





# MEMORIES

StArt Youth Presenting Art Festival 2015





# StArt YPA Thank You

The StArt Youth Presenting Art team is ever thankful for the continuous support from all the people involved in this, being the 6th, annual StArt YPA festival. Without the following people, we could not have flourished and blossomed this flower.

Thank you to our mentor Denese Matthews/SuiteLife Arts for Youth with your bold dedication, always believing in our dreams and ideas, helping us mold them into sculptured reality; Marva Ollivierre/Doe Eye Media Productions whose detailed mind encouraged us to focus on our goals; both always reminding us why we want this beautiful festival to happen every year.

Big thanks to TD Bank as our main sponsor/financial contributor; Toronto Arts Council for the financial contributions; SuiteLife Arts for Youth for mentorships and financial contributions; The City of Toronto for Festival space and financial contributions.

Thank you to Theatre Scarborough for theatre and technical support; Youth Link/Pathways to Education and Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities/Action for Neighbourhood Change for workshop space; Christ Church for granting us access to their facility for our StArt YPA Team auditions and meetings.

Long & McQuade and Harmony Sound for the musical and sound equipment; Fitness 4 Youth, Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment and The Scarborough Mirror for community support; SYNC Photography for photographing the event. Thank you to the Ontario Science Centre, The Gardiner Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Royal Ontario Museum for the sweet prize passes, and Metro (supermarket) for the gift card.

To help with our newest initiative, thank you to: Chantee's Kitchen, Nasif and Rafa Abdullah for the Breaking Bread donation of food and time; DAVIDs TEA and Jaimie McClyment for the teas. And of course, our emerging artists of 2016!

Big thanks to DJ Black Cat for providing the festival with bumpin' music and his MAD skillz!

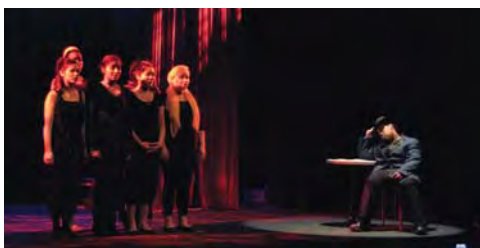
We greatly appreciate the Artists/Teachers who put in their precious time sharing their artistic talents and knowledge to the StArt YPA Workshops: Dean Douglas (Hip Hop Dance); Chase Constantino (Bollywood Dance); Dorothy Routledge (Theatre Production); Shi Wisdom (Vocals); Christopher Cushman (Photography); Andrew Moodie (Acting); Matthew Crans and Lisa Li (Fine Arts); Jeffrey Vallejo (Recording); Hanif Snagg (Sound Tech); Derek Luis (Business for the Arts).

And, a shout out to our wonderful committed Youth Artists and Volunteers for helping us "StArt Something In The Six" this year! We would not be without you.

Thanks eh!  
From StArt YPA







1998



1997



1999



2000



2001



2002



2003



2004



2005



2006



2007



2008

SuiteLifeArts.org  
(416) 691 - 3269



**AUDITION**  
in October 2016 for the  
2017 program



2009



2010



2011



2012



2013



2014



2015



2016



# Breaking Bread

The StArt Youth Presenting Art team would like to thank all the community members, businesses and artists who donated their time and contributed to the making of Breaking Bread Reception. Without the support of the following members, we could not have realised this celebratory reception. We greatly appreciate Chantee's Kitchen, as well as Nasif and Rafa Abdullah for donating the delectable breads and dips for the Breaking Bread Reception. We also appreciate their time and commitment, as well as Charleana Toney's, during the reception in sharing stories and cultural insights behind the many breads we sampled this evening. We would also like to thank DAVIDs TEA and Jaimie McClyment for donating tea for everyone to indulge in while celebrating our diverse community. A special shout out to the amazing emerging artists who performed at the Breaking Bread event: Carol C Dance Studio, Herve Kaniki and Suzette Stewart, the Drum Sisters (E'shiimendawad Deweganak) and our very own Melicia Sutherland. This evening would not have been as captivating without their commitment and excellent performances. We are especially grateful to the Scarborough community: The Scarborough Village R.C. for the space to host this fabulous evening, and the Scarborough Village Theatre for the theatre space where we featured our emerging artists. We also thank our guests for gracing us with their presence this evening. Breaking Bread was introduced this year as a community event to celebrate Scarborough's diverse community. The mandate for this evening was to experience and learn about the many cultural backgrounds in our community through bread and storytelling. Likewise, it took a concerted effort and commitment from all the aforementioned individuals, businesses and artists to make this evening possible.

Thankful respects,

StArt Youth Presenting Art Team

## EMERGING ARTIST



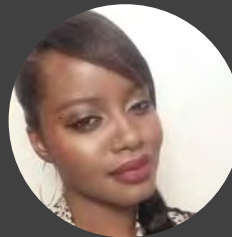
Carol C Dance Studio  
*Dancer*  
Find on all social media  
@CarolCDance



E'shiimendawad  
Deweganak  
*Drum Sisters*



Herve Kaniki  
*Singer*



Suzette Stewart  
*Singer*



Nima Azadi  
*Musican*



Melicia Sutherland  
*Poet*



DAVIDsTEA

Jaimie  
McClyment

Nasif  
& Rafa  
Abdullah



TORONTO  
**ARTS**  
COUNCIL

FUNDED BY  
THE CITY OF  
TORONTO

*SuiteLife*  
ARTS for YOUTH

THEATRE SCARBOROUGH



**Toronto**



MAPLE LEAF SPORTS + ENTERTAINMENT



**Gardiner  
Museum**

**YouthLink Pathways**  
to Education



SCARBOROUGH CENTRE FOR  
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Action for Neighbourhood Change

BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBOURHOODS TOGETHER



**Long & McQuade**  
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

**metro**



ONTARIO  
SCIENCE  
CENTRE

**AGO**  
Art Gallery of Ontario

**R•M**

ROYAL  
ONTARIO  
MUSEUM

**FITNESS 4 YOUTH**

"we believe in progress, not perfection"

the mirror  
**scarborough**