



SCOPE

VOLUME X 2020 UT SOUTHWESTERN'S ART & HUMANITIES JOURNAL

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EDITOR'S NOTE

BEFORE/AFTER

steven duncan

She wore wrinkle cream
in the mornings
before chemo

anti-aging concealer
with sunscreen

the way someone might
paint their house's porch
before its foreclosure

bury seeds
into a garden
before going away.

She kept clipping
out travel ads
after the diagnosis

as if time could bleed
from anyone

always froze
some dough for later
after baking the rest.

Somehow, denial and hope
run together
after a while.

HER FIRST CALL MONTH

dr. anne marie kerchberger

Full of energy, quickly navigating hallways while discussing differentials.

Seeking answers for her patients, curious to solve the problem at hand.

A fund of knowledge, she was always eager to share.

Going above and beyond,

Staying late, picking up extra work, and always asking how she could help.

All the while, it was her first call month.

THE GREATEST COMPLIMENT

dr. anne marie kerchberger

“Can she be my doctor, please?”

HOME

monica saripella



ILARD HOT SPRINGS BRIDGE

amrit gonugunta



EVERYTHING I EAT REMINDS ME OF ANATOMY LAB

steven duncan

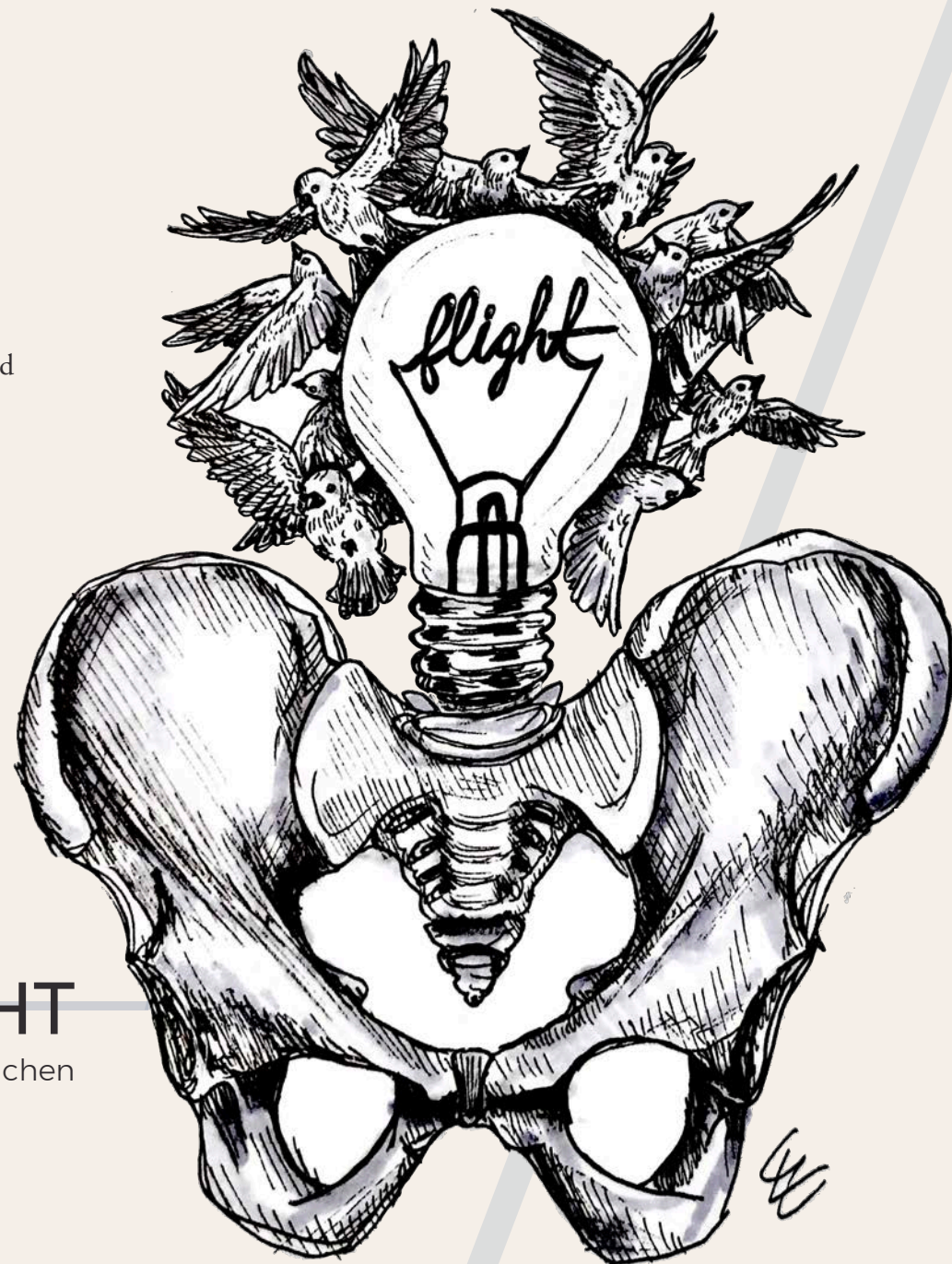
Upon closer inspection,
artichoke veins and arteries
seem to anastomose

around the center
of the nerve root
ganglion bulb

fiber tract

are often found
soft after steaming
or soaking in preserves

eager to be dissected apart
lightly buttered and trimmed
in the most delicious way.



FLIGHT
christine chen



IXIA
aidan strother

GRADIENT 26
dr. hallie bradley



MESSAGE NOT DELIVERED

alex figueroa

With a text, we often take for granted the magic of what is happening right underneath our thumbs. An emotion, a feeling, or a thought that someone is having right now, at this very second, in this very moment of time, is shared with us, with just the few clicks of a button. That bubble you get is more than just a motor instinct, a nod, or a gesture of welcome. It is the most current form of telepathy we have. It is an exchange between human minds through the use of space and signal. Thinking about it with this new perspective, the weight of what is said, how it is said, and when it is said becomes all the more important. From the receiving end, the message being read also carries more weight, since with this realization, what once was just a notification is now a cherished gift, sent for a reason by someone who wanted to share that very moment with you at that very second.



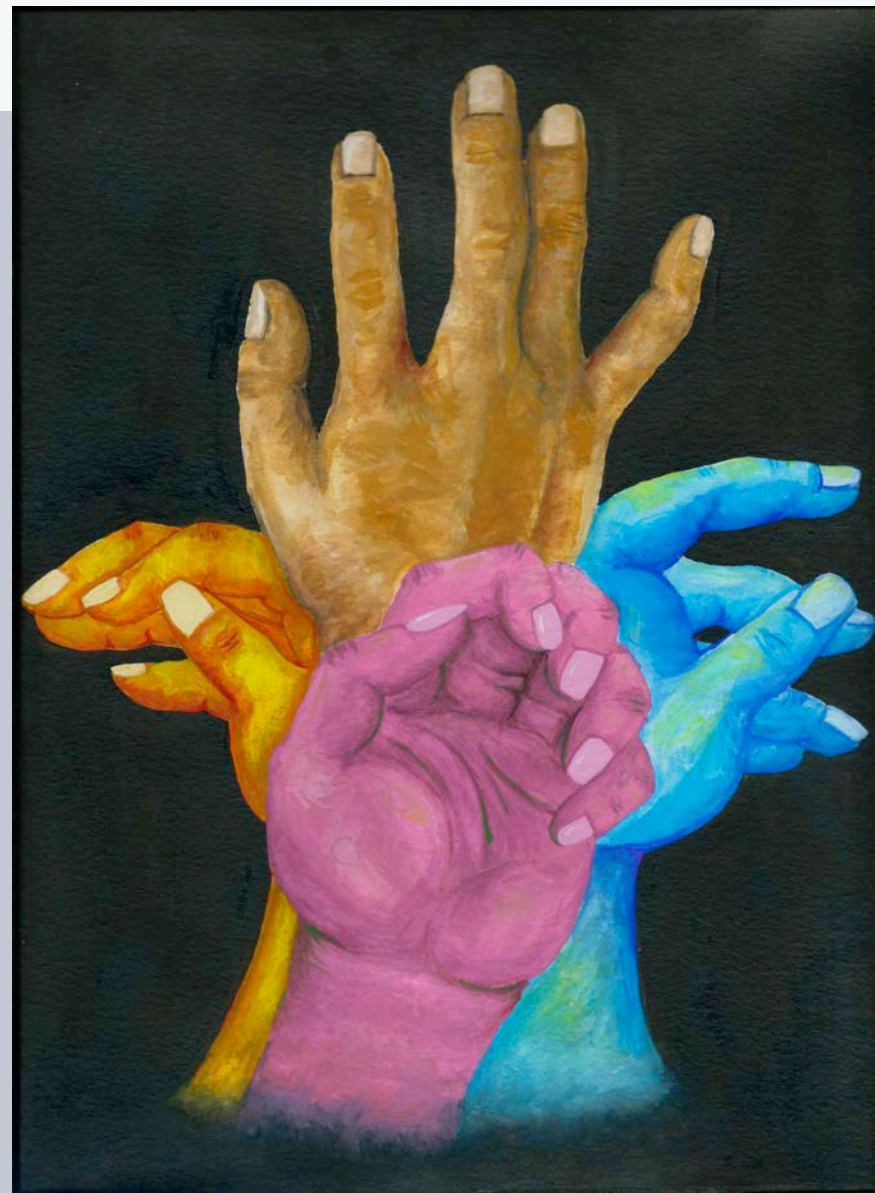
LOVE IN DELIRIUM - APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT?

dr. kaitlin valentine

gnarled hands reach out and grasp mine,
sharing that Essential Tremor

so scared,
unable to breathe,
unable to differentiate Anxiety, Severe
from Lung Disease, Interstitial
both contributing to hypoxemia, hypercarbia... Delirium.

hand captured in her grip I lend what minimal comfort
I can
she pats my hand.
“I love you,” she says
“when’s the baby due?”



HANDS

adrienne joseph



photo: Fushima Inari Shrine by Aaron Hong

LETTING GO

charis springhower

Two lovers laid under the stars.
He saw an imaginary world and
contemplated it for too long.
It was a while before she realized he
had gotten stuck.

He was stuck in his imagination.
She laid next to him, looking at his
beautiful eyes and the reflection of
them in the stars.

What will you be? She asked.

I don't care, he said.

He didn't care, or rather he *couldn't*
care.

She was frustrated, then torn.
He was looking at the stars and she was
looking at the world.

This is where everything changed.
There was now a distance between them.
He was looking at the stars but none of
it transferred.

It might as well have been a dream or
a video game.

Perhaps it was something about his
parents or his past.

He didn't know how to care about it.
Years later he still didn't know how to
care about it,
and she was gone.

THE SUN WILL ALWAYS RISE AGAIN TOMORROW

dr. anne marie kerchberger

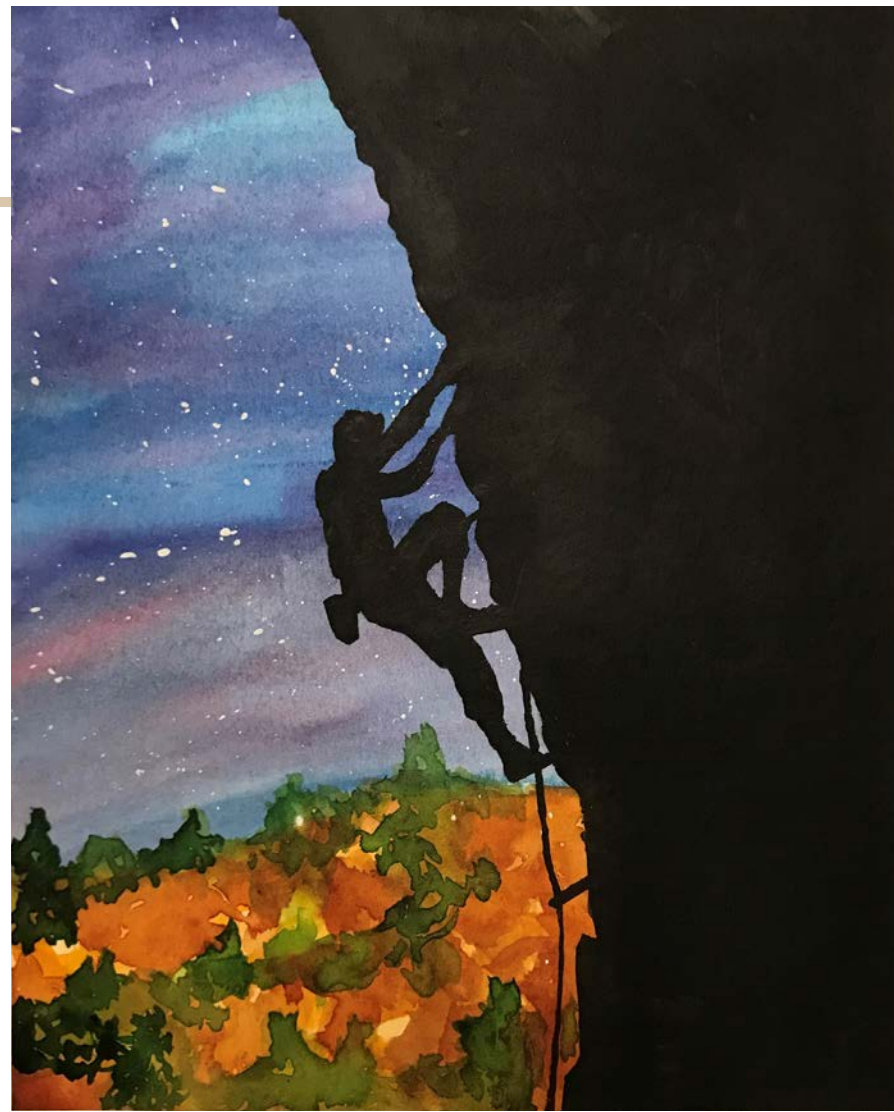


STEVE'S ARETE

wen mai wong

SENDA LAGUNA TORRE

nidhish lokesh



TRANQUILITY

cecilia zhou



WHAT IS IN A NAME?

anonymous

I am nobody
Who are you?
You were once nobody too.

I trod along,
Head down, mouth closed,
I clung to the walls,
Where I found my peace.

The days turned to years
My sweat to tears.
My doubt, my fears.

BUT then you
 saw
 me.

Or something in me.
-it's all the same -
Maybe yourself, maybe your child
Maybe your future.
You sought me out, from among.
Held my gaze.
Regarded me with bewonderment and affection.
We,

Kindred Spirits

"What is your name?" you ask.
With uncharacteristic confidence,
"-----"
It is familiar adjacent.

Thank you.
Thank you for your kindness
Thank you for your soul
Not all who are lost had been wandering.

Who am I?
I am Somebody.
And so are you.



painting: Scene from Vucut by Fatma Coksun



photo (above): Coolest Alpaca by Taylore King

photo (below): Windows of Machu Picchu by Taylore King

LETTING GO

dr. sarah khan

You stared at me with sullen eyes
I had heard from others that they had once held so much
light
Yet it was very clear
With every day that had passed by,
that flicker had grown weaker and weaker.

Your mom was so strong
With unwavering faith, always at your side.
“His heart is getting worse”
Five words.
Months of hope evaporated from her eyes
In that moment she had realized,
you were not getting better.
I saw her cry for the first time.

I cried. You cried. They cried.
Your family fought hard.
But it was time to go and you let us know
I can't imagine the pain you were in
The strength it took you to tell us to stop.
To beg your family to let go.

Were you still breathing?
That was my first thought
Every morning for two weeks
The day you died, I woke up crying.
It was not that we couldn't save you.
You were just so young.

Your death was inevitable.
We knew it was coming
It did not make it any easier.
You fought hard.
You were strong.
You were so very, clearly loved.
May you rest in peace.



A STANDING MAN

fatma coskun

THE PERFECT SUNSET

varun sadaphal

NATURAL BEAUTY IN CHIANG MAI

alex figueroa



BIOGRAPHIES & REFLECTIONS

AARON HONG, MD CLASS OF 2023

In my spare time I enjoy music, traveling, and sometimes photography. This picture shows the backside of the famous “Senbon Torii” (Thousands of Torii gates) section of the shrine. I just wanted to capture the pleasant aesthetic of this portion of the shrine.

ADRIENNE JOSEPH, MD CLASS OF 2021

I enjoy drawing and painting to de-stress. I believe that art serves as an effective avenue to capture the many different perspectives of life. The piece I submitted, “Hands”, represents the beauty that comes from having people from various backgrounds and viewpoints unite.

AIDAN STROTHER, MD CLASS OF 2023

I love drawing and painting nature. I have always been fascinated by African wildlife and I wanted to do a quick study of the African Kudu and a species of iris called Ixia. This piece was composed with ballpoint pen and ink.

ALEX FIGUEROA, MD CLASS OF 2023

My interests include traveling, reading, and going to breweries with friends. In my picture, I was simply breath taken at how grandiose yet subtle nature is, so easily forgone in the background of our lives. As for my essay, I wanted to convey similarly, how easy it is to take for granted a modern day form of communication.

AMRIT GONUGUNTA, MD CLASS OF 2023

Last summer, I had the opportunity to bike from Austin, Texas to Alaska in an effort that went towards the fight against cancer. On this ride, I had the opportunity to connect with many communities across the United States and behold many beautiful sights such as this.

DR. ANNE MARIE KERCHBERGER, MD, MENG

A native midwestern, I moved to Dallas via way of Atlanta to start my internal medicine residency training at UT Southwestern/Parkland. I find strength and restoration in exploring and enjoying the Great Outdoors.

CECILIA ZHOU, MD CLASS OF 2022

I was born in St. Paul Medical Center (an old UTSW hospital that was replaced by Clements University Hospital). Now, as a student at UTSW, I feel like I have come full circle. I went to undergrad at UT Dallas, where I majored in biology and minored in neuroscience and Spanish. In my spare time, I enjoy doing home decor, cuddling with my two cats, and hiking.

“Fantasy” is a colored pencil portrayal of a whimsical world with blurred boundaries between dimensions.

CHARIS SPRINGHOWER, GRADUATE STUDENT

I am a second year graduate student who is figuring out what humans are and what they are supposed to be. My poem is about being in love with someone who is very much caught up in their own self and sorrow and is therefore unable to deeply understand and love that which is outside of themselves.

CHRISTINE CHEN, MD CLASS OF 2023

As a kid, I loved to doodle with markers and pencils, and I never really outgrew that habit (though my spelling has fortunately improved since then). My artwork is inspired by the many interesting, complicated, and human stories that surround us.

FATMA KOSKUN, GRADUATE STUDENT

I am a 3rd year grad student in immunology and have been interested in visual arts since my childhood.

On “A scene from Vucut:” This painting shows a scene from a Turkish movie called Vucut (2011) or The Body. This scene is particularly captivating as a conversation between two lovers is conveyed by the movements of a part of their body.

On “A standing man:” This is a picture of a shepherd from the rural part of Cappadocia, Turkey. He is just a standing man.

HIREN PATEL, MD CLASS OF 2023

I use photography to document my experiences and emotions in my daily life and while visiting different places. I enjoy seeking out unique experiences and spontaneous solo travel in my free time.

On “Tranquility:” True tranquility comes from within and can be found unexpectedly in the most peculiar locations. This moment must be cherished when the right location is found. For me this feeling was last discovered in rural Sapa, Vietnam and is depicted in this photograph.

On “Franz Josef Glacier:” As one of the fastest receding glaciers in the world, majority of Franz Josef Glacier is likely to be melted within the next 15 years. This photograph represents documenting the present and anticipating the future.

NIDHISH LOKESH, MD CLASS OF 2023

On “Senda a Laguna Torre:” I took this picture on the way back from a hike because I really wanted to capture how incredible the view was in that moment, even compared to what I had seen at the end of the hike. This picture shows that it’s the journey too, not just the destination, that is wonderful. I took this shot in El Chalten, Argentina, the country where I first seriously got into photography.

DR. HALLIE BRADLEY, MD

I’m a second-year orthopaedic surgery resident from Dallas. I worked as an engineer for Stryker before going to medical school at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

On “Gradient 26:” Acrylic on canvas, 36”x48.” This piece, part of a series, is meant to strike a balance between light and dark while maintaining sharp divisions between each individual stroke.

DR. KAITLIN VALENTINE, MD CLASS OF 2020

I am a SCOPE alumna with a career-focus on transgender/LGBTQ healthcare and advocacy; spare time is dedicated to coffee and Harry Potter.

MONICA SARIPELLA, MD CLASS OF 2023

I am an MS1 with a passion for women’s health. I love nature, dessert, and music. My piece, “Home,” represents coming to terms with femininity within a culture that, while beautiful, can be hostile towards it.

STEVEN DUNCAN, MD CLASS OF 2022

I love writing and spending my evenings exploring new forms of expression (and studying the cranial nerves). My poetry has been featured by Silver Birch Press, Ink & Nebula, Utah Life Magazine, Prolific Press and others.

DR. SARAH KHAN, MD

I’m a PGY-2 in Pediatrics at UT Southeastern Medical Center. I wrote this poem a few months ago after one of the oncology patients I had spent a month with passed away.

TAYLORE KING, MD CLASS OF 2021

I am pursuing a Distinction in Global Health and use photography to document the world around me and remember the beauty of each place I travel. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, rock climbing, and, when near an ocean, surfing.

On “Coolest Alpaca:” Leisurely strolling through the city center of Huaraz, a woman in traditional Peruvian attire and her sunglasses-clad alpaca greet tourists.

On “Windows of Machu Picchu:” The precision of the stonework of Machu Picchu directly contrasts the rugged mountains in which the ancient city rests.

VARUN SADAPHAL, GRADUATE STUDENT

I am a third year PhD student in the biomedical engineering program at UTSW. I recently got into photography and started exploring places around Dallas. It is a great getaway hobby for me outside of lab.

On “Starry Night:” Just like the famous Hubble’s Deep Field, I pointed my camera into the night sky. It revealed so many more stars than ever visible to the naked eye. It was a mesmerizing shot in my first attempt at astrophotography.

On “The Perfect Sunset:” This was a near perfect composition with the sunset, a light house on the lake and a plane flying in the sky. The colors and contrast in this picture makes it come alive every time I look at it.

WEN MAI WONG, GRADUATE STUDENT

I think there is something special in being able to create the world in my head on a piece of paper and share it with other. For me, this mainly comes out through my artwork, where I either want to bring a vision to life or capture a moment for eternity. Art aside, science, rock climbing, and baking are where you will usually see me spend my time.

On “Steve’s Arete:” This is a mixed media artwork where I just wanted to capture a moment when my friend was climbing this route.

in closing,

On behalf of the SCOPE editors, thank you for reading the tenth edition of our magazine! We're incredibly proud of this year's edition and its representation of the vibrancy and strength of our community. To the contributors: in engaging with your work we've seen happiness, beauty, grief, and wonder. Thank you for your willingness to share these pieces of yourself with us; we can't express our gratitude enough. To our faculty mentors: thank you for your steady guidance and enthusiasm amidst this turbulent time. Your experience steered us in the right direction while encouraging us to always do more. We'd specifically like to thank Dr. John Sadler, Dr. James Wagner, Dr. Melanie Sulistio, and Dr. Elizabeth Heitman. We couldn't have done it without you.

In closing, we'd like to reflect on the role of medical humanities within a field that rushes headlong into the future. As medical technology continues to advance and pull medical practice along with it, we must stop to think, reflect, and acknowledge our humanity. While this new era of medicine presses on forward, the role of medical humanities remains an ever-important reminder of who we are, how we got here, and why we practice medicine. It's all too easy to understand a patient through their lab values or the squiggly lines on their ECG. The humanities encourage us to peer into their eyes, to explore the content of their soul, to understand their disease through the narrative of their life.

So once again, thank you. We hope that you and your families are safe and well, and that you have found time for yourself between the flurry of Zoom calls and lectures. We encourage you to transform your forced free time into a poem or a painting, like our talented peers featured here. Our community can learn from your unique constellation of perspectives and experiences, and we look forward to seeing the product of this work next year in SCOPE.

until next year,
your SCOPE editors

ABHINAV THUMMALA, MD CLASS OF 2023

I have an interest in philosophy, narrative medicine, and art. In my free time, I enjoy reading, playing the piano, baking, and watching movies. I choose to identify as a Gryffindor but am probably a Hufflepuff.

ANU ASOKAN, MD/MPH CLASS OF 2023

I love houseplants, '50s movies, and experimenting in the kitchen (with mixed results). I'm a firm supporter of incorporating humanities in education and day-to-day life.

AMANI RAMIZ, MD CLASS OF 2023

Medical humanities allows me to develop stronger relationships and bridge the gaps between cultures. Whether that is staying up until 2 am talking with a classmate or remembering a patient's favorite sport, I try to cherish these moments within the fast-paced world of medicine.

PREM PATEL, MD CLASS OF 2023

My interest in narrative medicine and experience in graphic design led me to help curate this year's edition. In my free time I enjoy supporting my hometown Dallas Cowboys and road cycling.

UTSW SCOPE

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COVID-19 REFLECTIONS

from the student body



A WIN

jacqueline chavez

Spring break begins, a vacation three years anticipated now cancelled.

Washed my hands and sanitized everything in sight. A win.

Paid my rent, opened a fridge of food. A win.

Volunteered to help ease the burden on hospitals. A win.

Enjoyed the weather while running outside, passing families interacting together.

Take that COVID-19, another win.

NEW VERSION OF NORMAL

courtney newman

I find myself staring out the window. My view is the same but I know the world outside is vastly different. It's easy to hear the climbing death or infection rates on the news and feel overwhelmed. It's harder to find the good in the world slowing down and in our perceived norm unraveling. But people are taking time to connect when they previously lacked time. People are realizing that we have previously overlooked those who we now deem essential. Coming out of this, maybe we can take these newfound realizations and apply them to a new version of normal.



painting: March 25, 8:41 (untitled) by Brayden Efseroff

ASYLUM IN PLACE

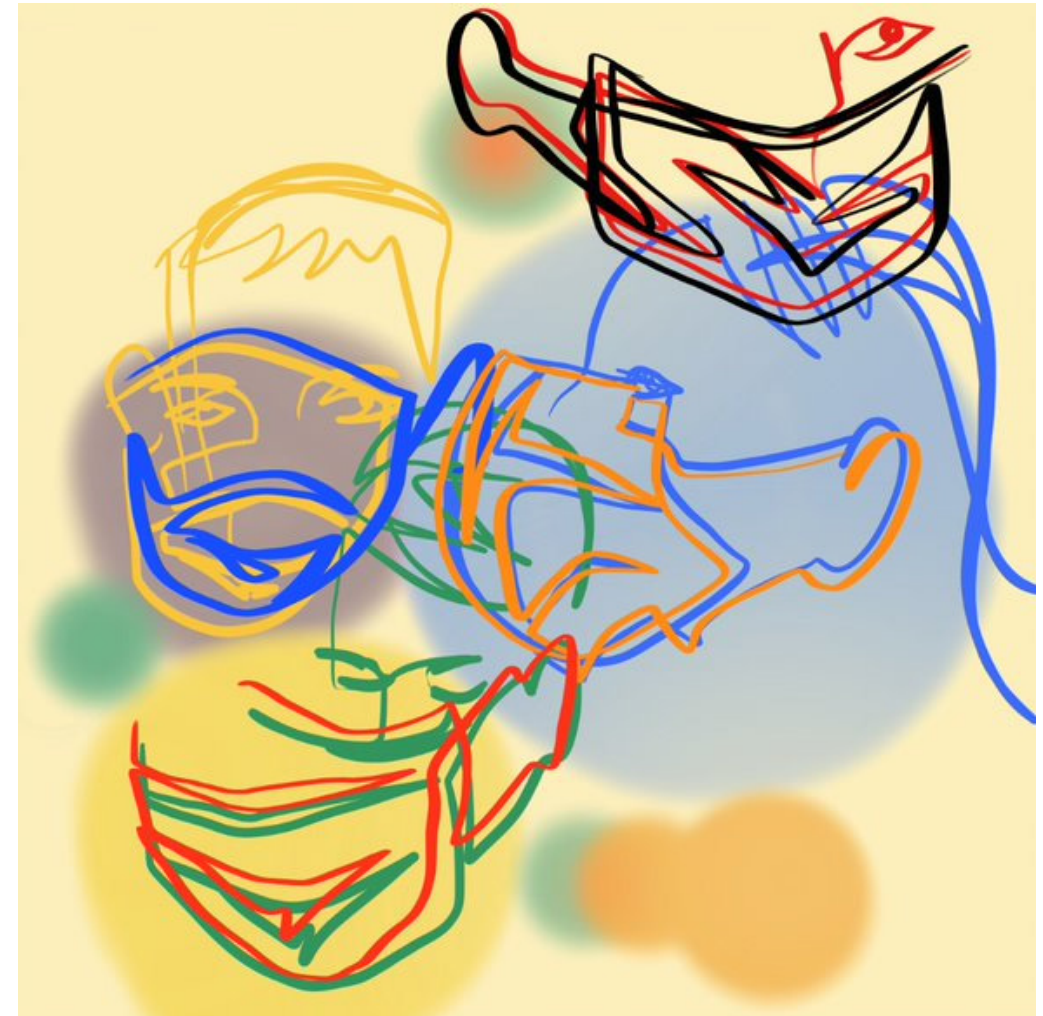
medical student

We've been instructed to remain: productive,
vigilant, serviceable, eager.
Wanted: docile bodies
Needed: more masks

I've been lighting many candles lately
Sandalwood for centering, frankincense for sanctifying
Telling the psychiatrist "always forgetting to breathe"
Pastoral telemedicine

Chaos doesn't bother me
A familiar panic world
But the expectant chemical silence fissures my brain
The city is a morgue or a mass grave
I've been pinching myself to remember I exist

Geology -- eroded lungs breathing eroded air
on our eroded earth
Are we Homo economicus? Let's ask Linnaeus
Finance 101 can teach you
how to pick who lives.



BIOGRAPHIES & REFLECTIONS

DR. BRAYDEN EFSEROFF, MD CLASS OF 2020

I will be entering residency in Psychiatry this year; in visual arts, I'm primarily interested in abstract expressionism.

CHRISTINE CHEN, MD CLASS OF 2023

As a kid, I loved to doodle with markers and pencils, and I never really outgrew that habit (though my spelling has fortunately improved since then). My artwork is inspired by the many interesting, complicated, and human stories that surround us.

COURTNEY NEWMAN, MD CLASS OF 2023

I'm a first-year student who seeks escapism through musical theater, baking, and embroidery and tries to process my jumbled thoughts and feelings by writing them down.

STEPHANY KIM, MD CLASS OF 2023

I'm from the great city of Los Angeles and enjoy spicy and steaming hot foods, wearing (fashionably) over-sized outfits, exploring the outdoors, reading books, attempting artistic endeavors, binge-watching Netflix shows, and learning new languages.

