

Volume 2, Issue 1
Fall 2021

Letter From the Editor:

I'm excited to announce that our Fall 2021 issue is even darker than previous ones. The threads for this edition are the shades of blood, blue grief, and black death.

With the depressing work from the past semester, I've started to think the truest stereotype might be that teenagers are edgy: one of our most profound catchphrases is "I'm in Spain but the S is silent." I'd hope that these statements are exaggerated, but I also know Gen Z tends to express their feelings through memes.

Does anyone talk about their emotions without the layers of fatalistic humor? Sometimes it feels like we're trying so hard to be put-together that we don't talk about the universal struggles of high school. It's *chaotic*. We have to form an identity under high school social norms and the college grind, which only validate certain traits. The process becomes even more confusing with family issues, poor mental health, and other difficult circumstances. I think this turmoil often becomes a part of our art, especially when we may not be able to voice it to other people.

For Fall 2021, most of the pieces depict impossible scenarios, but the sense of turmoil makes them *real*. I wonder if the surrealism also traces back to the times we're in—everything seems surreal after our period of disconnect from reality. "Cavities in Canine Teeth" allows the reader to enter the disorienting mind of Sylvia, who imagines that her sister went feral to escape her life. "Pancakes" feels like a fever dream as it narrates a young woman's deterioration within her relationship. "Untouchable Dreams" is a magical visualization of how we remain reaching for our unfulfilled dreams.

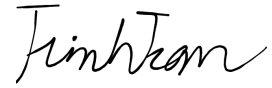
Given the nature of the pieces, the edition underscores the idea that art can reflect the artists' community, along with the importance of being considerate within the magazine. We try to be flexible with our members' schedules and empathetic with their work so that the club remains an outlet rather than a cause of stress. To me, the magazine has always felt like a community effort instead of an extracurricular, and I hope that it only uplifts anyone who volunteers their time towards it.

Finally, I am so proud and appreciative of The Team. We spent months weaving a tapestry that reveals and embraces teenage angst, along with all the other emotions we feel. Though the threads are starker, they are as closely intertwined as ever—and though each of us carries an individual burden, I hope that we can always find solidarity through art.

The Fall 2021 edition is vivid, vicious, and visceral. It will make you grieve empty space (“to you, if you’re out there”) and rip out your heartstrings (“Angel Asphyxia”).

And I can’t wait for you to experience it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trinh Tran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Trinh" and last name "Tran" clearly distinguishable.

Trinh Tran
Editor-in-Chief