



Drism

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CENTENARY UNIVERSITY

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Thanks to Sharon Decker for her help on making this magazine possible. We would also like to thank all of the professors across all of the departments for encouraging their students to submit. Furthermore, we would like to thank all of the editors who collaborated with us, along with the students who submitted. Without them this magazine would not exist. Finally, thank you to the person reading this, for supporting the voices of Centenary's students. We hope that you enjoy all of the diverse talents that have led to this year's *Prism*!

- Izabelle Weisman

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WHY GOD?

Lauren McCartney

Why make humans in his image if they just disobey him?

Why give some people the right to love and others the fear of loving who they
want to?

Why take the good people and let the bad stay?

Why put a woman on earth, just to be scorned for eternity by the male gaze?

Why create women second? Is the hell we are dragged through not enough
suffering for your male ego?

Why only create men like Abraham and Adam to be in your image, but women
like Sarah and Eve be created from man?

Why give women the task of helping? Why not leading?

Why make Adam name Eve? Was she not smart enough to think of one
for herself?

Why give her a painful birth, when the man stands by and watches her suffer,
doesn't dare to lend a hand, thinks he isn't needed?

Why God, did you only call out to Adam in the garden? Was Eve in your mind?

Why must humanity make women submissive and silent? Are the voices of the
oppressed not powerful enough to shake the world?

Why make others suffer from dehumanization and violence, but allow others to
be the cause of it?

Why bring up children like Isaac into worlds where their gender and lifestyles are
planned for them by everyone but themselves?

Why must you look at the color of one's skin to see if they are to be welcomed in
the church of the white man, and cast them aside when they are not?

Why make the foreign men build your country for you when he should be
enjoying what you have built for him?

Why make someone's skin color act as the basis of whether or not
they're human?

Why give the founders of our nation the right to "hold these truths to be self-
evident, that all men are created equal" when they did not treat all men equally?

Why did Thomas Jefferson, a founding father and a man whom we trust with
our faith, turn around and dismiss those who were different from his kind?

Aren't all men created equal?

Why allow the aspects of privilege to unearned by some, when they must be
earned by others?

Why God?

FIREFLIES

Elizabeth Brouse

Losing someone you love is like setting a firefly free.

Sometimes as kids, we would catch fireflies in the palm of our hands.

We may have even put them into a container just to marvel at their
repetitive glow.

I'm no expert, but I'm sure fireflies get a little lonesome on their own.

But we held on to them for a little while because they were purely unique and
stood out from all the rest.

We didn't want to set it free, but we needed to do what was best.

When the one you love flies away, they are no longer in pain or alone.

They are free and they are glowing; looking back down at you.

THE EDGE OF THE DOCK

James Brandes

What lurks

Beneath those rising bubbles

Body hidden in murky water

But breath revealed

DEAR JILL

James Brandes

Dear Jill,

you
make
me
feel

like a pancake
soaked with maple syrup
forgotten on a sidewalk
hardening in the sun

Goodbye,
James

SILKY SEA BREEZE

James Brandes

Ocean air
Tickles my hair
Problems are somewhere
But I am not there

OPEN DOOR

Katherine Thompson

The door was always open.
It didn't have to be
announced for me to know.
It didn't matter
the number of times
I'd drunkenly stumbled,
crashing through the door
at 4:00am
on a Wednesday,
or the number of times
I'd slammed the door
to punctuate an insult.
The mat outside
welcomes me home.
The locks never changed.
I never had to ask
*Will you leave
the door open for me?*
I never had to answer
When will you be home?
or the dreaded
What happened?
on the day I returned
home unannounced,
my car full of boxes
and my eyes
full of tears.
I've been privileged,
I've lived in the comfort
of certainty. I know:
no matter where I go
or when I return—
the door will always be open.

CLOSED DOOR

Katherine Thompson

The distance between us
grows like a tumor.
We retreat to the corners
of our apartment,
the outskirts of our minds.

The bedroom door separates
us; a wall you resurrected
in a single moment,
enough time
to slam a door.

A green light
shines above
your front door,
so I used to call you
Gatsby.

Later, I realized
that made me Daisy,
a beautiful little fool.
You used
to meet me

halfway,
on the steps.
You used to smile
and hold the door
open for me.

It's strange —
how doors can reveal
and conceal,

how an open door
is like an opportunity,

or a portal to
what we expect
will be a better place,
but is usually
only another place —

the other side of
a closed door.
As I pack,
I study
our closed door.

It's a barrier and a blessing.
It's ironic,
how closed doors
can force a change
of direction.

I consider this as
I collect pieces of myself,
place them in boxes,
and carry them
over the threshold.



Am I in Heaven? - Danny Mattie



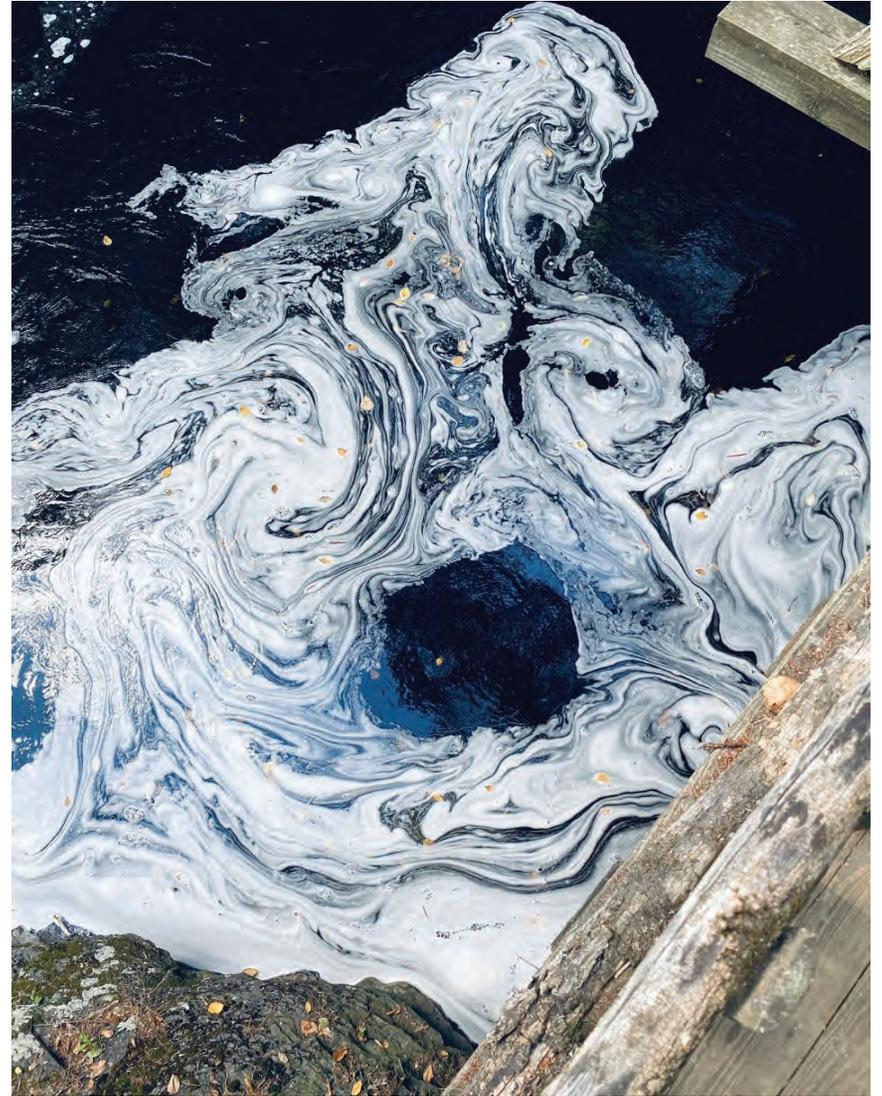
Untitled 1 - Victoria Hoffman



Misty Morning - Kelvin Herrera



Untitled 2 - Victoria Hoffman



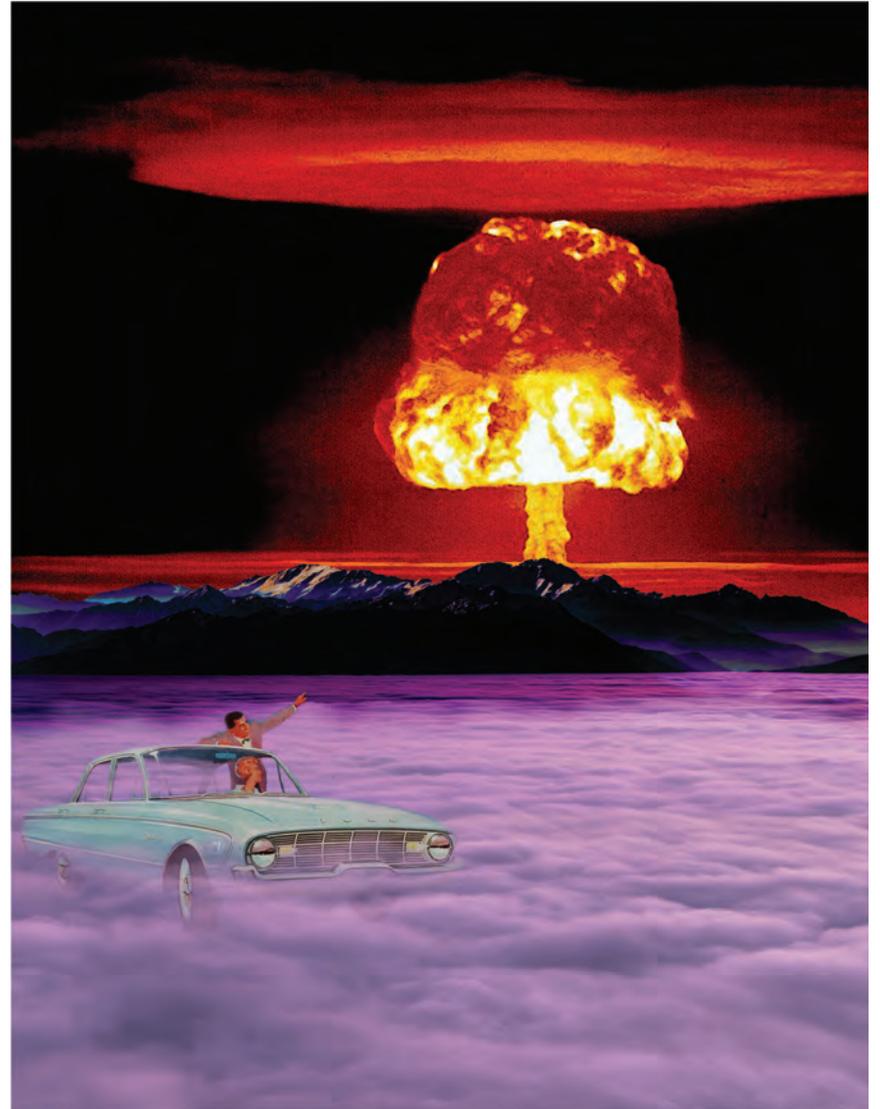
Whispering Waters - Natalie Lombardi



Untitled 1 - Elizabeth Brouse



Angel - Rebecca Weisman



Sold on a Dream - Danny Mattie



The Night Huntress - Emily Day



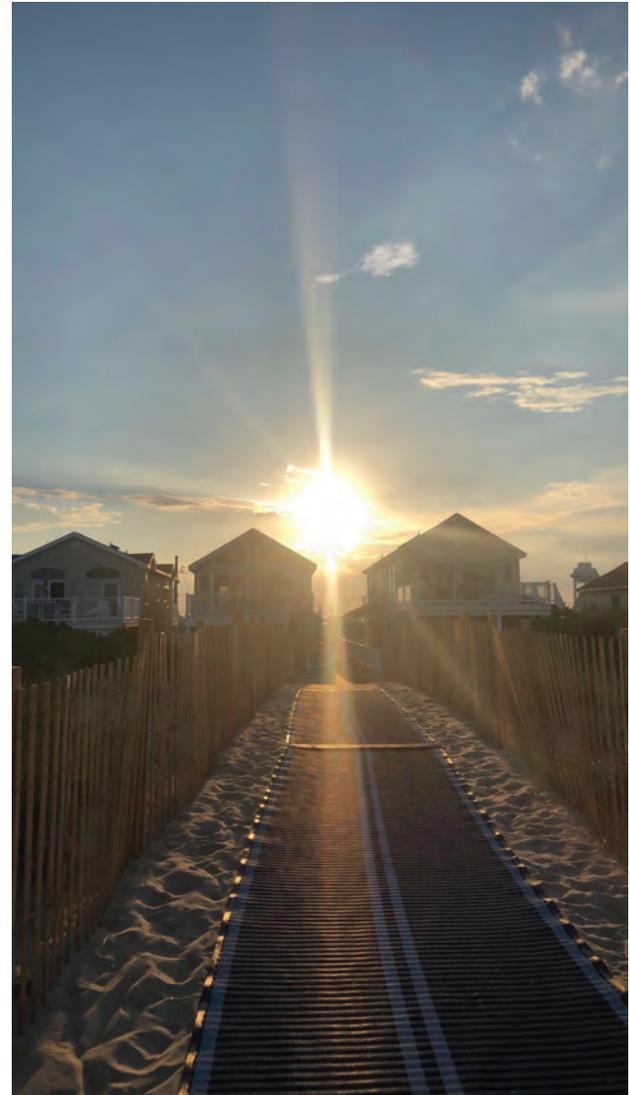
Paradise in Gardiners Bay - Emily Day



Untitled 3 - Victoria Hoffman



Inner Beauty - Rebecca Weisman



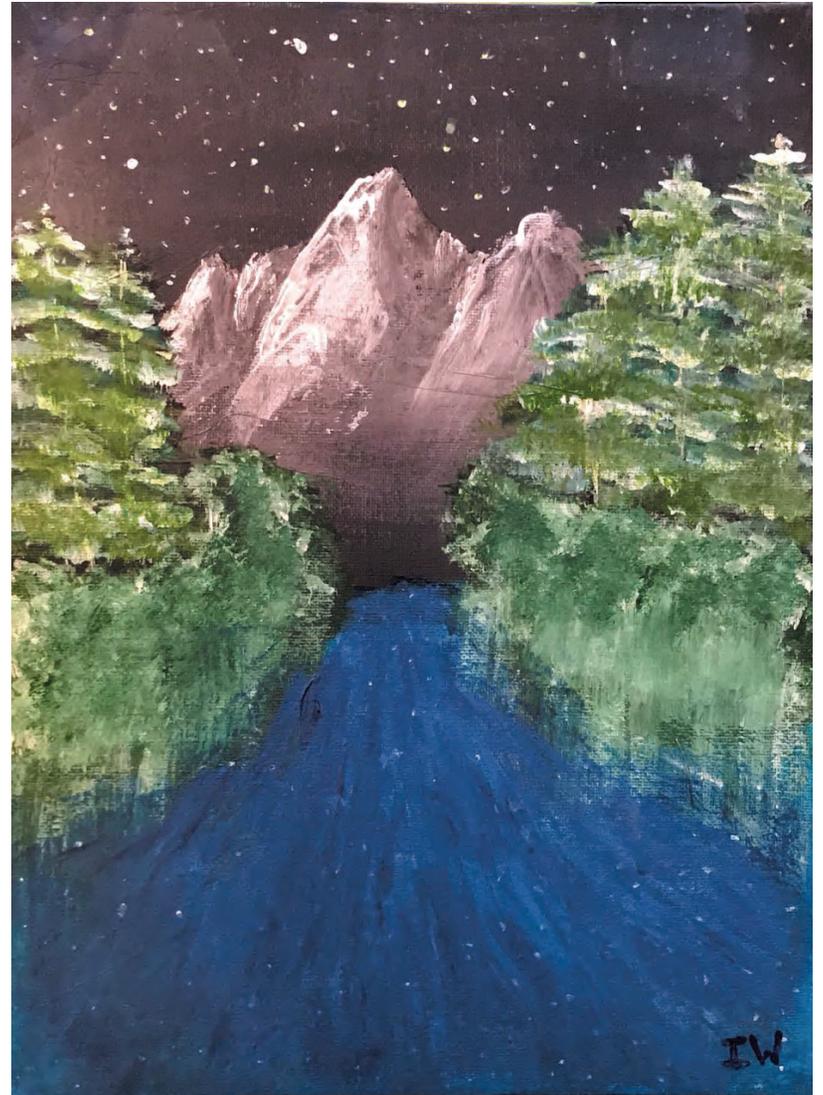
Untitled 4 - Victoria Hoffman



Untitled 1 - Isaiah Anderson



Untitled 3 - Elizabeth Brouse



Thank You, Bob Ross - Isabelle Weisman



Yearning for a Glimpse - Danny Mattie



Untitled 2 - Isaiah Anderson



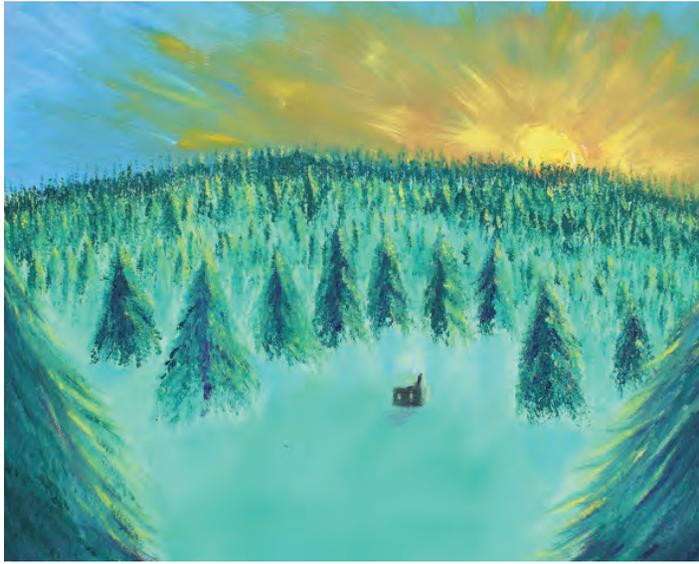
Majestic Sunset - Emily Day



Untitled 5 - Victoria Hoffman



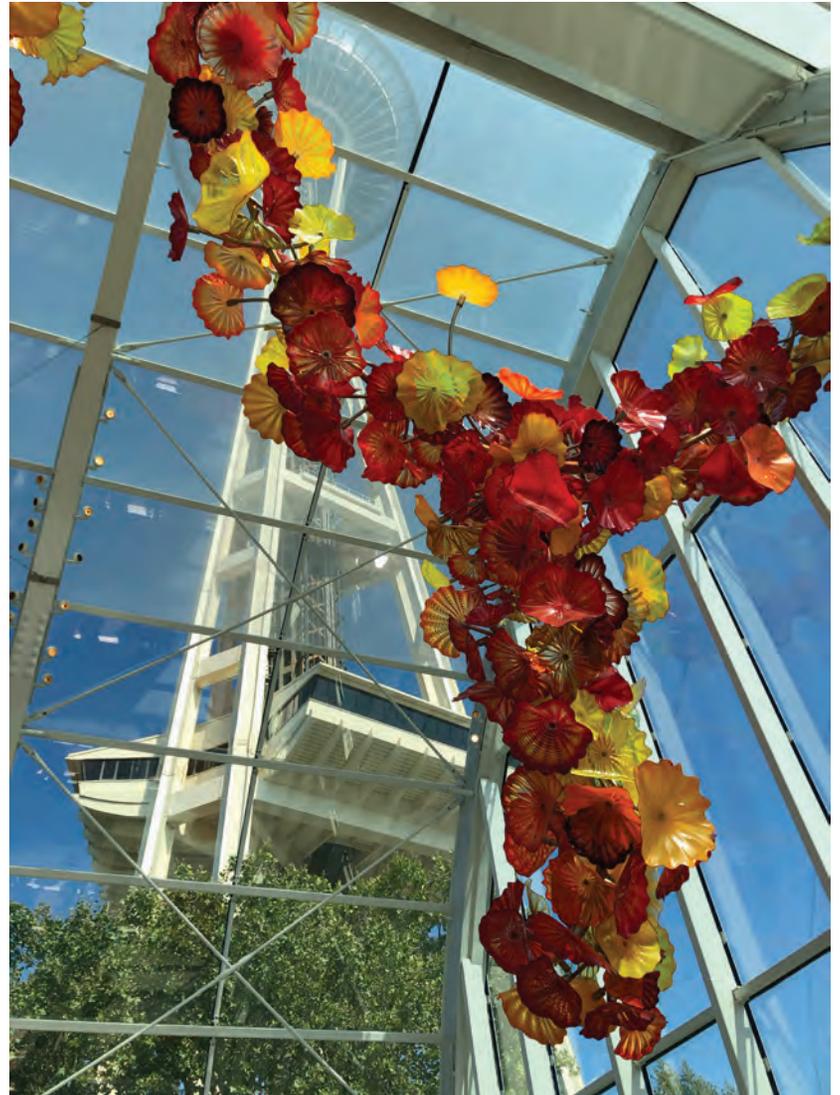
Concrete Jungle - Danny Mattie



The Bright Side - Rich Bruton



Trees and Clouds - Izabelle Weisman



Untitled 3 - Isaiah Anderson



Into the Eyes of the Wanderer - Danny Mattie



Untitled 4 - Elizabeth Brouse



Untitled 5 - Elizabeth Brouse



Untitled 6 - Elizabeth Brouse



Eyes Wide Shut - Rich Bruton



Untitled 7 - Elizabeth Brouse

SUBMITTED BIOS

Isaiah Anderson is a sophomore Communications/TV/Film major at Centenary University who grew up in Westfield, New Jersey. He has been interested in photography for over six years. Mr. Anderson has won a few local awards for his work. In his spare time, he is a writer and comic book expert.

James Brandes is a freshman at Centenary University, majoring in individualized studies. He began writing during his senior year of high school, when he discovered a lifelong passion for self-expression.

Elizabeth Brouse will be graduating in 2021 with her degree in Fashion Design & Merchandising. Creating art has allowed her to express herself and her feelings in many different forms/mediums. She believes that sometimes it's easier to tell your story through art rather than solely using your voice.

Emily Day is a senior at Centenary University, majoring in medical laboratory science. She is excited to perform clinical rotations next year for her internship. Besides medicine, Emily's second passion is art. Emily is honored to have her artwork published for a fourth year in *Prism*.

Victoria Hoffman is majoring in business with a concentration in finance, and minoring in professional writing. After she graduates at Centenary, she plans on becoming a lawyer. In her free time, she enjoys painting and using pastels as well as playing tennis.

Danny Mattie is a senior majoring in Graphic Design. He would like to thank the editors of *Prism* for selecting his pieces. He is also thankful for the support from his family and his friends over the years. ΩP

Lauren McCartney is a junior at Centenary, who currently lives in Illinois. She hopes to be back on campus in the fall. When Lauren is not watching 60's, and 70's sitcoms, she is watching her heroes Mike, and Frank, on American Pickers, both of whom she would like to thank.

Natalie Storms-Lombard is a photographer who majored in Sociology. She graduated from Centenary University in 2016. Photography became a hobby for her over time. Her photo, "Whispering Waters", was taken at Bushkill Falls, PA. She loves nature and will take any opportunity to snap a photo.

Katherine Thompson is a senior at Centenary University. In 2016, she earned an AFA in Creative Writing from WCCC. She expects to graduate from Centenary with a BS in Business and Accounting this year. According to Thompson: "Accounting pays the bills. Poetry keeps me sane."

**THANK YOU
FOR SUPPORTING
THE 55TH EDITION
OF PRISM**

Keep on Creating!

