

As We
Grow



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CREATIVE DIRECTION & DESIGN by Summer 2024 Literary Illustrators: Wren Mason, Francis Bordeleau, Trinity Clay, Elly Carrel, Anette Martinson, and Peter Chodelka

A Black poet, journalist, and art collector, NaBeela Washington holds a Master’s in Creative Writing and English from Southern New Hampshire University and a Bachelor’s in Visual Advertising from The University of Alabama at Birmingham. She is the Founder of *Lucky Jefferson*.

Kristine “Kris” Pham is an illustrator and 2D animator in the greater Philadelphia region. She completed her BFA in Illustration and Minor in Animation at the University of the Arts. Her work has been described as a bold personality contained by calm lines.

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ABOUT AS WE GROW

As We Grow is an exploration of both personal growth and the unfolding seasons by our Summer 2024 Literary Illustration Cohort. This zine delves into the perpetuity of growth and the cyclical nature of the seasons, contrasting these enduring patterns with the fleetingness of life and the swift passage of time. Each spread invites readers to reflect on the blossoming phases of life and the inevitable changes that come with them, celebrating both the constancy of change and the poignant moments of now.

FRANCIS BORDELEAU

My piece represents a dead forest with a single glimmer of new growth showing through. I wanted to draw attention to the way growth isn't always linear, often things don't grow unimpeded but get pushed back and have to grow again and again. This applies in a literal sense in the scene as well, and I wanted to show how nature goes through growth cycles and that destruction and regrowth go hand and hand. Nature can be destroyed, but it always regrows.

Francis Bordeleau (They/He) is a Boston-based cartoonist and illustrator. They earned their BFA in Illustration from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 2023 and currently attend Boston University to earn their MFA in Visual Narrative.



PETER CHODELKA

Getting older means I get to collect more memories, meet more people, and watch as they drift in and out of my life. For better or worse, change is inevitable. Having just lost my grandma, I wanted to explore the feelings of loss and grief as we age. Although our time together is over, I still have fond memories of the past to hold onto for comfort.

Peter Chodelka is an illustrator and rising senior at The School of Visual Arts.



ANETTE MARTINSON

I wanted to create something that feels like a scrapbook page frozen in time, capturing a mix of memories that shaped me. It's like looking back at all the versions of myself that brought me to this moment. The colors and shapes feel like the pieces of time, imperfect but coming together into one present version of me.

Anette Martinson is a third year game design student at Clark University, focusing on 2D illustration. For this Zine, they wanted to represent the fading memories of childhood and an acceptance of the current self as an adult.



I don't think you would even recognize us, but I know you'd be proud.



Reflecting on the theme “As We Grow,” I realize just how much I’ve changed since childhood and the power that lies within that transformation. I may be a completely different person now, but there’s strength and pride in recognizing and embracing that change.

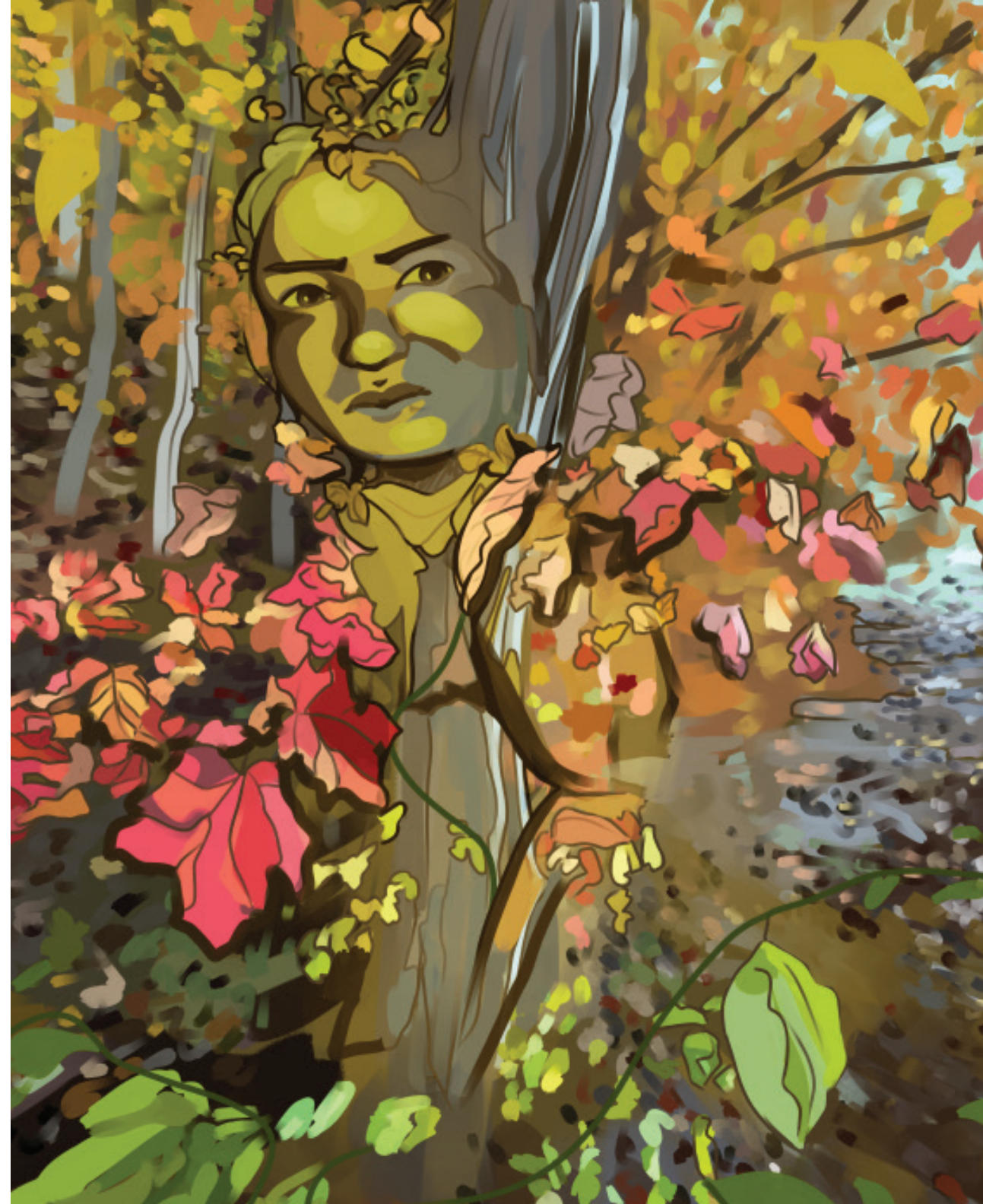
El Carrel is an illustrator studying at Columbia College Chicago. They primarily work with digital techniques to create their 2D illustrations. However, they love many mediums like gouache and clay.



WREN MASON

This piece explores my experience of growing up as a trans person and how that has at times made me feel invisible, fragmented, and like I had to hide who I really was. I wanted to work with an autumn environment to show the experience of changing, and that while it can be difficult there can also be a lot of beauty and peace involved in discovering or embracing your identity.

Wren Mason is a communication design student at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. He enjoys spending time out in nature and often uses things he's seen on hikes as imagery in his work.



TRINITY CLAY

This artwork depicts the quiet grief of outgrowing the imagination you once took refuge in as a child.

Trinity Clay is a multidisciplinary artist who explores science fiction through their work. They are interested in depicting a bright, yet strange future. Their work depicts the evolving relationship between humanity, nature and technology.



CONNIE CAO

My piece loosely documents “as I grow” where everything is connected through a strand. I’ve never felt like I have outgrown any of my likes or interests- rather that they’ve become a part of me that would resurface in some way or another.

From Dora the Explorer, to Powerpuff Girls, to photobooth photos with my family, these are my core memories.

Connie Cao is a rising third-year Illustration student of Massachusetts College of Art & Design.



LOGAN GARCIA

I wanted to take a more literal, niche approach to the theme of growth. I have OCD and one of my more prominent compulsions is to pull out my hair. Hair pulling forms consistent bald spots of my legs. Despite now having gotten the support I needed and improving on not acting on my self-destructive habits, I still pull my hair - and it always grows back.

Logan is a cartoonist and mixed media illustrator based in Chicago.



