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Letter from the Editors

Jackie Vega
Grand Valley State University

Sarah Smith
Grand Valley State University

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It often begins with a sigh.

And it's often been said the best art is born from longing. From sadness or anger. From pain. It's curious how the desire to turn from these experiences can evolve into the same desire that sparks us to write. To paint. To sigh, and begin. As you turn the pages of this journal, we hope that these writings and these pieces of art stay with you, the way that longing does so well.

There is often a strange joy that follows pain. You can see this in the self-portraits and the non-fiction. There is joy in the fiction, too. In the paintings, and the collages, peeking around the corners of the poetry. We hope you will marvel, as we did, at how these different experiences spoke to each other like long-lost relatives. This journal came together the way camaraderie can form in times of hardship and vulnerability—these pieces needed each other.

We'd like to thank the contributors for the honesty and beauty of their art and writing. It's been a joy to work with your work. We'd like to thank the staff for their tireless efforts; this journal would not be the same without our readers and our editors. We'd like to thank our design editor for being constant and creative. We'd like to thank our faculty advisor for his patience and guidance.

This issue is a reminder of how art and writing are never just art and writing. It's a reminder that picking up a journal of work created by the people you pass by unknowingly means you move one step closer to knowing.

And to you, our readers: we leave this part up to you. Thank you.

JACKIE VEGA
Editor-in-Chief

SARAH SMITH
Assistant Head Editor