

ISSUE 001

# TELLUS



**IN  
YOUR  
ELEMENT**

**03** Editorial Board Letter**04** Editorial Board Members**06**

Ella Beyreis

**08**

Emma Wang

**10**

Jasmine Watson

**13**

Maya Martinez

**14**

Noah Pfaffenberger

**15**

Maria DeWald

Ethan Young

**16**

Rose Joffe

**18**

Anika Chanchani

**05** Participating Artists**32** Acknowledgements**19**

Ella Nies

**21**

Naina Purushothaman

**22**

Katie Woolums

**24**

Lila Joffe

**27**

Cierra Fogle

**28**

Emma Thomas

**29**

Franco Valentin

**31**

Connor Lynch

Cover Image: Emma Wang, *Tribute*, 2018

## FROM THE EDITORS

Being “In Your Element” can mean many things to many people. “In Your Element” may bring a treasured location to one’s mind, and at the same time, a loved one to another’s mind.

This potential for diverse interpretation is precisely why the Editorial Board chose this as the theme for the first issue of Tellus Zine. Each artist featured in Issue 001 creatively expresses where or with whom they feel the most at home or most like themselves. They express themselves through a variety of mediums, including: photography, paint, watercolor, poetry, sketches, and digital art. In doing so, they open a window into their private lives.

As an inaugural theme “In Your Element” ties directly into Tellus Zine’s mission of promoting diversity. In our first year, we wanted Tellus to definitively break down barriers. We wanted to make it clear that there is no teen artist who is excluded. To that end, we eliminated a common financial barrier by offering submissions for free and we selected a theme open enough to allow for broad interpretation and inclusion. Judging by the contents of the zine, we hope it is clear that “In Your Element” has allowed for a variety of voices, backgrounds, and messages, and reinforced exactly what Tellus is all about.

**x**  
Tellus Zine Editorial Board

The Tellus Zine Editorial Board consists of 14 diverse, high school students, selected from applicants located across Greater Cincinnati.

The board meets monthly to develop the zine, review submissions, and plan events. They also work on their creative projects and learn about editorial skills and different art forms through field trips to artist studios and zine and art book fairs.

### Editorial Board Members

Iris Andrews  
 Ella Beyreis  
 Jamie Blodgett  
 Anika Chanchani  
 Cierra Fogle  
 Lucinda Hittle  
 Lila Joffe  
 Rose Joffe  
 Lilly Johnson  
 Emilio Lanzador  
 Naina Purushothaman  
 Lauren Simon  
 Eva Smith  
 Emma Thomas

The Editorial Board's activities are facilitated by Kennedy Heights Arts Center's *Director of Arts Engagement and Learning*, Bethany Pelle, along with Rachael Banks, Assistant Professor of Photography at Northern Kentucky University.

### Participating Artists

Ella Beyreis  
 Anika Chanchani  
 Maria DeWald  
 Cierra Fogle  
 Lila Joffe  
 Rose Joffe  
 Connor Lynch  
 Maya Martinez  
 Ella Nies  
 Noah Pfaffenberger  
 Naina Purushothaman  
 Emma Thomas  
 Franco Valentin  
 Emma Wang  
 Jasmine Watson  
 Katie Woolums  
 Ethan Young

### Honorable Mentions

Mabel Benzing  
 Eden Davis  
 Jasmine Gonzalez  
 Jayme Rodriguez  
 Eloise Young



## Carapace

Ella Beyreis

Take off the makeup.  
Lipstick stains and war paint  
Bury a face so no emotion escapes.  
These ornaments of anger  
Have no place here.

Score me all over.  
Slough away  
The loose flakes of thoughts—  
Good enough, never enough—  
These shards of self-doubt  
Accumulate  
And suffocate  
My skin.

Leave it bare.  
Let it breathe.

Scars  
And hair  
And teeth  
And bones.  
Trace it over once more  
Just to be sure of the solidity  
Of ten fingers—  
Nine straight,  
One crooked.  
All here.  
And so very enough.

# ELLA BEYREIS

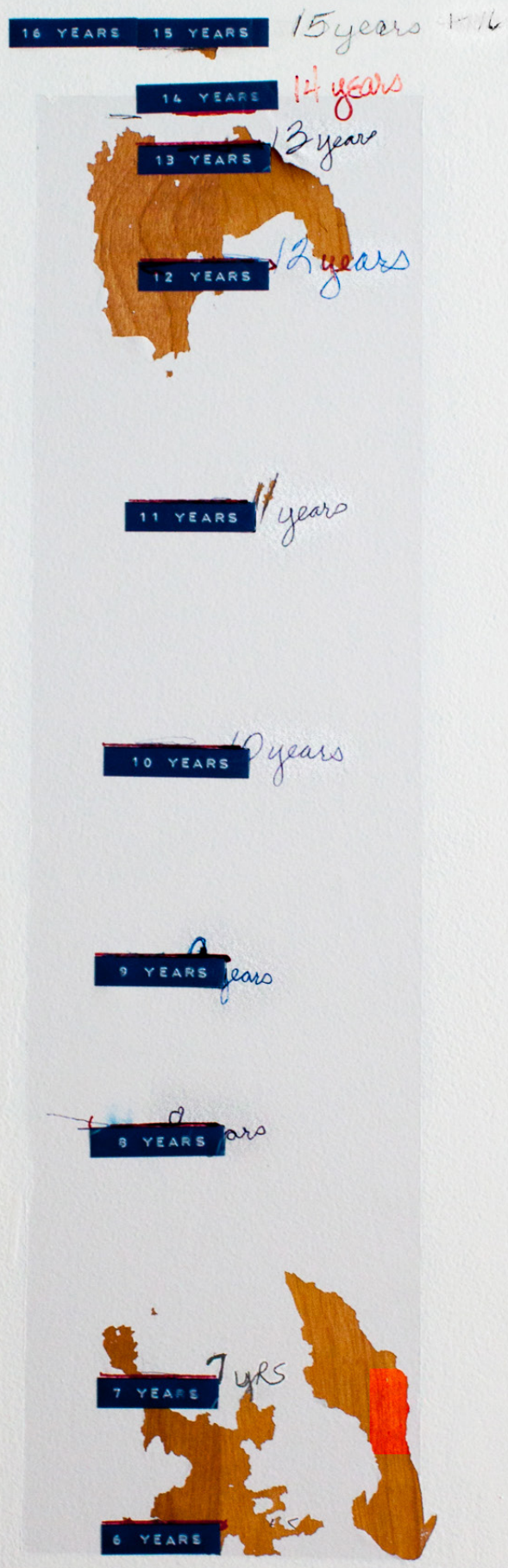
Loveland, OH  
Age: 17  
Left: Element, 2019

# EMMA WANG

Mason, OH  
Age: 15  
Tribute, 2018

Top/Right: Fragments, 2019  
Bottom/Right: A Bear and His Basketballs, 2019





# JASMINE WATSON

Louisville, KY  
 Age: 21



Torn Away, 2018  
 Left: Growing Pains, 2018



Jasmine Watson, *Stretch Marks*, 2018

## Faith in Fragrance and the Felt

Maya Martinez

may i mix spice and  
cinnamon  
for that home-full-of-love  
smell  
that flavorful blend that  
makes you feel  
safe  
humbled and warm and welcome  
may i mix sugar and  
creamy sweet  
for that life-is-full-of-heartstrings  
feel  
that gentle stroke of milky  
pleasure and  
contentment  
may i mix it into myself  
bake it onto my skin as  
blemishes  
to carry for the thousands  
of forevers in my skin  
to smell of spicy saccharine  
as doubt pulls the  
syrup of my soul

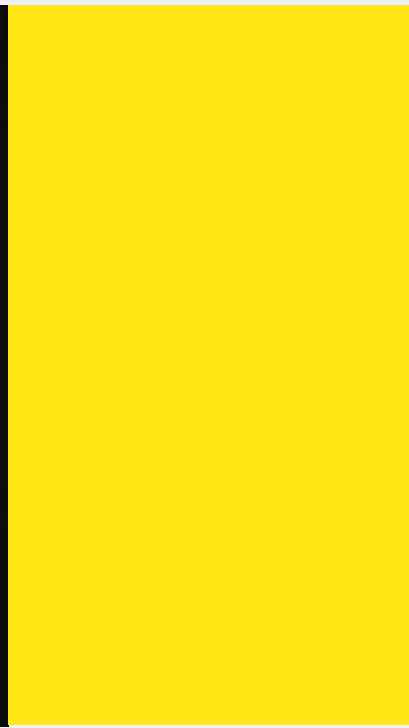
**MAYA MARTINEZ**

Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 16

# MARIA DEWALD

Fort Thomas, KY  
Age: 19

Where I Feel Most at Home, 2020



# NOAH PFAFFENBERGER

Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 17



# ETHAN YOUNG

Where I Find My Peace





# ROSE JOFFE

Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 17



Yellow Wallpaper, 2019  
Top /Right: In the Rain, 2019  
Bottom/Right: Porch Steps, 2019



## dear girl with a storm in her eyes

Anika Chanchani

dear girl with a storm in her eyes,

you are five feet and half an inch of hurricane, yet you seem to think that all you are is a raindrop.

dear girl with a storm in her eyes,

you will drizzle at first. you will drizzle yourself into a storm and you will forget you were ever capable of a hurricane, but

dear girl with a storm in her eyes,

you will remember. when thunder sounds with each footfall and your tears flood cities, you will remember. and you will cause the Great Flood, and you will build the ark, and the world will be remade as you see fit.

dear girl with a storm in her eyes,

your storms will not be vengeful, darling. Your floods will breathe life into river valleys, your smile will be the rays of sun after a downpour, and when your people sing, you, dear girl with a storm in her eyes, will sing with them.

your voice,

dear girl with a storm in her eyes, would rise above them all. each word a crack of lightning each breath a summer wind.

dear girl with a storm in her eyes,

living is basking in the air after your rains have wiped the world clean. wiggling toes in mud and saying hello to those who call it home.

dear girl with a storm in her eyes,

i don't think you realize that you are home. that the stars shine brighter after your rains, that you,

dear girl with a storm in her eyes,

shine brighter when it rains. that a world away there is a girl dancing in your downpour.

and her hair is loose and free,

and thunder sounds with each footfall,

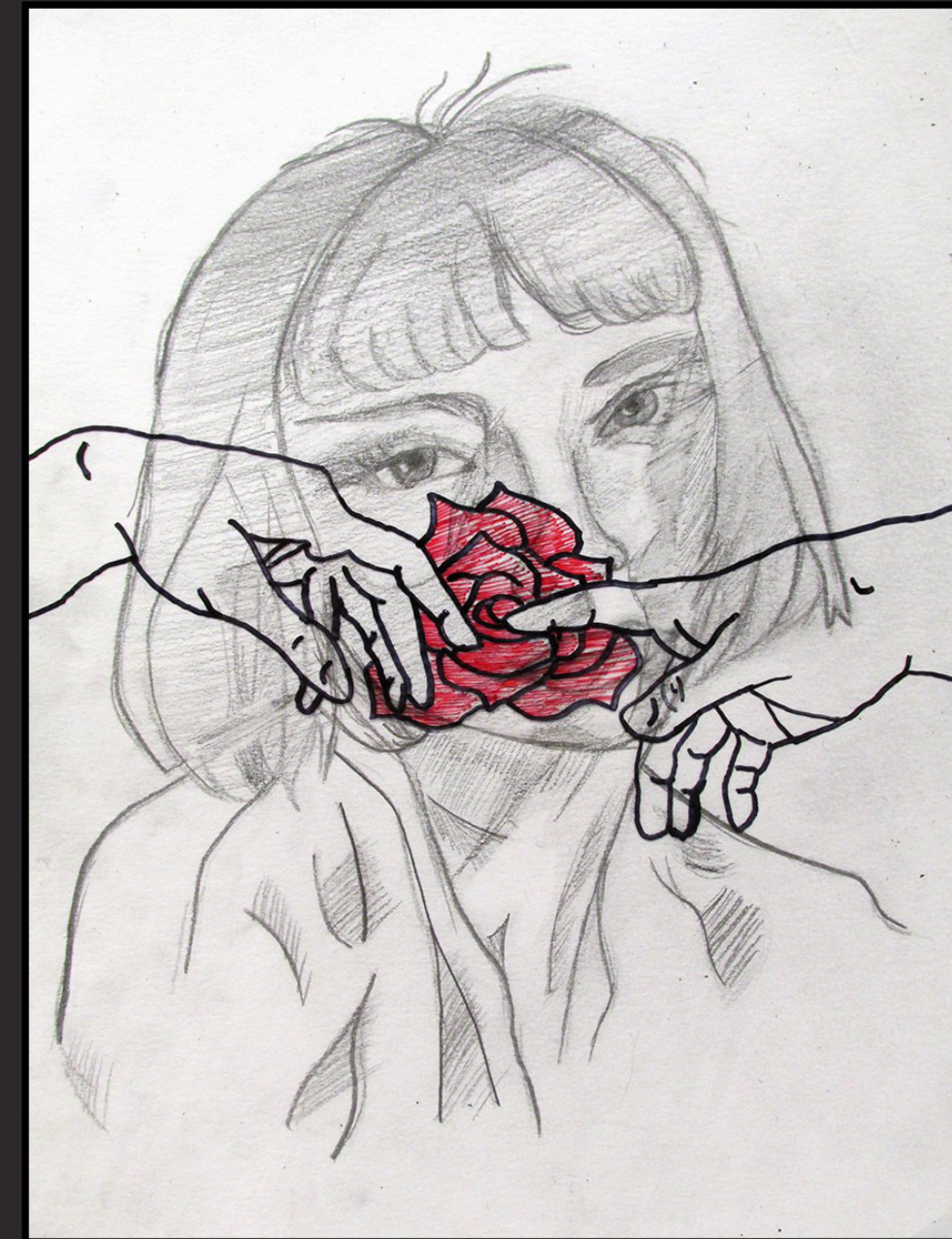
and her floods breathe life,

and her smile is sun pushing through grey,

and there is a storm in her eyes.

**ANIKA CHANCHANI**

Blue Ash, OH  
Age: 16



**ELLA NIES**

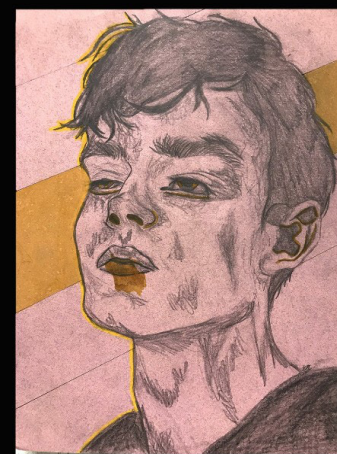
Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 16

In Reach, 2019

## ELLA NIES



Top: Eye Drops, 2019  
Bottom: Plagued, 2019



## NAINA PURUSHOTHAMAN

Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 15

### *painting on an imaginary canvas*

Naina Purushothaman

i sometimes forget that it was my lonely mind that painted you.

it was my desperation that painted your smile,  
the blues of my sorrow which created your blue eyes,  
my lust for revenge which bred your perfect personality.

my emotions were the paint  
and my vulnerable mind was the canvas.  
the strokes of color felt so real.

when i reached out to touch you  
i cried red tears which turned your hair crimson.  
i then painted black over the red  
intentionally forgetting the reason those red tears fell in the first place  
only to then cry green tears of envy barely two days later

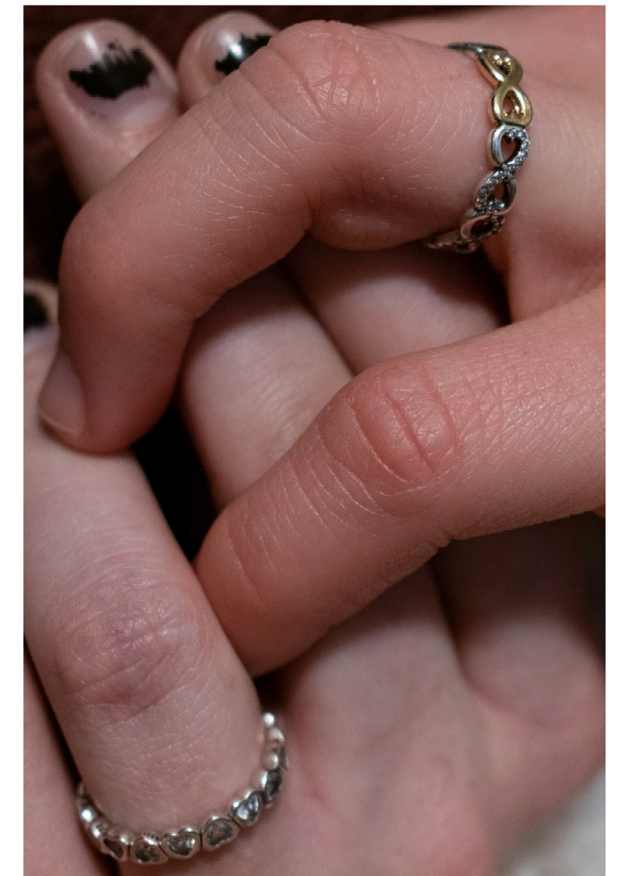
the canvas is the fantasy.  
maybe one day, i will stop painting.  
i will stop painting when the colors my mind creates are not as brilliant as the colors that i see  
with my own eyes.  
when what my mind paints on the canvas pales in comparison to what is in front of me.



# KATIE WOOLUMS

Alexandria, KY  
Age: 21

Left: Madj, 2019  
Middle: On the Red Eye, 2019  
Right: Promise, 2020





# LILA JOFFE

Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 17



Shoes, 2019  
Top/Left: Bathed in Light, 2019  
Bottom/Left: Bookstore Man, 2019

## My Corner

Lila Joffe

Crowding myself into a comfortable corner  
 I edge away from the noise  
 That prompts me to burrow deeper into my hole  
 My perfect hibernation  
 No voices or vulnerability in this sacred space  
 No judgement, no meaningless charade  
 I find comfort in the sound of my own breathing  
 And finally ease my furrowed brow

# CIERRA FOGLE

Cincinnati, OH  
 Age:17  
 Image: Escape



# EMMA THOMAS



In My Element, 2020  
Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 16

## STEAM and BUBBLES

Under the right circumstances, mice are adorable little balls of energy. These circumstances typically involve a cage and a wheel. Under the wrong circumstances, mice send the largest of men up the nearest countertop and into an uncontrollable screech. I was a victim of the wrong circumstances.

My bathroom is my space. It's the only place a knock is required and not appreciated. I am in my most vulnerable state in there. Often I'm in there to shower; in there to wash away my regrets, my grudges and maybe most obviously the dirt and scum collected throughout the day. Showers are therapeutic for me. Nothing makes me happier than winning an imaginary argument or finally realizing that a "C" on one test is not going to decide my future. This all happens, at least for me, in the shower. It is my safe zone, so you can imagine my state when I was intruded upon by Stuart Little.

Franco Valentin

Like a flash of lightning, the mouse ran in the bathroom. He ran circles around my feet as I yelped in a pitch that only dogs can hear. Obviously, as the "tough-guy" I am, I ended up searching for the nearest elevated surface: my toilet. So there I am, completely nude, dripping wet from the shower and crying for help on top of my toilet. It took me a second to calm myself, but I eventually did, as did our mouse friend.

I hesitantly got off the toilet, and picked the mouse up. Shaking, I brought him outside. I walked him through my house, all the while I was still naked and dripping. I opened the back door and threw him out. I walked back to my room to gather my head. My fight or flight response had just been triggered, and I needed a few minutes to myself.

continue on next page...

These minutes were undoubtedly to be spent in the shower.

I believe in the shower. This isn't a belief in cleanliness, although every decent human should smell good, but it is a belief in a safe place. I cry in the shower. I dance in the shower. I sing in the shower. The shower is my place to be me. I have solved countless problems, both big and small, in the steam and bubbles.

I look forward to my shower every night. This is my chance to think about my day. It is my chance to think about my mistakes and my opportunities. I believe everyone should have a place like this. It is essential to human life. I know I could not function after the mouse incident if it wasn't for my shower.

Almost all people would view a shower as just part of the routine. Everyone thinks they need to be clean, and a good way to get clean is the shower, but the next time you use a shower, keep track of how long you spend cleaning versus reflecting. I guarantee the balance is tipped towards the latter.

**I believe everyone should have a place like this. It is essential to human life.**

**FRANCO VALENTIN**  
Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 17

# CONNOR LYNCH

Cincinnati, OH  
Age: 16





**thank you to all of our supporters**

Kennedy Heights Arts Center  
Northern Kentucky University School of the Arts  
Charles H. Dater Foundation

*...and a very special thank you to all the  
creatives who submitted to tellus zine.*

**TELLUS ZINE**

**IN YOUR ELEMENT**

**ISSUE 001**

**SPRING**

**2020**