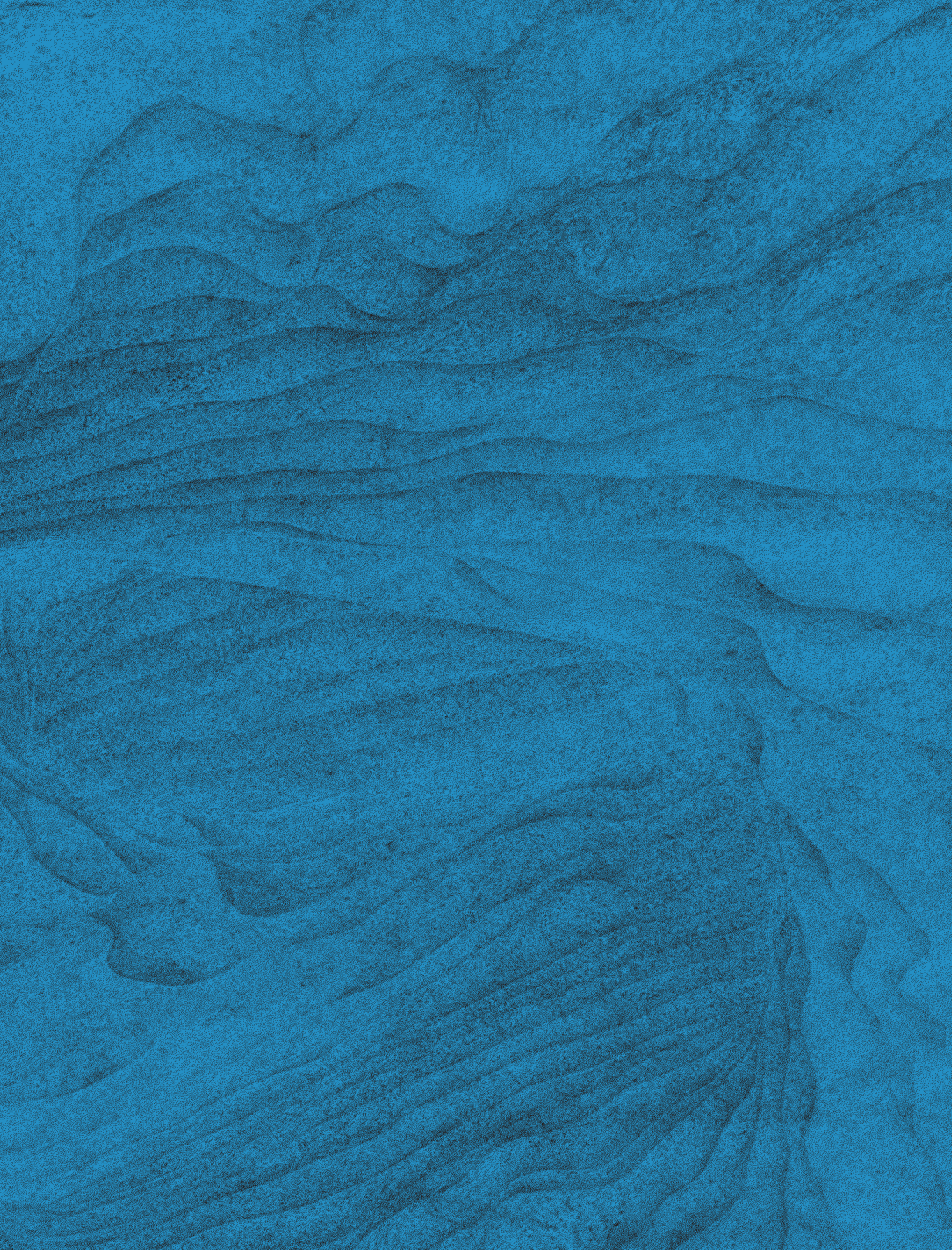




Like Birds When They Sing

An Anthology of Poems and Artworks
by 7th and 8th Grade Students



*Like Birds
When They
Sing*

**Artists Space
Expanded
Art Ide
as**

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Artists Space: Expanded Art Ideas

Founded in 1972, Artists Space heralded changes in the institutional and economic landscape of contemporary art in New York City by lending support to emerging ideas and emerging artists alike. Today, Artists Space remains a vital place for discussion and critical examination—ultimately, a center for new ideas in a radically changing world.

Expanded Art Ideas, Artists Space’s arts education program, was founded in 2001 with the mission of encouraging mainstream and special education students in New York City’s public schools to develop a personal artistic voice and to express their creative capacities with confidence. It does this by providing a variety of skill and inquiry-based programs that support students in realizing and exhibiting their innovations and talents. Expanded Art Ideas equally expands Artists Space’s commitment to working artists by providing the opportunity to work and collaborate with different communities in an educational setting.

The program has grown from one portfolio development residency in 2001 to a full range of projects, including Photo Club, Listening to the LES, Art and Literacy, Threads of History and our continuing Portfolio Development.

This past year, brought memorable experiences with our Teaching Artists and students. Poet and artist Desirée Alvarez worked with two 8th grade English classes, using the writings of Angela Jackson, Langston Hughes, Ada Limón and others to

reflect on current events and their own feelings, using the form of the poem as an expressive bridge to develop a voice in the world. Visits by emerging artists from Artists Space readings explored the creative and performative aspect of poetry, which culminated in the brilliant and moving poems published in this volume and performed in our Young Artist Perform (YAP) event.

Using the bridge as sound site and metaphor, Robert Sember's students explored the Williamsburg Bridge using stories and narratives of jazz legend Sonny Rollins as inspiration and catalyst for considering their own life bridges. Artist Claudia Sohrens worked with photography students to explore photojournalistic and experimental techniques, documenting tradition, destruction and new life on the Lower East Side.

Portfolio teaching artist Stephanie Costello worked with our students to prepare individual portfolios for the entrance examinations to specialized high schools and accompanied students to Open Houses and High School Auditions. Their paintings and drawings are featured in a new exhibition in the Blue Sky Gallery on the 1st floor of P.S. 140. Teaching Artist, Esperanza Cortés initiated a new Portfolio group at M.S. 324 and worked with twenty-six 7th grade students on *El conocimiento comienza con uno mismo* – a mixed media identity project for our Threads of History residency.

We celebrate our students success, as five of our students received Scholastic Art Awards and four students received awards from the CUNY Poetry Outreach Center's citywide Poetry Festival. Two students will be continuing on to the High School of Art and Design and one to Fashion Industries High School in Manhattan.

During our Young Artist Perform (YAP) event in April at P.S. 140, more than 50 students read original poetry accompanied by a

collaborative word-installation project by our Poetry students and Desirée Alvarez. It was a beautiful and inspiring event met with deep appreciation and applause from the entire middle school and staff.

When Chrysanne Stathacos initiated Expanded Art Ideas many years ago at Artists Space, the intention was to bring contemporary artists and innovative art programs to middle school students. We are so pleased that the program continues to find new audiences and participants—thanks to our teaching artists, and our partners at P.S. 140 Nathan Straus and M.S. 324 Patria Mirabal.

It has been an honor to work with everyone involved. Enjoy the book!

Kate Temple
Director of Education, Artists Space

P.S. 140

Nathan Straus

At P.S. 140 we believe that art should be a fundamental part of the daily life of a student. Only when art education becomes an integral element of the learning process – instead of a discrete, project-based exercise – will it succeed in encouraging uninhibited learning by our students. We believe that the arts can open new doors and offer experiences that give students the opportunity to look at their world through a different set of eyes.

Our school, P.S. 140, has been honored to have an amazing and fruitful partnership for the past 16 years with such a professional and giving organization, Artists Space. Our students have benefited from the expertise of incredibly talented and committed artists who believe in the ability of students to learn and perfect their artistic ability given the opportunity and support.

Kate Temple, the Director of Education, and all of the teaching artists who have worked with us over the years, have respected a vision of our school as intricately related to the arts and have continuously helped it evolve. It has been our privilege to work with the Artists Space staff and the dedicated and talented teaching artists –poet Desirée Alvarez, visual artist Stephanie Costello, sound artist Robert Sember, and photographer Claudia Sohrens – this past academic year.

Our relationship with Artists Space has promoted, enhanced and encouraged the growth of the arts in our school. Our

students are given tremendous opportunity to express themselves through the visual arts (painting, drawing, sound and photography) and through writing poetry. These artists support and encourage the students to discover their hidden talents and to take risks. The results are compelling and beautiful. Our students take pride in their work and are over the top when it is shared or displayed in our school, or in art galleries as a result of winning a competition.

Our school community and I are very grateful for their vision and support and look forward to a long fruitful relationship that will continue to inspire the artists and writers of the future.

THANK YOU, ARTISTS SPACE.

Melissa Rodriguez
Principal

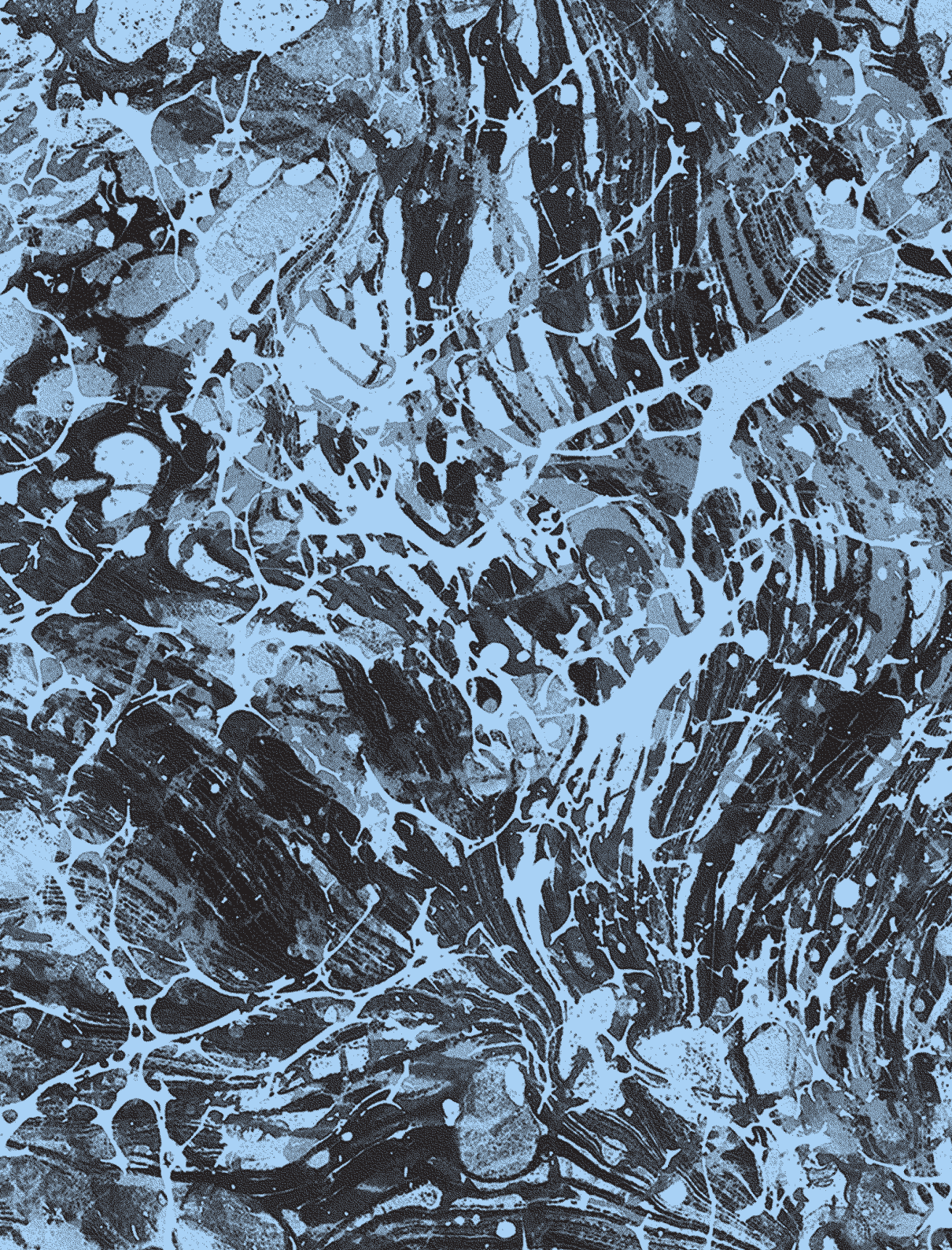




Photo Club

I've worked with young adults in the context of a variety of projects at the intersection of arts, culture and education – this was my second year collaborating with Artists Space and P.S. 140 in the afterschool program, Photo Club.

On field excursions with a group of 7th grade students, we explored the visual tapestry of the Lower East Side through the lens of a film camera. The students grasped the importance of using a combination of light and their photographic eye to investigate what makes a place unique.

In the midst of chaotic street scenes, the clutter of noisy construction sites, and the disappearance of historic buildings, they were able to capture the neighborhood's architecture as well as their inhabitants. Interactions with dog walkers and store keepers, Katz's deli men, and some unexpected surprises, lead to the poetic narratives that are shown on this year's photo wall.

We met Cristi Jones, mom and artist, and her 5-year old daughter Lola during our visit to the exhibition *Public, Private, Secret* at the International Center of Photography on the Bowery. In celebration of Black History Month, Cristi took one photo for every day of the month, picturing her daughter as an iconic African-American woman, which sparked our conversations about the impact of social media on our lives and on photography.

I continue to be excited by how photography can empower a community, generate a creative dialogue, and continue to inspire.

Claudia Sohrens



Malkiyah Yehuda, *Grasp*



Shylah Ramirez, *Untitled*



Kayla Salcedo, *Barbie*



Diana Carmona, *Faces of the Lower East Side*



Destiny Cortés, *Last Fry*



Ashley Padin, *My Sense of Beauty*



Ally Bueno, *Katz's*



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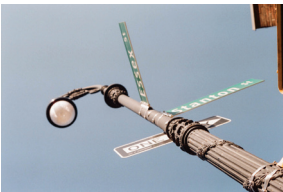
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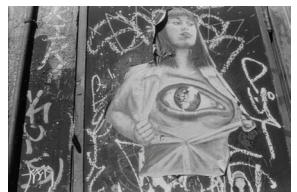
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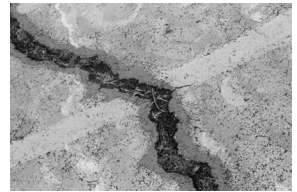
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Photo Wall

Ally Bueno

2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 23, 30

Diana Carmona

5, 7, 9, 18, 25, 28

Destiny Cortés

24

Ashley Padin

1, 11, 15, 22

Shylah Ramirez

13, 20, 26, 29

Kayla Salcedo

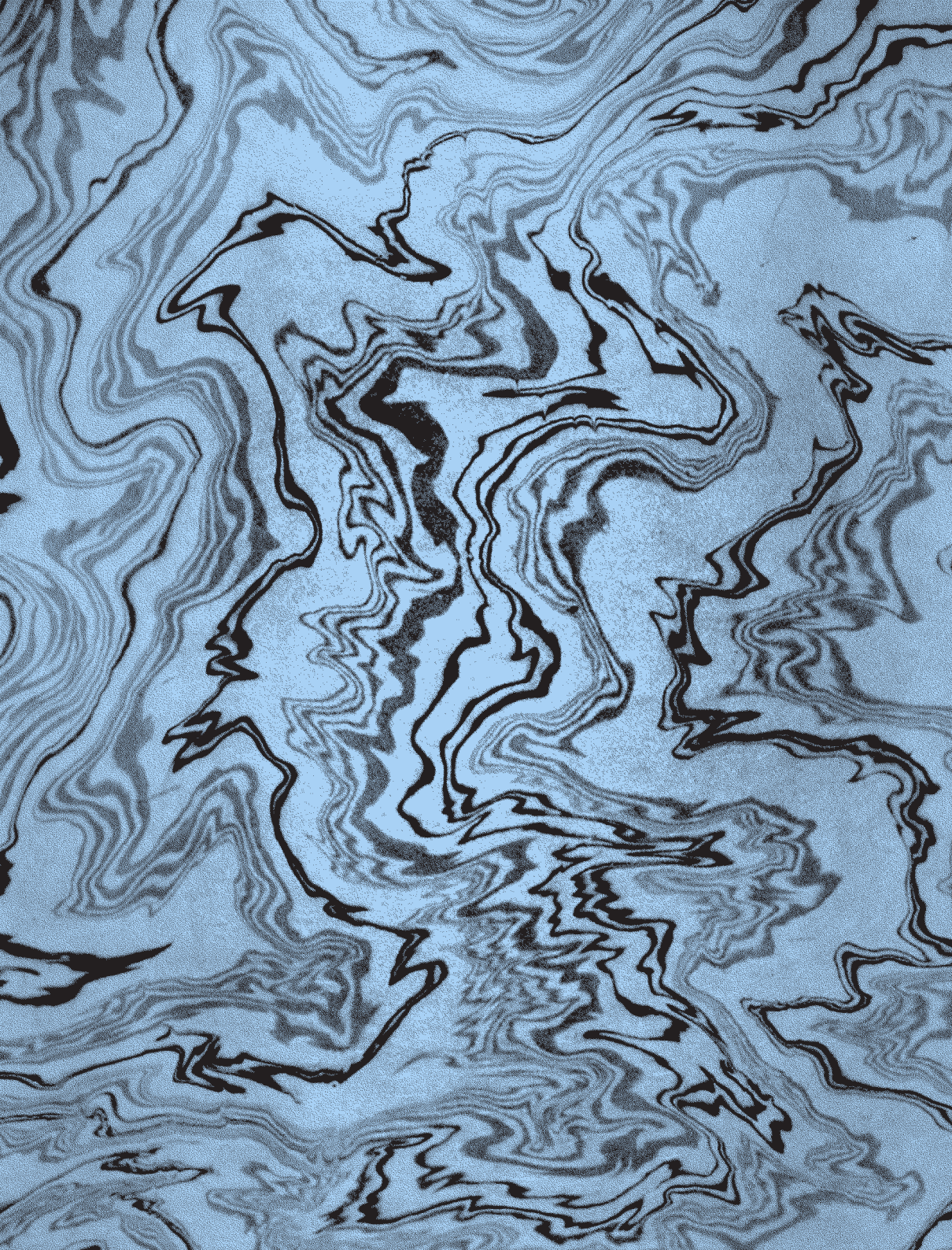
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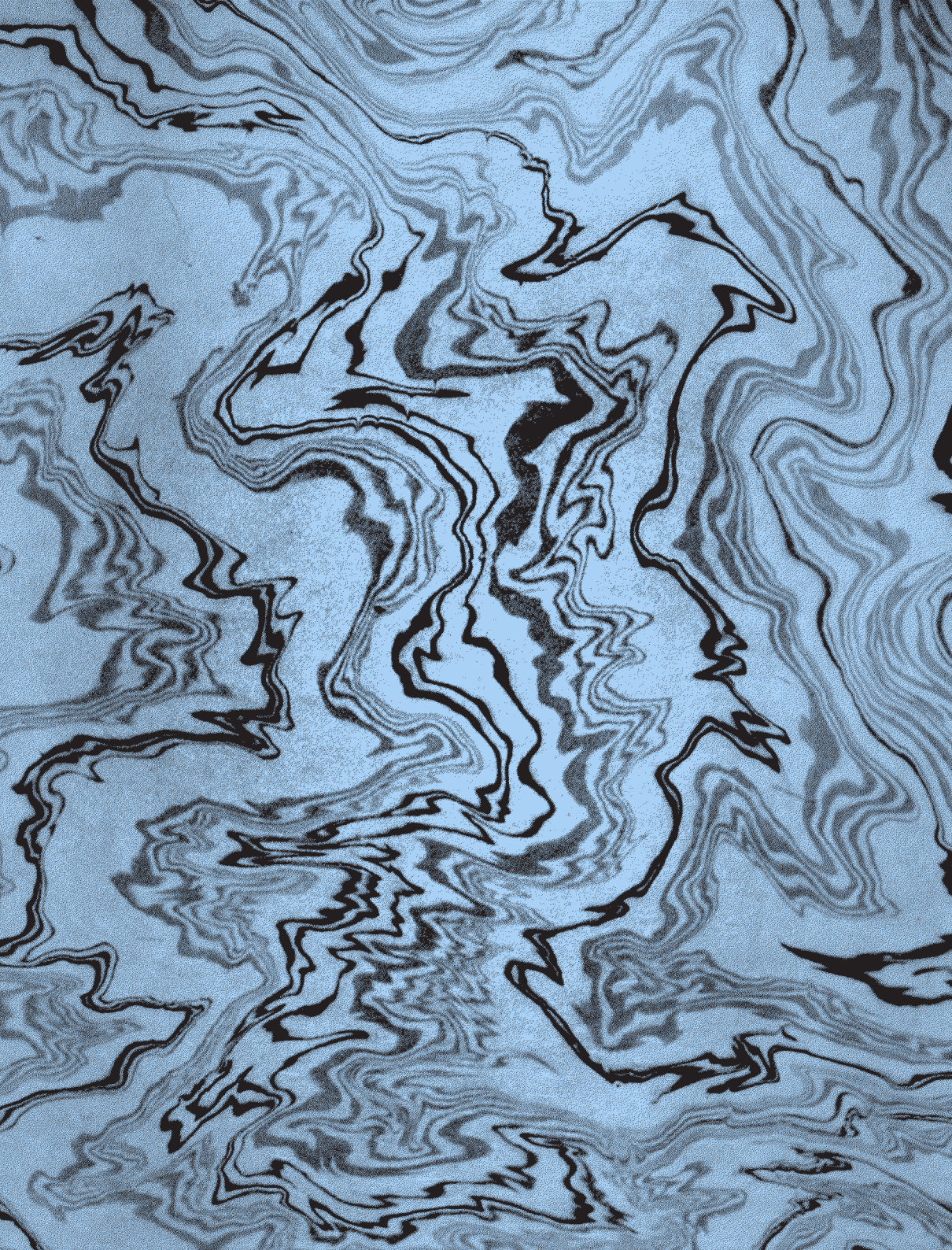
Claudia Sohrens

16

Malkiyah Yehudah

17





Poems

Asking what it means today to dwell in this “homeland of the free” P.S. 140’s poets tackle a lion’s share of the social justice issues facing our moment on planet earth. And in so doing, they give us a grip on what it’s like to be a young teen waking up in New York City in the spring of 2018.

Often a threatening and threatened real world reverberates through these poems. America is certainly not fine. But there is hope for a miracle, and the search for that hope in the “moonless night” is transformative. Sometimes these poems are conversing with Langston Hughes’ *Let America Be America Again*:

(There’s never been equality for me,
Nor freedom in this “homeland of the free.”)

Say, who are you that mumbles in the dark?
And who are you that draws your veil across the stars?

Their conversation with him and with us is a splendid bridge that challenges the reader to rise to the occasion of reflection and repair. Each line of these poems makes a walkway across the page and a bond with us. As fresh new voices beginning their chorus in the world they remind us not to forget “how beautiful the beginning was.”

Desirée Alvarez,
New York City 2018

Seeking Hope

moonless night, that we ride
seeking hope we can't find,
finding love in the great beyond,
moonless night that we see,
in our hearts that we live,
looking up in the sky, moonless
night, that we find in our
hearts that we ride, finding
love, finding hope, moonless
night in the sky I come to you
here and now, so I can reveal
my deepest fear, moonless night,
in my heart that I'm seeking to find

Christopher Bonifacio

What Are Bridges Really?

Bridges connect me to you
Without them I don't know what I'd do
Some bridges are strong and some are weak
Like when you hear that low alarm go beep
Bonds with friends and family are like bridges
Some people have strong bonds, other people don't
And with some the bond comes crumbling down and won't
 stay up, it won't
But bridges also connect places so you can get to your
 loved ones
This proves my point, bridges are more than just pathways
They can mean many things
Like birds when they sing
They can be singing about so many things
They can be talking
Same for bridges, they connect things together
Just like they do with me and you

Kayla Adorno

Feelings of New York

New York

When it rains it's like the sky
Is crying for you
For all the horrible things
That are happening in this world

New York

When it snows it's like a
Big white blanket lies over you
Or like sugar of happiness sprinkled all
Over you

New York

When there is fog it's like you
Are trapped in your inner thoughts
Of how tomorrow is going to be

New York

When the sun is out
You are happy for the goodness
In people
Or when the sun is out it helps you
Give life to the plants and trees

New York
You are filled with feelings
and mystery surprises
What a beautiful city you are without
All the horrible things happening
You inspire me to go out and see new
places I've never seen before
New York

Evanny Santos

America

The flag has red
The flag is painted with little white stars
America is the place to ruin your dreams
Bang bang
Someone has died
It could be a good friend
Or even a family member
Or even you
Roses are red
Violets are blue
Children are crying
People are dying
While you're at that little place trying to earn some money
To live your dream
Just remember
That wherever you turn
You could be next
Breathe...
You'll be fine they said
America oh America
Filled with lies
Filled with wrong
People filled with fear
Don't come outside

Some people are too sad to even leave a room
Sickness and disease are spreading
People are dying of it
The president is a hard head
America's a free country
No more
He throws his power around
Like no tomorrow
To make people afraid of him
To do what he says
He wants America dead
Hell is rising
America oh America
Oh how you used to be so peaceful,
So beautiful, so kind
Oh how you're such a two-faced thing
Spreading petty little lies
To make yourself feel good
When in reality
You're littered in trash and smell foul
America
Why?

Christopher Garcia

As I walk the streets where I find myself
I think "where did I go?"
As I walk the streets where I taught myself
I think "what do I know?"
As I walk the streets that pulled me down
I think "how did I rise?"
As I walk the streets into my future
I think "will I ever be able to cross
the street?"

Serafina Lopez

In Memorial

In memorial to my aunt's chickens
in Puerto Rico.
Their coop flew away and died
because of Hurricane Maria.

Shayla Aviles

Right Hand Poem

In my right hand holding
my grandpa's left hand. He is
lying there cold and dead in
his casket. Tears running down
my face, I am thinking what he
is gonna miss in my life. All the
first and all the last.

Ariana Flores

Life

Coming out of a hole, a new life begins.
Seeing two people, one boy, one girl.
First Birthday: laughing, eating cake,
more than two people this time.
10 Years old: having friends, playing tag,
Duck Duck Goose.
Teenager: first girlfriend, first kiss, take her out,
have the time of your lives.
Adult: helping mom, helping dad,
having a son, having a daughter.
Elder: mom and dad died, having grandkids,
your kids come to see you.
"I love you all, have a wonderful life,
see you on the other side....."
[BEEEEEEEEEEEP]
Your life flashes before your eyes,
and you see everything again from the beginning.

Luis Rendon

Darkness consumes the body.
Slowly, but severely.
The sunshine goes down, it won't come up.
At least not for a while.
The things they do make it hard for them.
The things they say kill them.
Their souls crack more and more as the days pass.
It's killing them.
Slowly but severely.
They need to work hard.
If they do, they will go away.
And as they go away, the darkness will as well.
They will do it.
They will succeed.
And see the light once more.

Jeyline Quiles

Baby Tiger Poem

Baby tiger, baby tiger how you doing out there in the wild?
Is it fun? Is it sad? Did they take you away from your mom
and dad?

I just want you to know, WAIT! Don't run off, don't go!

I'll be back, you don't have to attack.

I'm here to stay,

You don't have to push me away.

I promise I won't treat you like clay,

I'll be here day by day!

Malkiya Yehudah

What is fear, fear is something we don't understand, like the dark or a death because what is death really, we don't know what happens when we die, do you know? No, because you've never died, or have you?

Syncere Noble

Let America be free, free
from world hunger let
America be free, free
from poverty, let it be
free, free from school shootings
Let America be free, free
from world's anger, let America
be free, free from people
who are not free, let it be free
just to be free.

Shannon Herd

Not many real friends
Just acquaintances
Broke, on air mattresses
You know what the difference is
It ain't complicated
Underestimated
From NY got the North Face
Rising on my own pace
Cheetah in a snail race
Tryna get mom out this place
Later I'll be gone without a trace
Some people don't believe what I say
But it's the land of the free
The "legendary" USA
I don't want to say it
But it might be true
My home is not, never was
The red white and blue
Why America?
Just let all be free
Or we're leaving
Like leaves of a tree
It can be your path to freedom
Or the knife cutting
Your life away

Emmanuel Rodriguez

Air, breathe
Water, swim
Sky, fly
I'm not a rapper

Jonathan Cruz

Animals are gentle and fragile.
They're living proof of life
on earth. Animals can be
friends or food.
Ethiopian wolves come in packs
and have sharp eyes.
Fighting for their lives,
hunting for food to save
the cubs' lives.

Bryan Garduno

The elephant swings his
trunk back and forth
using his nose to find
the fort.

Eats his food
every day and keeps
his nose out of the way.

Eliza Owens

Let America be free.
Every time I try to
be free I keep finding
debris. I'm struggling
over here every day. All
I can eat is canned beans.
I don't know if I live
anymore. This country,
it's a bully, always so mean.
Sometimes humans are
in despair. When they are
in that mood they need
time to repair.

Lizandro Ortega

A Quiet Place

There is a place so quiet
With a kingdom so vast
And castles as high as the sky
Where rivers run deep
And the people are joyful and proud
But if they speak a word they shall miss
the beautiful things surrounding them

Marcelo Torres

Keep Calm, live !!!

Open
YOUR
EYES TO
WISDOM !! ♡ !

My bridge is
the making.
But,
When the time
my bridge will

About the destination but it's About How
THERE"

MY DESTIN

-Ella
cup

in

me comes
ll end...

We Build Bridges
Walls

you Get

Bridge Can Just
Boom Boom F

In the winter I stay home and play *Fortnite*.
It's so heavy outside, full with snow.
But in *Fortnite* I use my bow. I destroy trees
just to make a home.
Rarely do I have to hide, hold back.
If I can't hide I will fight using my pickaxe
and tools, the best. But I can't win
without looking in a chest.

Jeffrey Jimenez

PlayerUnknown, Battlegrounds

Players jumping out of the cabin,
all ready to land and fight.

Red dot is the best sight.

I can put up the most fights.

School is the best place, I'll fight you face to face.

I can't run without my energy drinks.

If I can't hide, run, or fight I will have to think.

Brian Pena

Shadows of the Light

For every good there is a bad
For every negative there is a positive
For every white there is a black
For every action there is an opposite
For every light there is a shadow
No matter how I say it, it's always the
Same, for every you there is another
That is like you, your choice makes them
Turn to the light side or dark side

Nathaniel Pizarro

Understand

Understand that I'm not the
perfect girl you see
'cause underneath inside me
I have so many anxieties.

Understand when you see that
smile not everything is all right
'cause behind that smile I'm dying
in blind sight.

You might see the bright shine in my eyes
but deep down it's the
deep dark sadness in disguise.

Leah Rivera

Our World Today

People, cruel, heartless bad people
made this world what it is today.
Filled with war, poverty, famine and decay.
People don't care for others in any kinda way.
People try to end their lives day after day.
Please try to spread awareness in
our world today.

Dezire Velez

Two-Sided

You only know one side
Since it's on the outside
But the other side
You never see it
Unless the owner of the two
sides shows it
You never know
You think you know them
But do you?
They might not show
their true side
Since they are scared
they're going to be left out
because of their true self.

Yudy Wu

Map

Leads you to your destination

It can lead you to your future

Lead you to the end

Lead you to love

Lead you to hate

Lead you to anywhere

You want to go

Janeda Fletcher

School	Family	Basketball
School	Family	Basketball
School	Family	Basketball
School	Family	Basketball
School	Family	Basketball
School	Family	Basketball
School	Family	Basketball
School	Family	Basketball

Jeffrey White III

I love lying on the grass.
Letting all of this time pass.
Sometimes it goes a little too fast.
But when the wind flows
I know it's time to go.
Because home is where I know
I'm safe.
And I can't make anymore mistakes.

Shylah Ramirez

Two Sides

There is this person
who has been through
a lot in life.

In the person's left
hand is all the bad.

In the right hand
is all the good.

Bad and good.

Good and bad.

The person wants more
good than bad.

See, the bad takes over.

But we want the good.

Joelynn Cruz

6:30

Wake up, hear the voices cry knowing
I am doing good.

Better than others because
of the ways of my life
and the sacrifices.

Education

math, science, English, language, arts.
All the help needed for the future way ahead.

8:00

Now it's time,
the beep, chatter
and sound of walking feet in the
hallways.

Starting off with the same old ways,
180 days,
everything has to be planned ahead.

5:00

Time to walk out.

Responsibilities

all around but I manage to find
and balance out
my enjoyments.

9:00

Resting and learning through the dream
waves.

Without knowing my day yet to
come, losing my humanity, not being regular at all.

Ally Camille Bueno

America Poem

With all the terrible
things in America
Poverty
Guns
Infestations
Depression
Pollution
Homelessness
Then comes Donald Trump
I THOUGHT we were
The United States.

Arielis Moreno

Happiness

My life has been sad
But over time it has gotten bitter
With people using like trying to add filters
Now I have people to help me get better
Taking me in like a puppy in a shelter
They help me all the time
Having fun without me spending a dime
I love them because they're mine
These girls are brave
While still needing me to save
I know that they care
And so do I
I do because they're mine
These three girls are the best
These three girls are not like the rest
Because these three girls are mine

Jose Melendez

The Pain Does Not Fade

The scars will heal over time
but your heart is what matters.
You say you love me but I don't know why.
The pain of knowing I hurt you makes me wanna cry,
I say I will change but I always lie.
You don't trust me anymore now, I know why.
But the thing that hurts me the most is that I know
your hurting is because of I.

Tatiana Sanchez

Looking back life has
Been filled with regrets
Regrets only I remember
Moments every one has
Forgotten that help the
Regrets feel smaller
And not hurt as much
Because they have fallen
Into the void we call time

Isaiah Sanchez

America is good
America is bad
America is happy
America is sad
America is a dump
America is trash
America is new
America has passed

Jo Anthony Rodriguez

America

In America we need
A miracle
Something to brighten
Our day—
Even when you pray
All day
Give us the equality we
Need and trust me
Everything will change
You'll see

Destiny Cortés

Dear Myself

You're beautiful just the way you are.

You're not made by god just for making them like you.

You're made for a purpose.

Diana Carmona

Glow

Glow, as you flourish in the
light of the night.

Glow, as you grow
and fight the world with
all your might.

Glow, as you play in the forest
with the leaves of August.

Glow, because one day your
light may not show with as much
might.

Leslie Reyes

Hard to Love

Sometimes its hard to love me.
It's quite a cross to bear
but happily I find comfort in those
who are always there.

Life,
we're so distracted by how things
end, we usually forget how beautiful
the beginning was.

Desery Contreras

Earth Is

A living thing is a human.

The earth is like a heartbeat.

The earth was once filled with green, now it's filled with big
metal buildings.

The earth is whatever you make it.

The earth is full of billions of human lives.

A living thing is your mind.

Are we living 100% of the time?

The earth has a lot of mountains.

The earth is big and grand but also filled with non-stop mass.

The earth is a beautiful planet but what we humans
do— does it affect the earth? What we do – would it make
our planet be gone or make it better than before,
or just the same?

The earth is a goldilocks planet not too hot, not too cold,
it's the perfect planet for us to live on.

The earth is not human but can be severely hurt by others.

The earth is good but the people are bad.

The earth is like a book, precious but if you handle it the wrong
way,

it can never go back to the way it once was.

The earth is surrounded by nature.
The earth is a thing that has devoted its life to supporting others.
The earth is a ball.
Bacteria is a living thing.
The poem is comparing the earth with animals and inanimate objects.
Earth is the son's and the moon's child.
Earth is a world.
The sun and moon, dark and light, a battle that can never be won.
The earth is full of hate but we can change that.
Earth is a place of peace and war, love and hate, discrimination and empowering.
The earth is full of different things.
There is peace and love on the planet earth.
The trees are like best friends.
They may not be close by or as far as you think, but they're always there.
The earth is whatever you make it.
The earth is home.

Group Poem / Call & Response Conversation with Lucille Clifton's *the earth is a living thing* poem. Each student wrote one line.

Whitmanesque: New York

Ferry: A nice city view, water swishing back.
I have questions for you.
Love is eternal.
What is love? Love is a drag.
Someone lurking in the shadows, waiting to mug,
saying this is gonna
be easy, like squishing a bug.
Life is too difficult to handle.
You sail a ship finding birds, like a dove, hearing the
calming sea,
until you find the relationship that you seek like true love.
Love can be so hard to find but can leave so easily like
birds when they fly.
When you're spiritual you're in touch with nature.
Fish live in the sea.
I was once told I was good at swimming.
The sun gives us life, the sun gives us love.
Without the sun we would all be gone.
Red is the color of love and beauty.
The smallest things in life are the most meaningful.
Cities are crowded but a danger to life.
Sometimes your own soul will put you in this dark hole.
Watch, look, look at me. I'm someone you can't be.
See.

Our flags don't show the world who we are. They
show what we're trying to be.
Leaders, humans, powerful, smart, that's what a
woman is.
Follow your dreams!
The sound of your voice makes me smile.
My thoughts make me curious.
I'm about to be a man.
I walked to the future and there I see little old me happily.
I didn't know that I could run to the light.
What shall I keep?
I had a sight last night.
Years pass, life withers away, but life is born anew.
The car turns the wheels, hypnotizing them.
I see people with my eyes.
I have different roles in life.
I am dark and unknown.
Hills, pills, bills, got them all.
People are loud.
They only care for others, but not for themselves.
Men, the reason you're here.
Hundred steps, hundred days but feels like one.
The sky is dark.
I saw a bridge, it was a splendor.

Group Poem with words from Walt Whitman's
Crossing Brooklyn Ferry.



YAP: Young Artists Perform, P.S. 140, April 26, 2018







Making an Ear Map of the Williamsburg Bridge

There is so much sound in the world. If you stop reading for a couple of minutes and listen you will hear sound coming from every direction. For each sound there is a story. For example, in the neighborhood around P.S. 140 we hear the sounds of construction and know the area is changing. We also hear the sounds of a community—people going to and from school and work, friends and neighbors sitting and talking in the parks or as they walk their dogs, and deliveries to the local restaurants and stores. These are all part of the sound world of the neighborhood.

As a sound artist, I pay a lot of attention to sound worlds and what they teach us about who we are and what is happening around us. This is different from being a musician. A musician uses her instrument and skill to make beautiful sounds. Instead of making sounds, a sound artist uses an audio recorder to collect sounds that are already there. We use these recordings to draw people’s attention to things in the world they might take for granted or simply ignore.

This year, the students in Ms. Hanoman’s class and I are listening to the sounds of the Williamsburg Bridge. It is as if we asked: “What does the Williamsburg Bridge hear?” and “What is the sound world of the Williamsburg Bridge?” The bridge is very big. It is home to many different sounds and they change depending where you are on the bridge. For example, at the

middle of the bridge, sounds quickly disappear into the open sky. As a result, it is so much quieter in the middle of the bridge than at either end, where the noise of the traffic bounces off the buildings and can be very, very loud. We have also explored underneath the bridge where we found a whole different world of sounds.

We bring audio recorders with us on these walks so that we can record the sounds. We will use these recordings to compose a sound map of the bridge. If you listen to this sound map you will experience in just a few minutes what it sounds like to walk over, around, and under the bridge. One of the hardest things for young sound artists to do is listen, really listen, because they have to keep quiet. We are so used to thinking of listening as doing nothing and talking as doing something. Learning to listen like a sound artist means learning that there are different ways to listen and each takes effort.

To make us better listeners to the bridge we are also studying its history. The bridge is over 100 years old so it has a long story. When we look at old pictures of the bridge, we imagine how the sounds we hear now are different from those we would have heard if we had been around when the bridge was first built. We can also imagine sound the bridge might hear in the future.

When reading the history of the bridge, we learned that in 1959 the great jazz musician, Sonny Rollins, stopped performing in clubs and other venues and started practicing his saxophone on the bridge. He did this for three years before starting to perform again in theaters and concern halls. During these three years, Mr. Rollins began practicing yoga, exercising, stopped smoking, and did other things to improve himself. This story has inspired us to think of the bridges we are on in our lives as we work to improve ourselves. Some students talk about being on the

bridge that is taking them from P.S. 140 to high school while others are on a bridge that is taking them from being good basketball players to being excellent players.

As we share stories about our life bridges, we talk about who in our lives is helping to hold up our bridge and make it possible for us to grow and change. Our life bridges are supported by our families, friends, teachers, and other people we admire and who care for us. Toward the end of the school year, when we have written the stories of our life bridge, we will go onto the bridge and, like Sonny Rollins playing his saxophone, record ourselves reading stories of our plans, hopes, and dreams.

Robert Sember







"NOWA"

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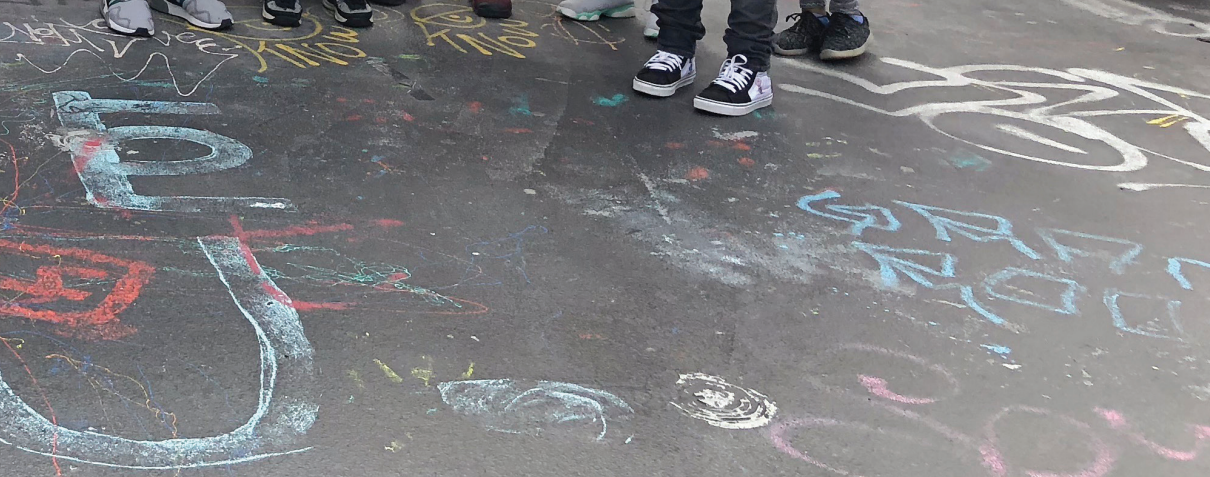
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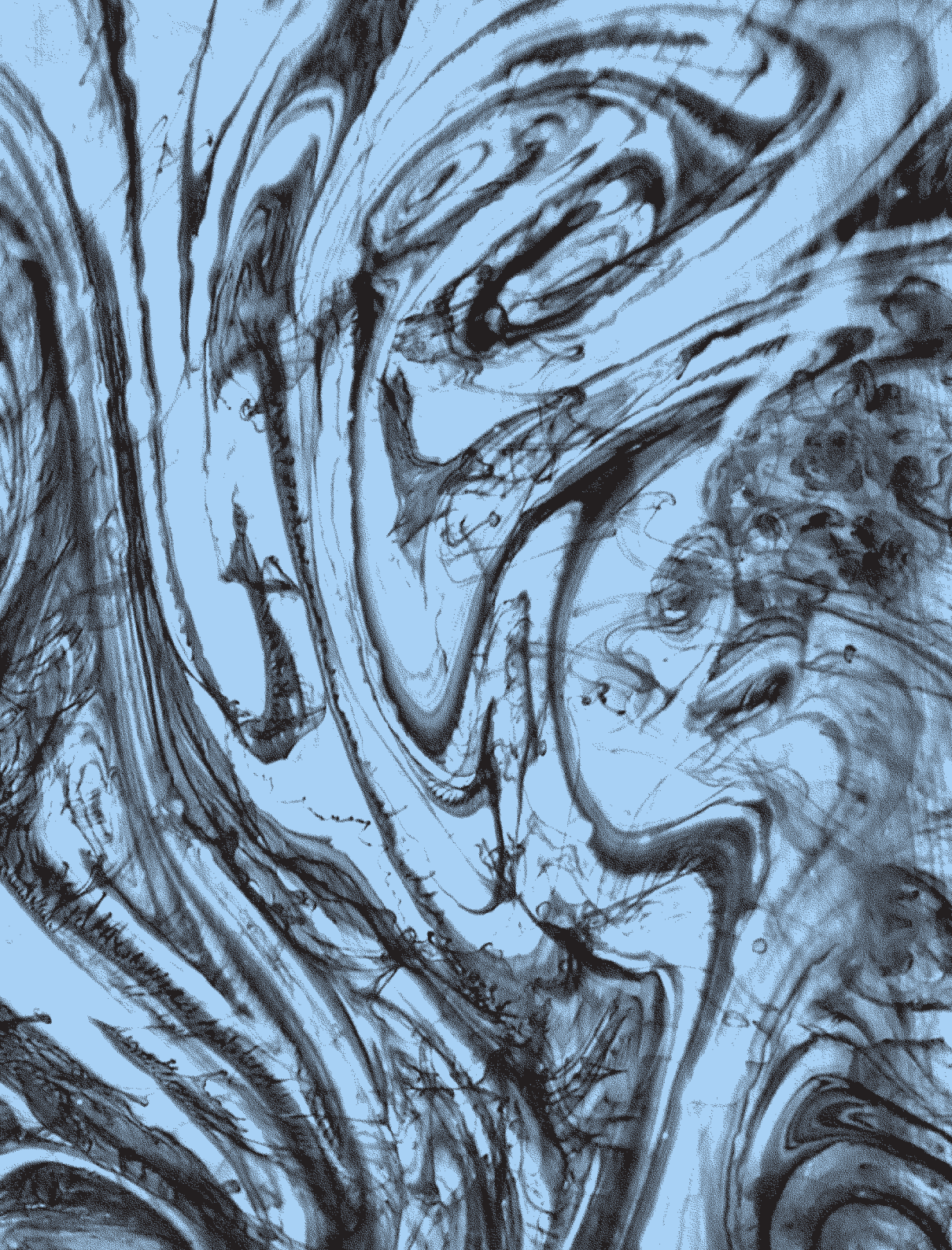
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Christopher Bonifacio, graphite, 14 x 10 inches

Portfolio

The graduating class of 2018 in Portfolio Development proved to be a dedicated group of young artists. Each week they committed to a rigorous drawing practice, explored how artists participate in culture, asked questions of their own work, and ultimately created exceptional artworks. It was an honor to help the students expand their visual language, and to witness their growth, determination, and flourishing imaginations.

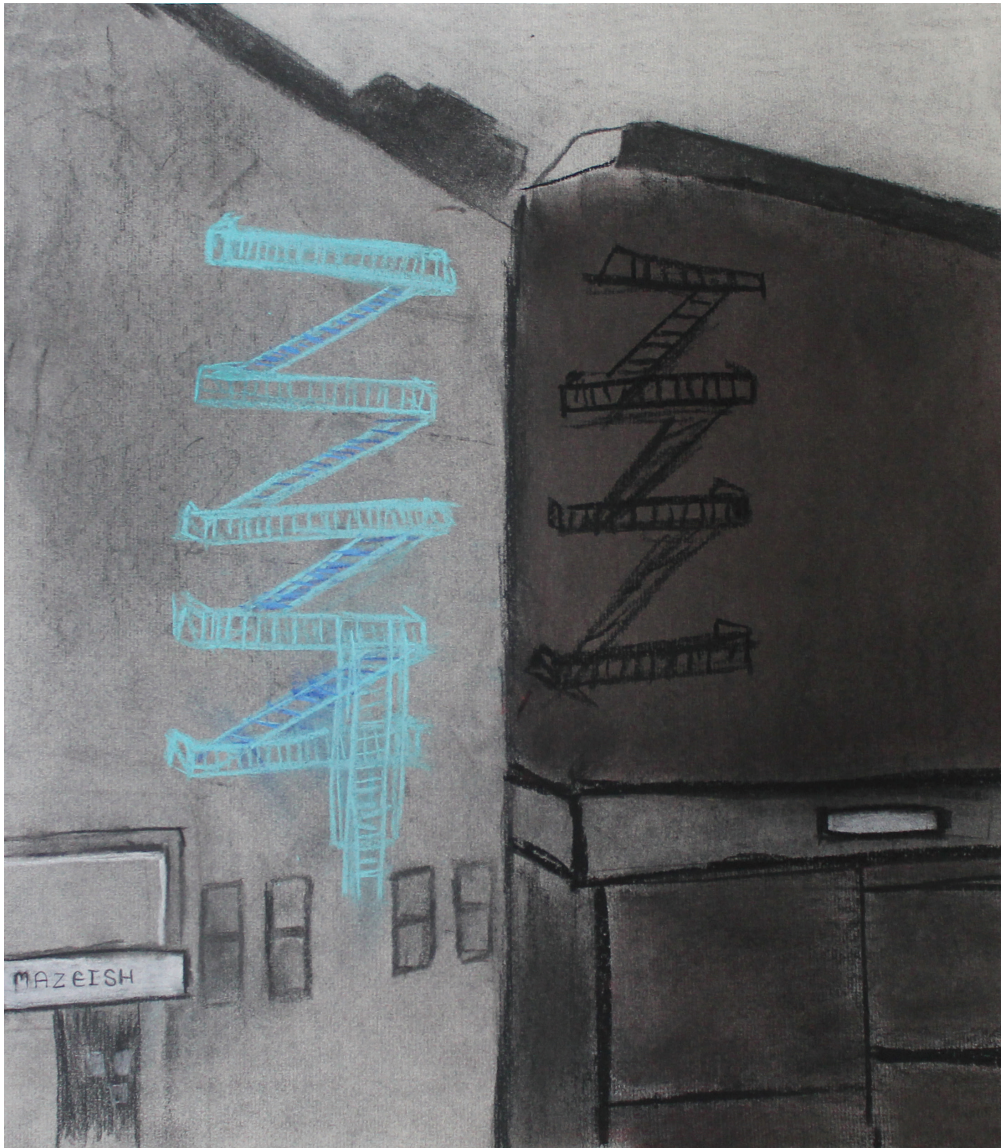
We shared many memorable moments, including visits to Frank Sinatra High School and the High School of Art and Design, field trips to Pierogi Gallery and Artists Space, silkscreening our own t-shirt designs, and exploratory walks through the Lower East Side where we drew the neighborhood and gathered inspiration.

I was proud to see them honored with five honorable mentions from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, and acceptance to specialized arts high schools. I am certain this group will thrive on their individual paths, and I wish them success in pursuing their dreams and realizing their visions. They have much to share, and I look forward to one day seeing how they shape the world with their creations.

Stephanie Costello



Destiny Cortés, *Sunflower*, watercolor and gouache, 18 x 24 inches



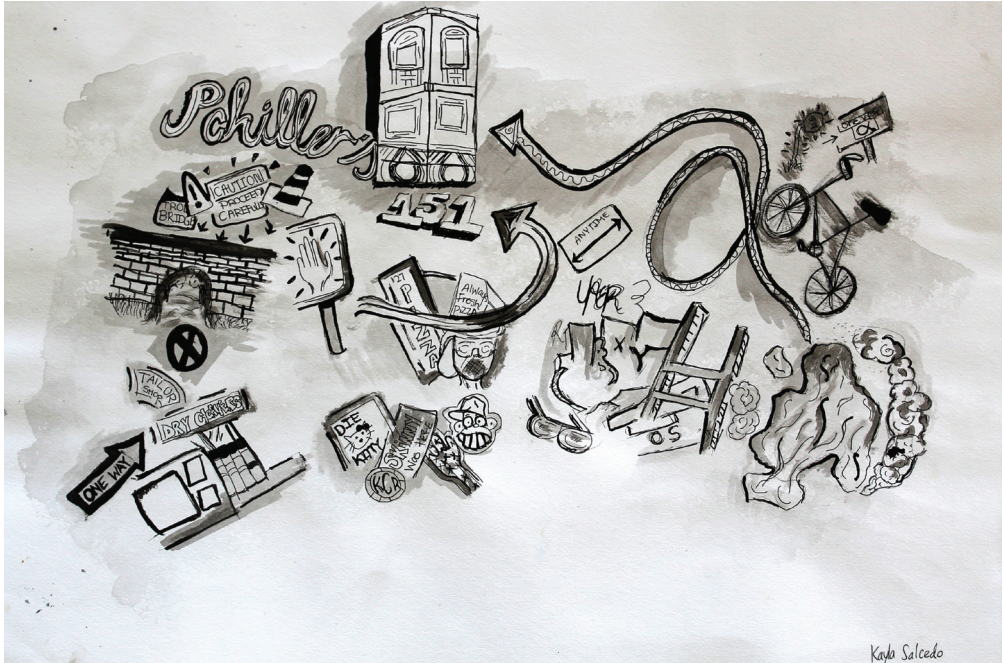
Shayla Aviles, *Rivington*, charcoal and pastel, 19 x 17 inches



Kayla Adorno, *Magic Sea*, acrylic and watercolor, 18 x 24 inches



Jayline Quiles, *Fall blues*, acrylic and watercolor, 18 × 24 inches



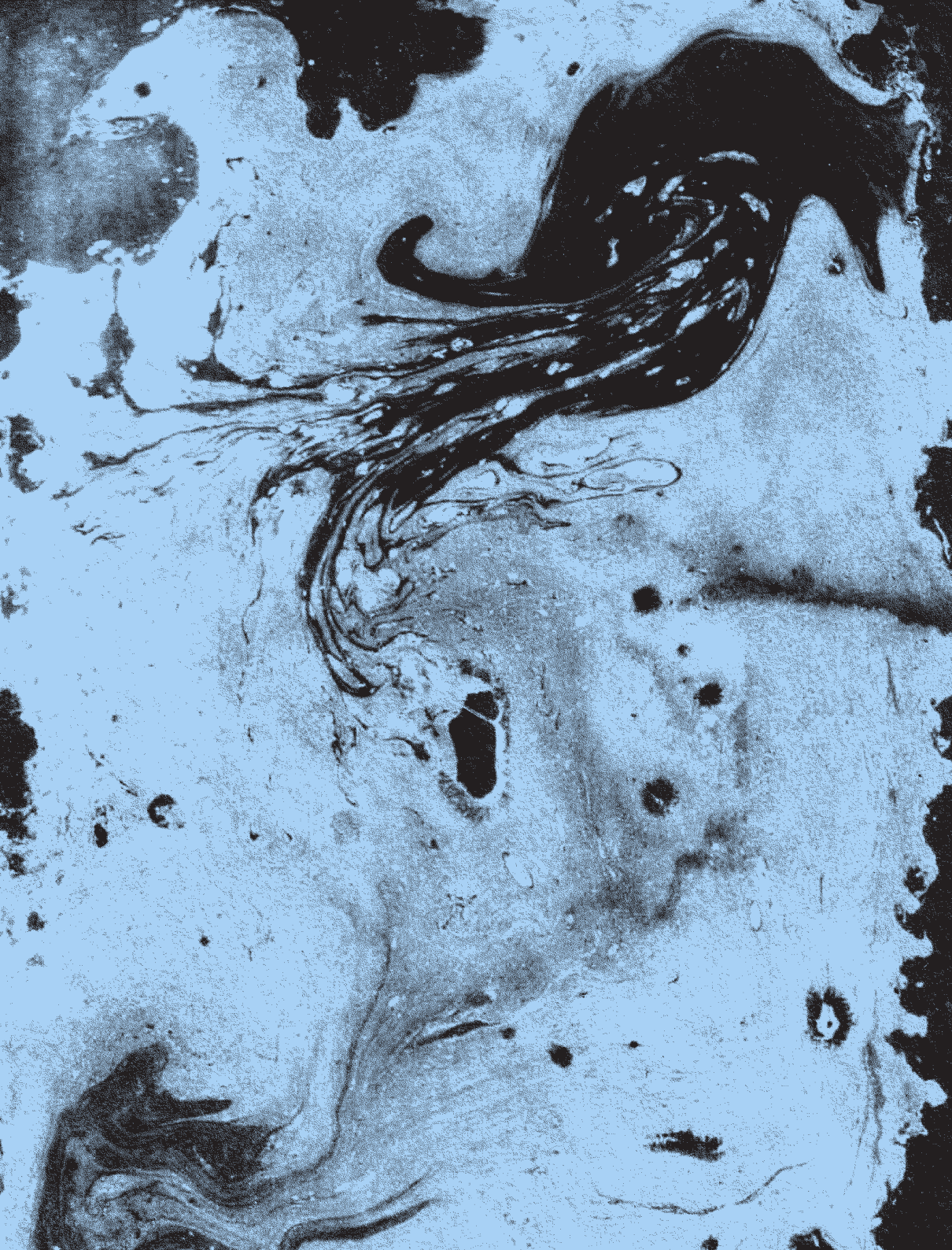
Kayla Salcedo, *Red Light (LES map)*, pen and ink, 12 x 18 inches

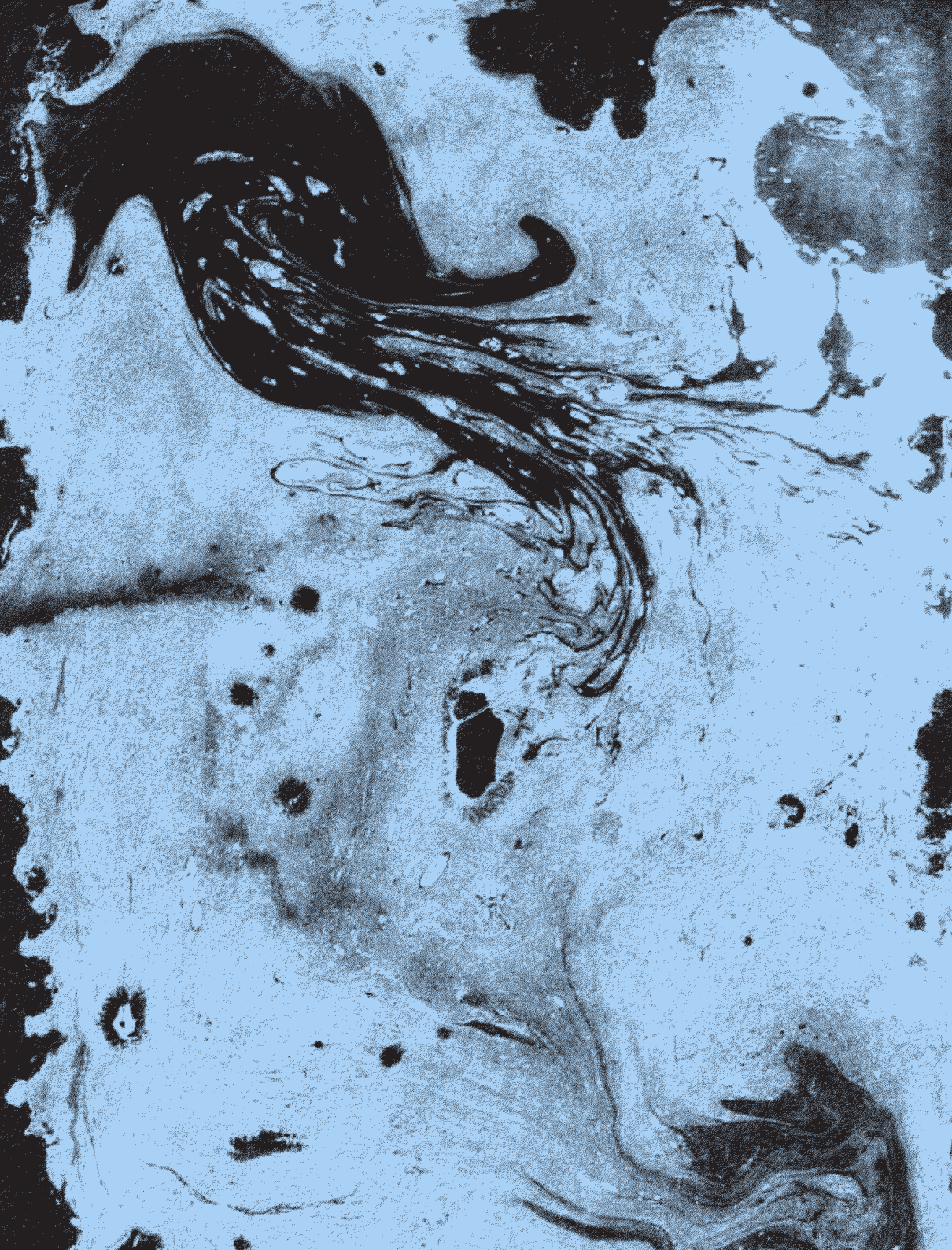


Daliz Fernandez, *New Life*, gouache, 10 x 17 inches



Christopher Bonifacio, *Romeo*, watercolor, 12 x 18 inches





M.S. 324

Patria Mirabal

For 11 years our bilingual students have had the amazing opportunity to work with Artists Space in creating powerful works of art. Last June, artist Esperanza Cortés supported our history and social studies curriculum by creating art-based experiences where students explored the transcultural experience of immigrants that is pertinent to the Latino community.

We were thrilled to have our student's individual and collaborative social justice posters featured at the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum and the New York Public Library, Washington Heights branch in June 2017. This year, even more students will benefit through our Portfolio Development class led by Artists Space where students are supported in pursuing admissions to Art High Schools and engage in a variety of skill and inquiry-based activities to hone their visual and art historical knowledge and to uncover their unique creative voices.

Thank you Esperanza and Artists Space.

We congratulate all of our wonderfully talented students here at M.S. 324!

Sandra Capers
Assistant Principal

Thelma Dolmo
Bilingual Literacy Teacher



Alza Tu Voz, Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, June 17, 2017



Threads of History

El Conocimiento Comienza Con Uno Mismo / Knowledge Begins With Self

My residency in 2017 through Artists Space at M.S. 324 in Washington Heights was a remarkable experience for all involved. This program was conducted bilingually in Spanish and English, as most of the students were recent immigrants from the Dominican Republic, Mexico and South America. The focus of the residency was to endorse an environment for students to create art and reflect on their individual projects which examine identity and the history that is pertinent to the Latino community, while emphasizing the role of the imagination. The goal of this residency is to complement the educational programs at M.S. 324, while constructing meaning through encounters with art, literature and an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of works of art.

We opened with the theme of identity and nationality, while exploring the transcultural experience of immigrants. The projects incorporate elements of abstraction and symbolism,

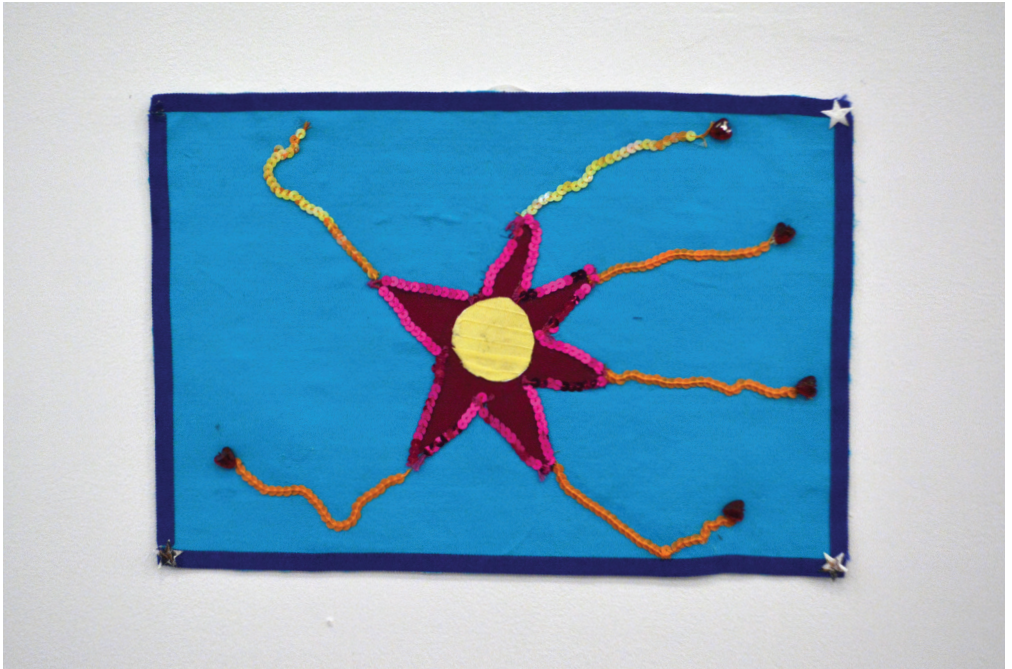


while expanding their recognition of principles of design to include advanced and subtle concepts like form, line, balance, and rhythm. This led to language acquisition and the development of a visual arts vocabulary.

Our three projects revolved around the ways in which we identify through family, culture, language, nationality and legal status. This then created an environment for the students to discuss their experience as immigrants and then it's transliteration into visual form through painting, writing and mixed media works. My students developed deeply felt artworks that reflected their views as recent immigrants to the United States.

Esperanza Cortés

Identidad de Banderas / Identity Flags



Alondra Cruz



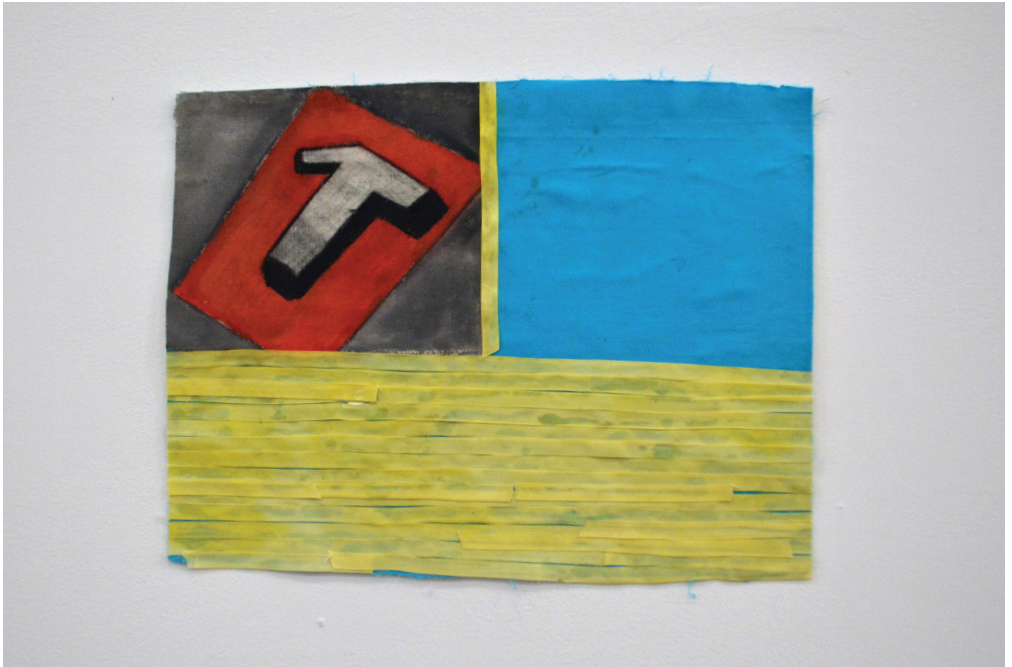
Amelia Almonte



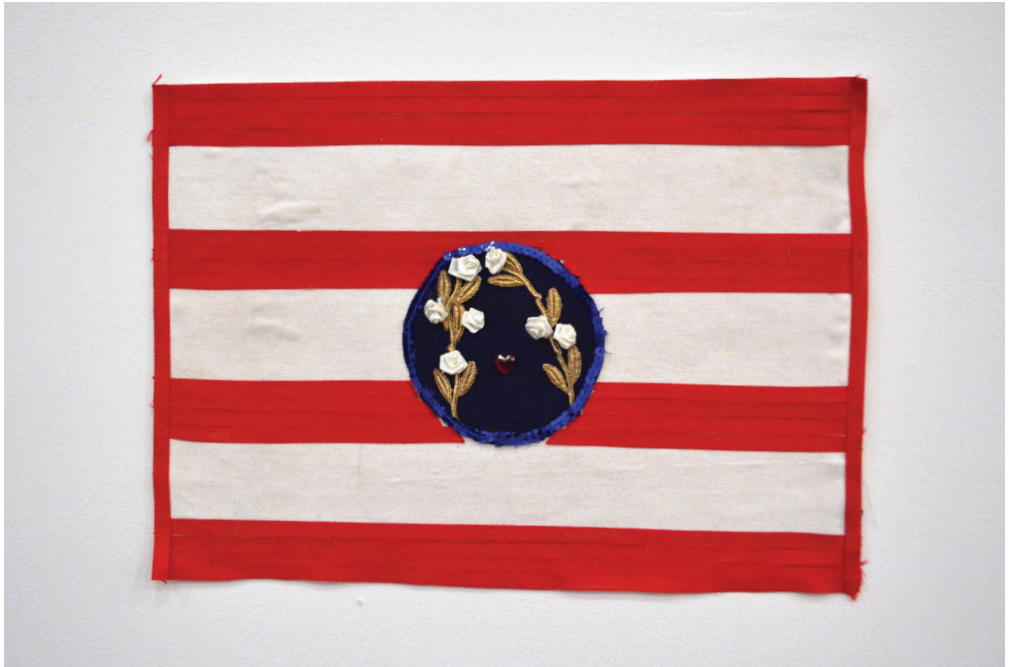
Catya Ramirez



Dalyn Cruz



Roberto Munoz



Yamilka Antigua

Like Birds When They Sing

**Artists Space
Expanded
Art Ideas
as**

An Anthology of Poems and Artworks
by 7th and 8th Grade Students

P.S. 140 Nathan Straus
Lower East Side, New York

M.S. 324 Patria Mirabel
Washington Heights,
New York

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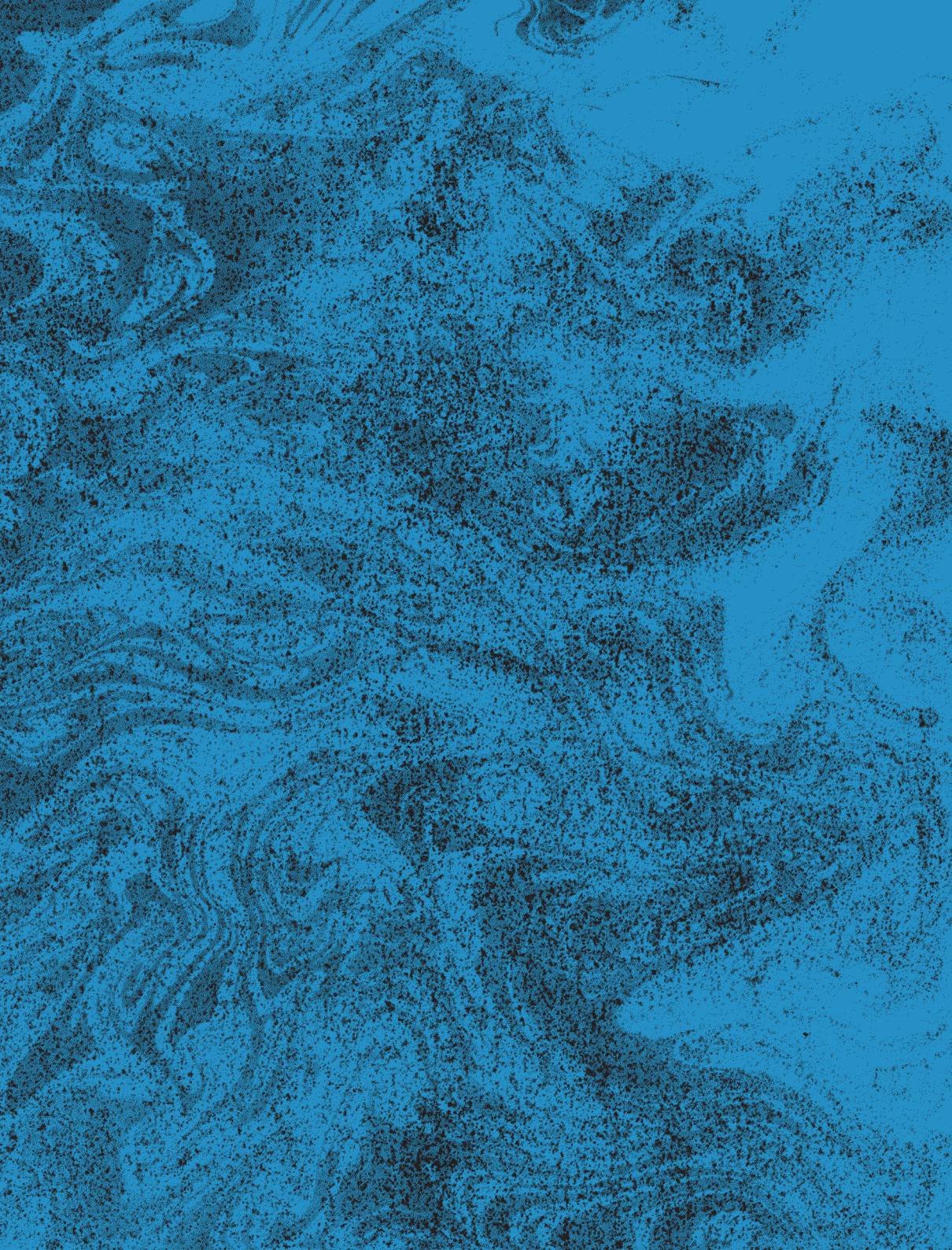
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