

BEATS

NEWCOMER YOUTH VOICE + PERSPECTIVE



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: BORNA MOHAJER

ISSUE 17 / SUMMER 2020 / QUARANTINE EDITION



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABAJANPOUR



EDITOR'S NOTE

JENNIFER SARKAR

Welcome back folks!

This is our 17th issue. I would like to recognize that this would not been possible without the support of many community members, partners and funders over the past years. Just like life, BEATS has gone over a few bumps along the way and despite that, we continue to keep moving. I would like to thank Golsa Golestaneh for co-leading BEATS during this challanging time and all her continious hard work and dedication to this publication.

2020 has been a difficult year due to the pandemic and it has shown the true colours of humanity, some kind, and some racist discriminatory ones as well. This issue is dedicated to all the people who still dare to care and continue to stand up for themselves and for others during this time.

This is an online issue and it is the first time we are publishing BEATS with no funding. We have received an incredible amount of photography and written work from artists around the world. Yes, you read it right, around the world! This truly shows that at the core of BEATS all that exists is enormous love from pure hearts!

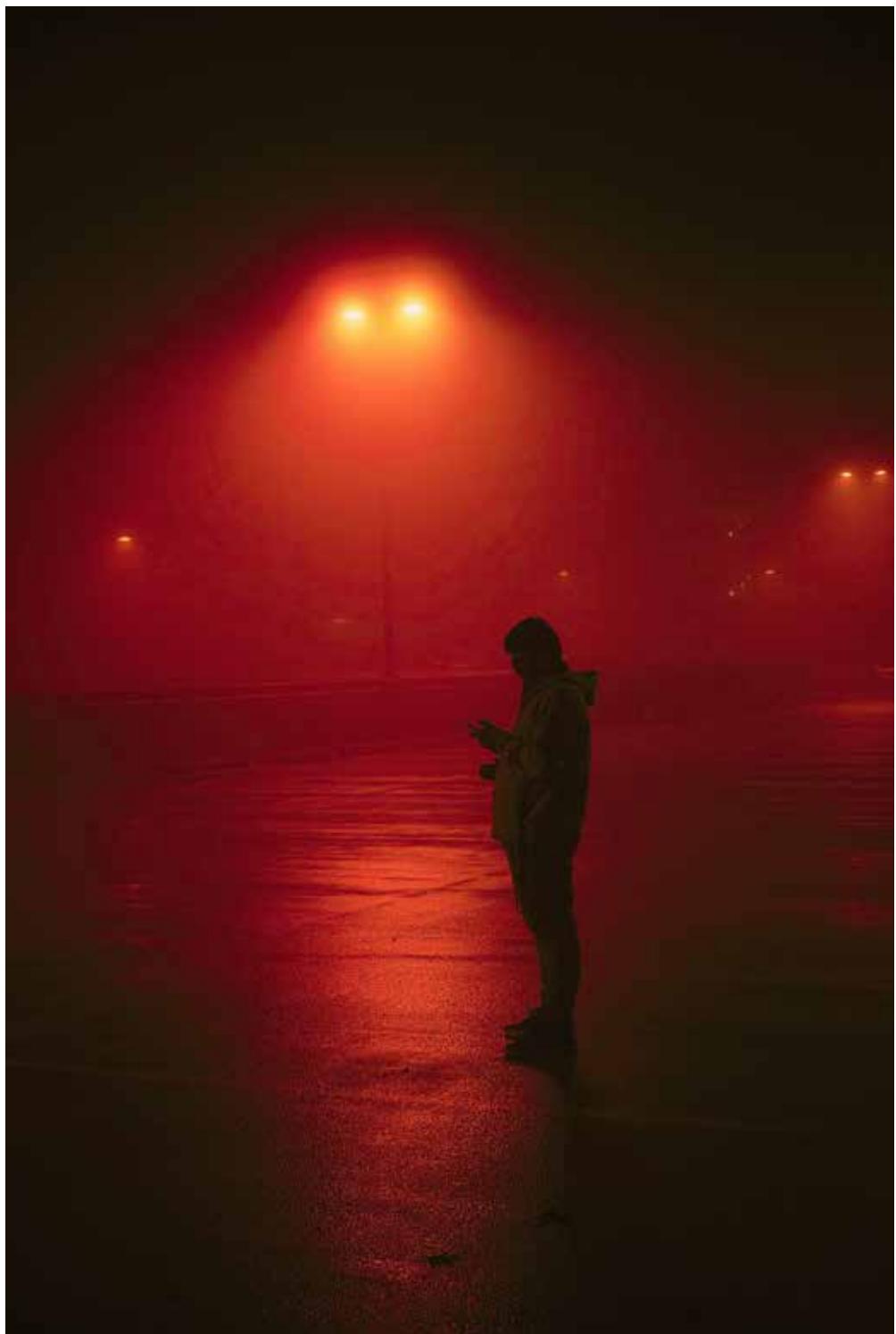
We hope you all enjoy what you see on these pages.

BEATS RECOGNIZES THE UNCEDED
COAST SALISH TERRITORIES OF

*MUSQUEAM, SQUAMISH AND
TSLEIL-WAUTUTH NATIONS*



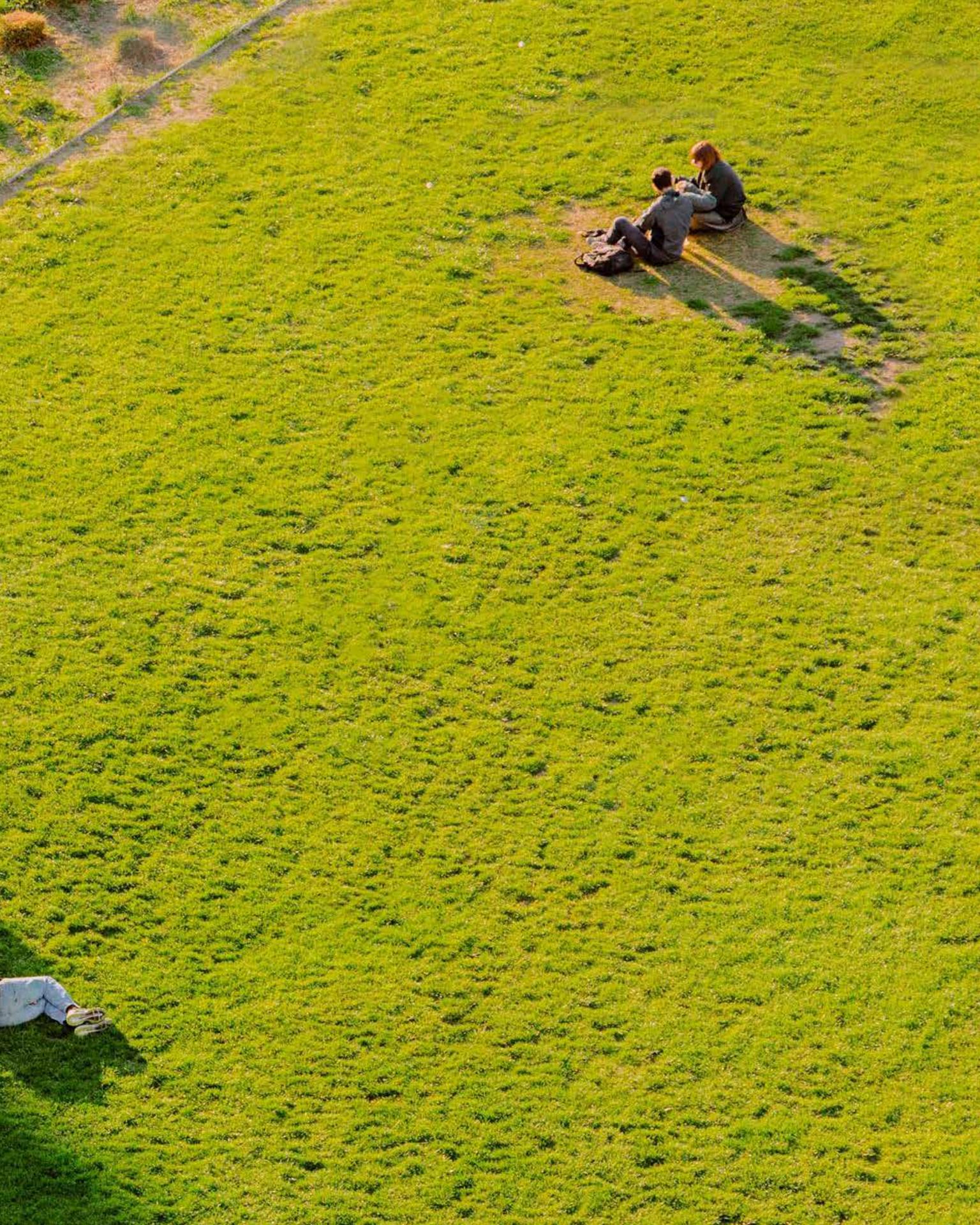
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ARITRO MWUKHOPADHYAY



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M A M A S T O P

POEM BY: ALEJANDRA RODAS

I don't know how to tell you that your words can bring clouds to the clear atmosphere. They cover the light of the stars.

"Estoy bien gorda!"

"Don't say that mom, no es verdad"

Maybe I'm sensitive
fragile, weak
maybe I am.

Maybe I shouldn't take you seriously
our upbringings were worlds apart
you were taught how to love in your age
I struggle seeing it translate to mine.

Your stories are a dream of a different youth
the liberties you had
but the gates you pose at me
the roots all around you
that you didn't need to dig or tie
with the unimaginable sights and foreign reach
I've had.

It's hard for me to grasp love in twisted jokes
I'll belittle myself for comedy with my friends
laugh at our embraced flaws because
we find it fun
to be weird
to rejoice in embarrassment from
old passport photos,
monster voices, guilty pleasures.
We are all comedians.

But mom,
I can hear the hammer of dissatisfaction
The constant desire for a key to fix or change
to erase a coloured-pencil rainbow.

Songs, they tell me
home is in your body
I believe it,
this home doesn't feel home
If there is no love for our bodies.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABAJANPOUR



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MELISSA LEONG



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: NANCY KAZUMBA

THE BRIDGE

Bridges connect people and cities. They also symbolically represent the situation of the transition to a new form of existence.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABAJANPOUR

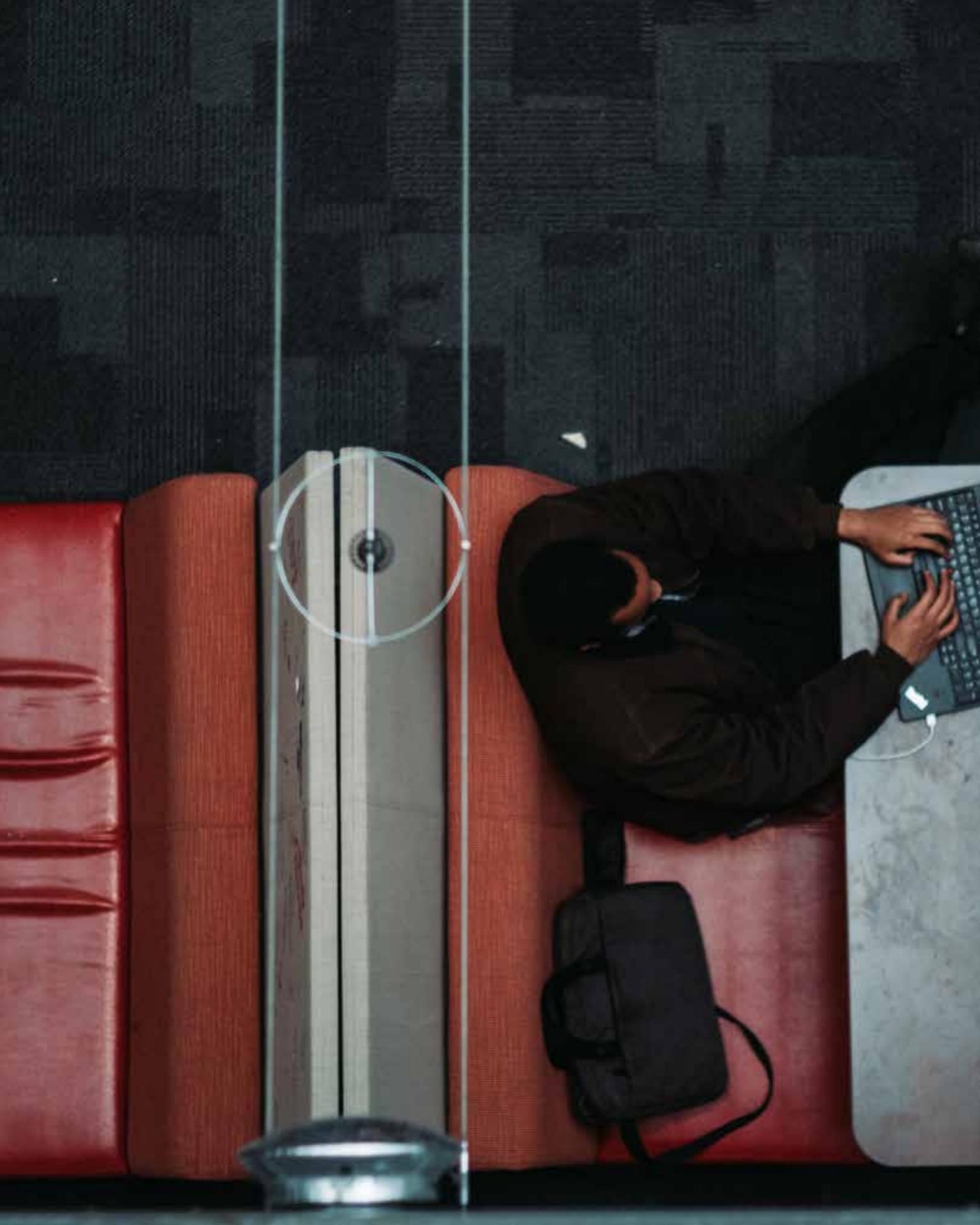


PHOTOGRAPHY BY: GOLSA GOLESTANEH





PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABA JANPOUR





PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
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**BRAINS BETTER THAN BULLETS
AND BRUTE FORCE**

C.P. / H.K.

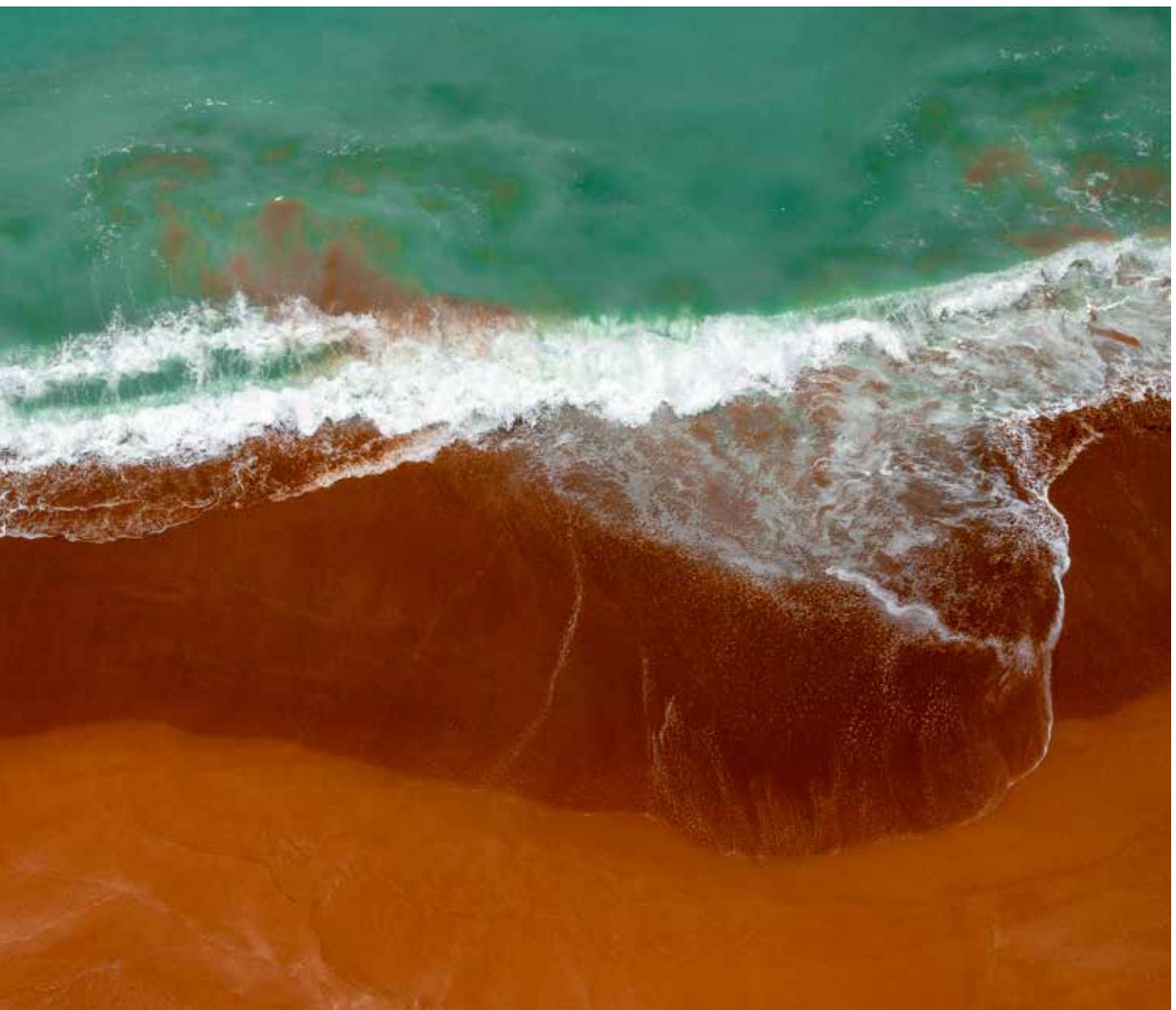
力暴及彈槍於勝筋腦

示長處處務警香港

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MELISSA LEONG



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABAJANPOUR



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: BORNA MOHAJER



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ARASH RASTI

Ebrahim Rastinooshar (Arash Rasti) was born in July 17 , 1991 in Lahijan, Iran. He began his artistic career at the age of 17 by playing electric and acoustic guitar, and at the age of 25, he became interested in photography.

He learned photography with guidance and training from his friend (Hamid Zarafshan). At first he became interested in a specific type of street photography, but after a while he turned to photomontage and nude photography.

He is currently collecting his own collection in these two genres. Also, Arash and Hamid Zarafshan have established a group called Abstracts (Enteza'at), in which they create works in various fields of art.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ARASH RASTI





PHOTOGRAPHY BY: GOLSA GOLESTANEH

Crystal
Michael Lee-Chin
Crystal



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABAJANPOUR



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MELISSA LEONG

江戸木箸 小物 淳



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: HANA LARSON

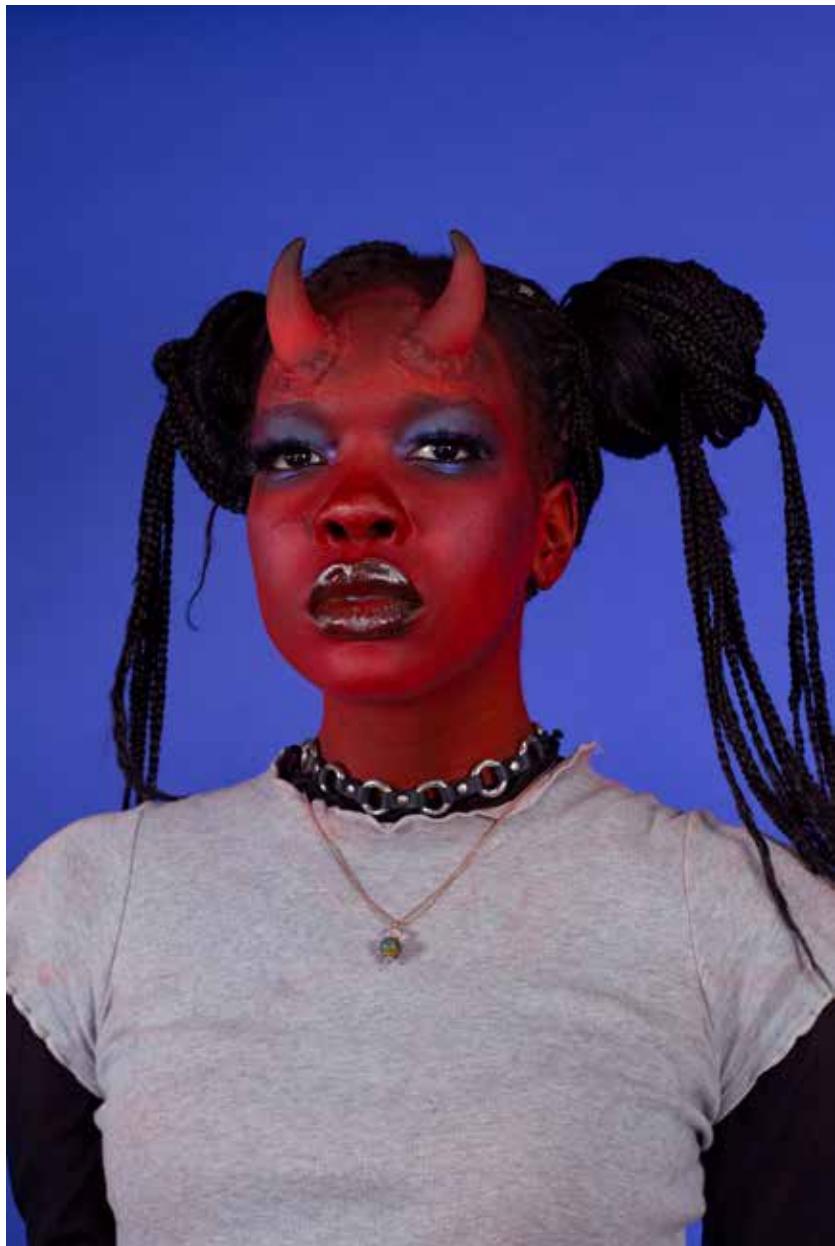


PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MK

Model: @atheing.b

Photographer: @bymeryk

MUA: @Housofgodly



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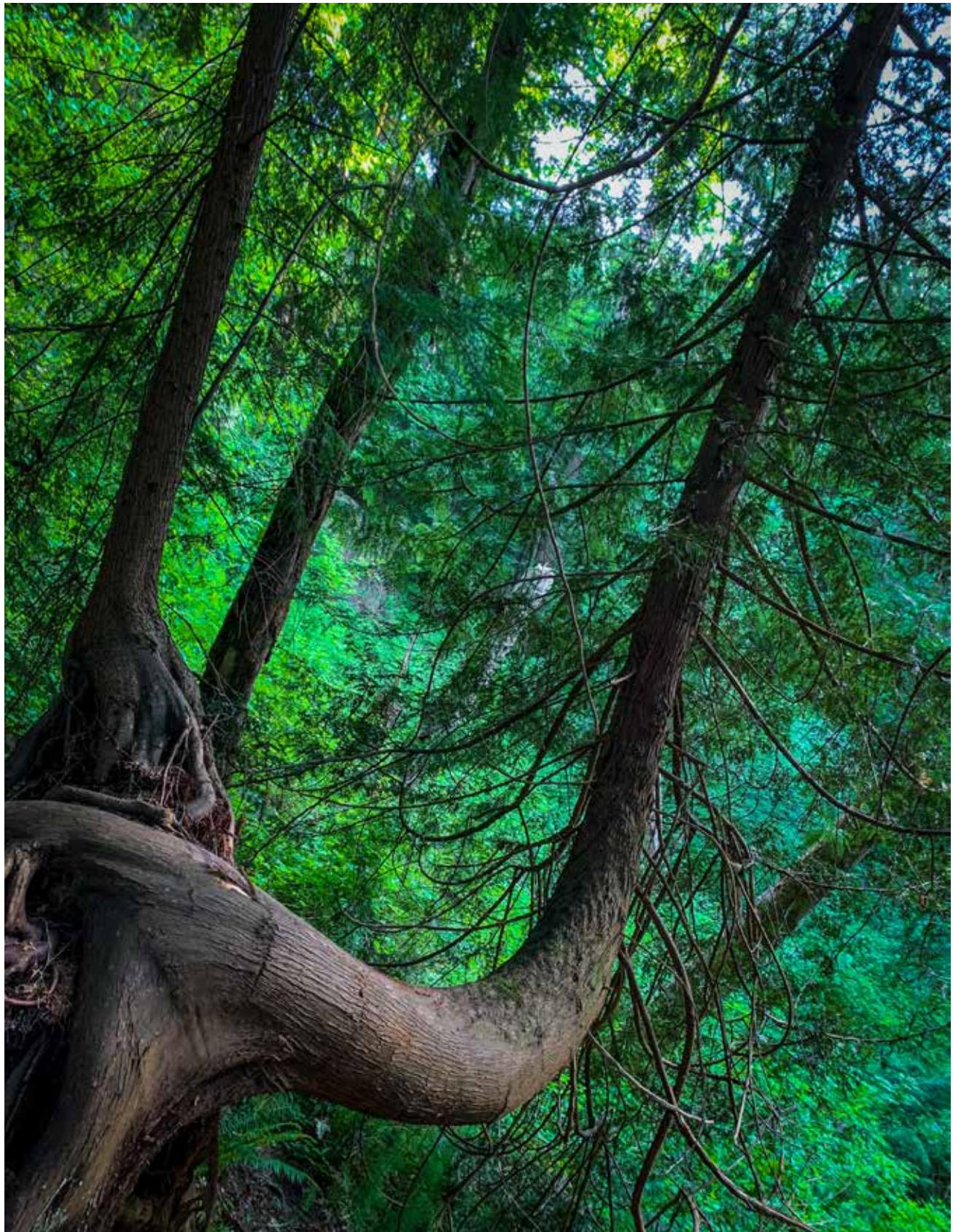
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABAJANPOUR



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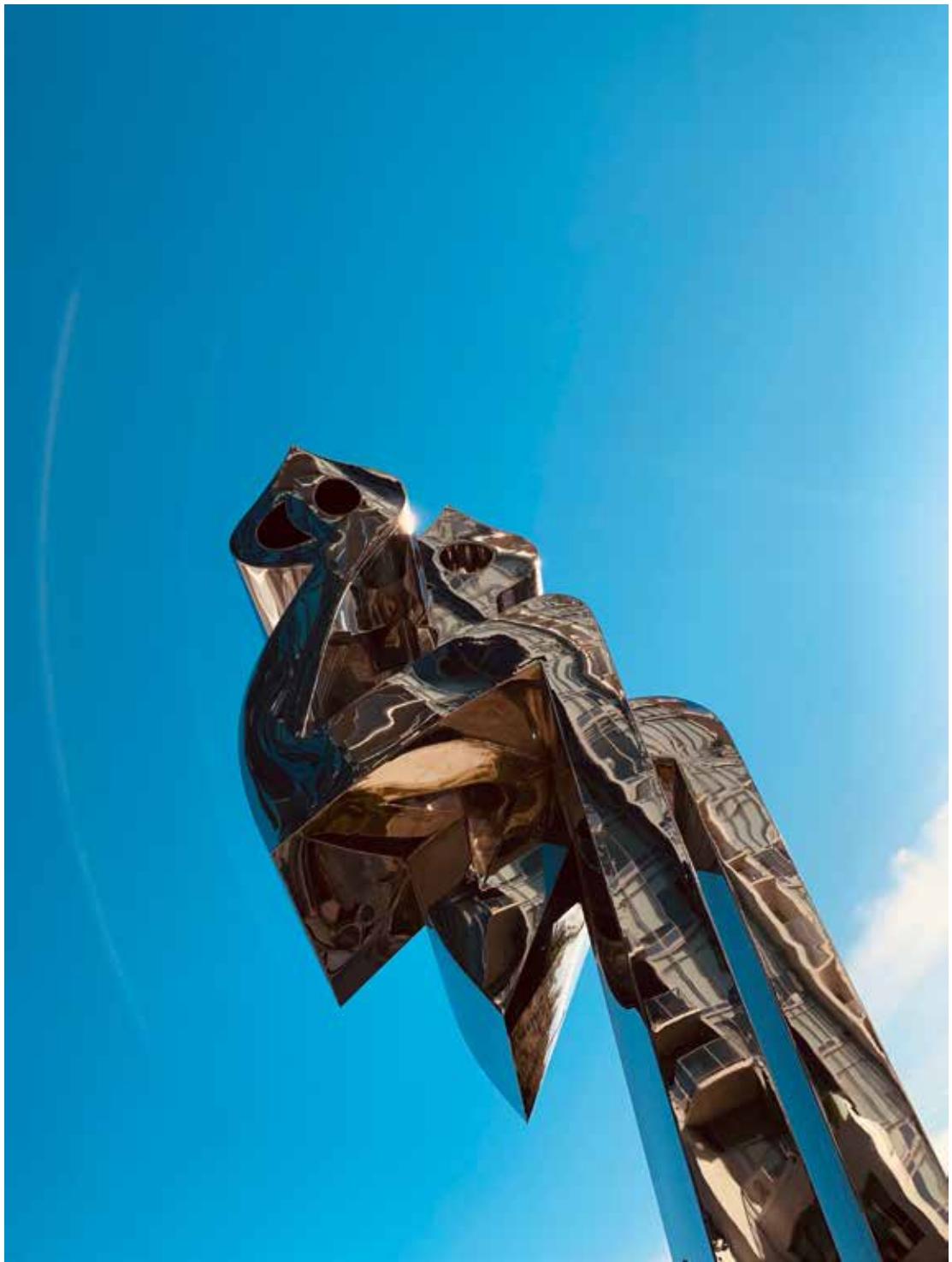
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ARITRO MUKHOPADHYAY



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P A R E N T S

POEM BY: ARITRO MUKHOPADHYAY

A solitary rock- standing tall in a tempest
Not the one to budge
Bend but not break

And the ocean- enormous and vast
Gatherer of tales and soothe
The ever-present shade

Both shape each other's paths
One sculpts and the other paves
A pristine amalgam
A perfect storm
A fulfilling catharsis





PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
BORNA MOHAJER



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: MK

Model: @mariajade_d

Photographer: @bymeryk

MUA: @Housofgodly



PHOTOGRAPHY BY: ALI BABAJANPOUR



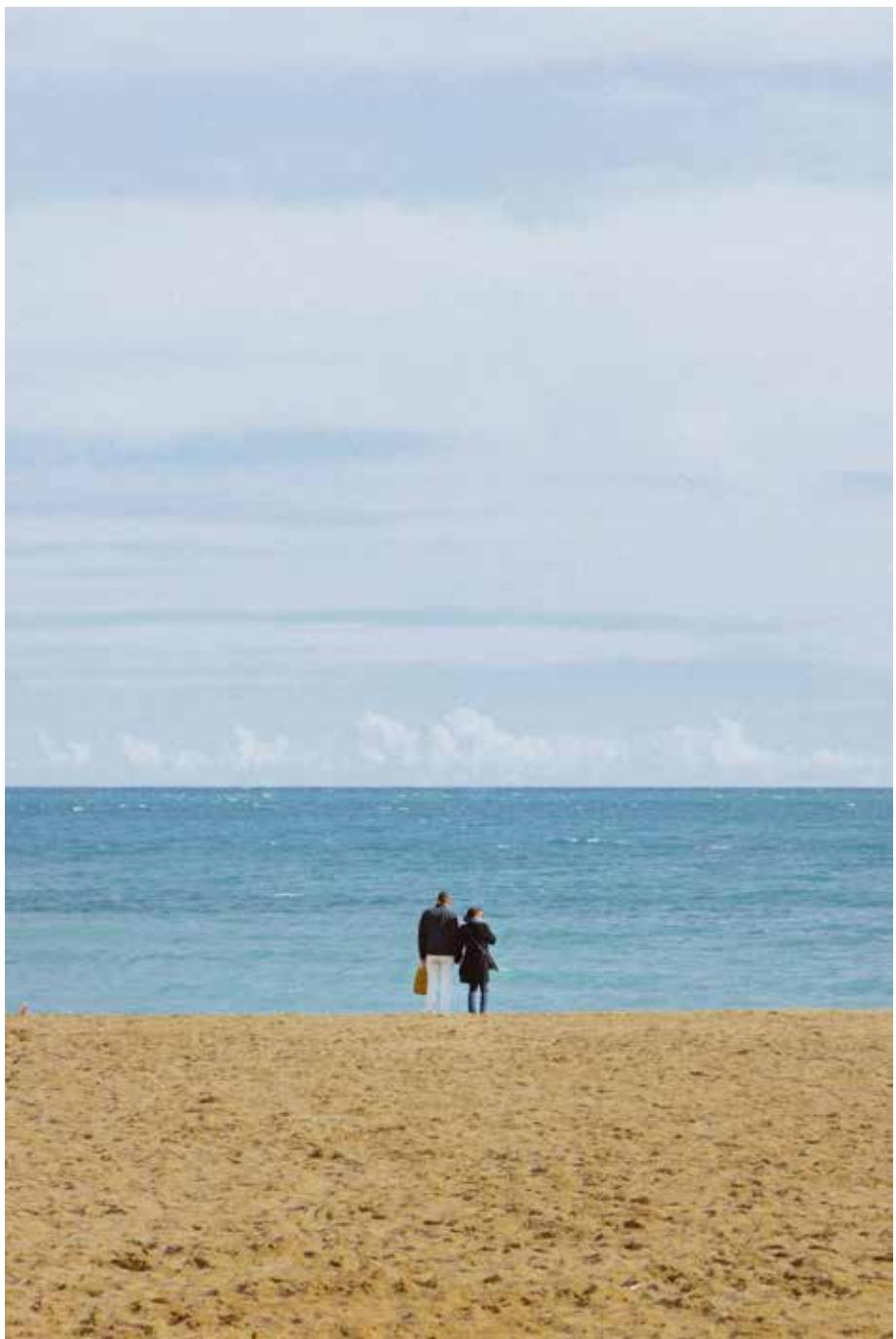
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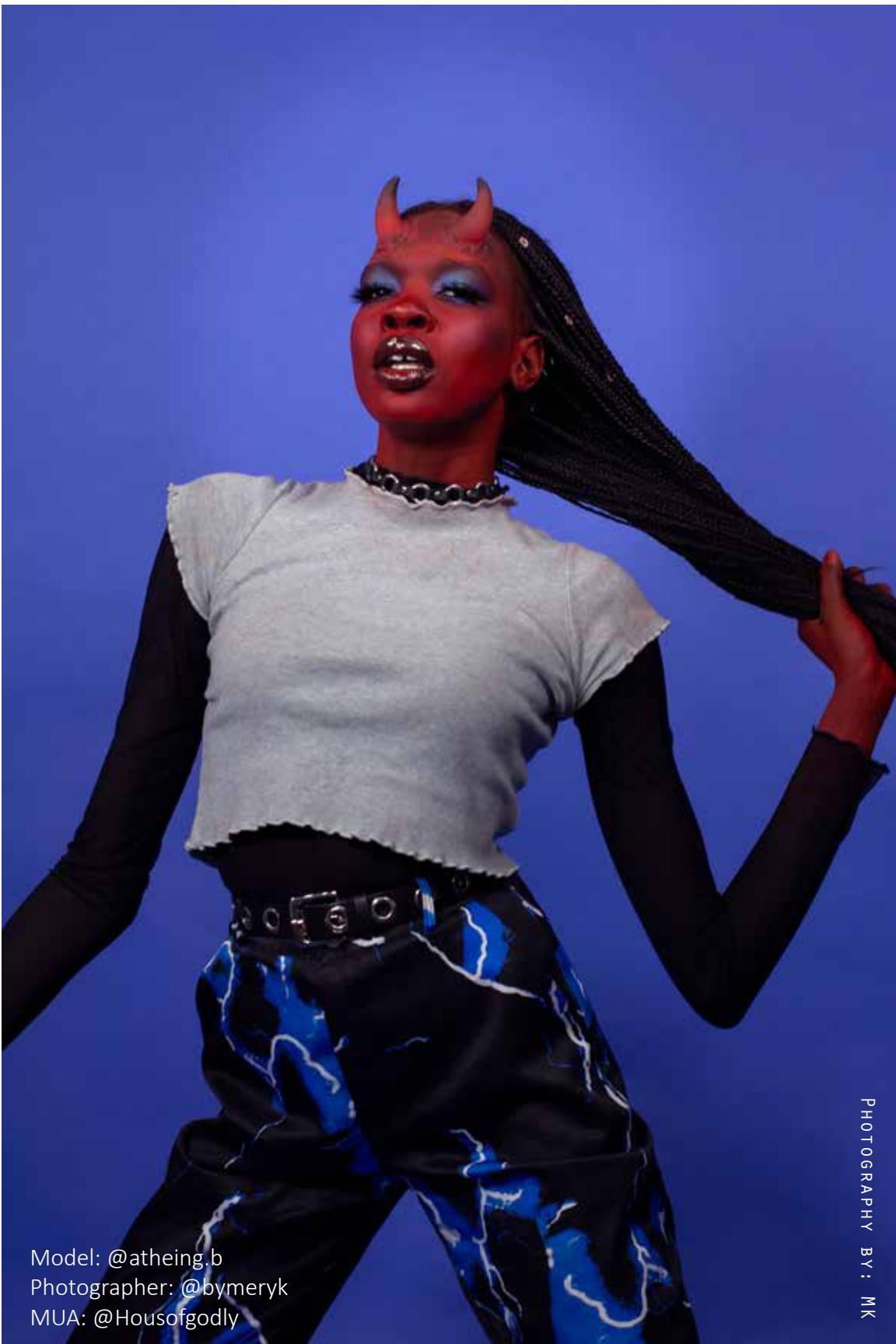


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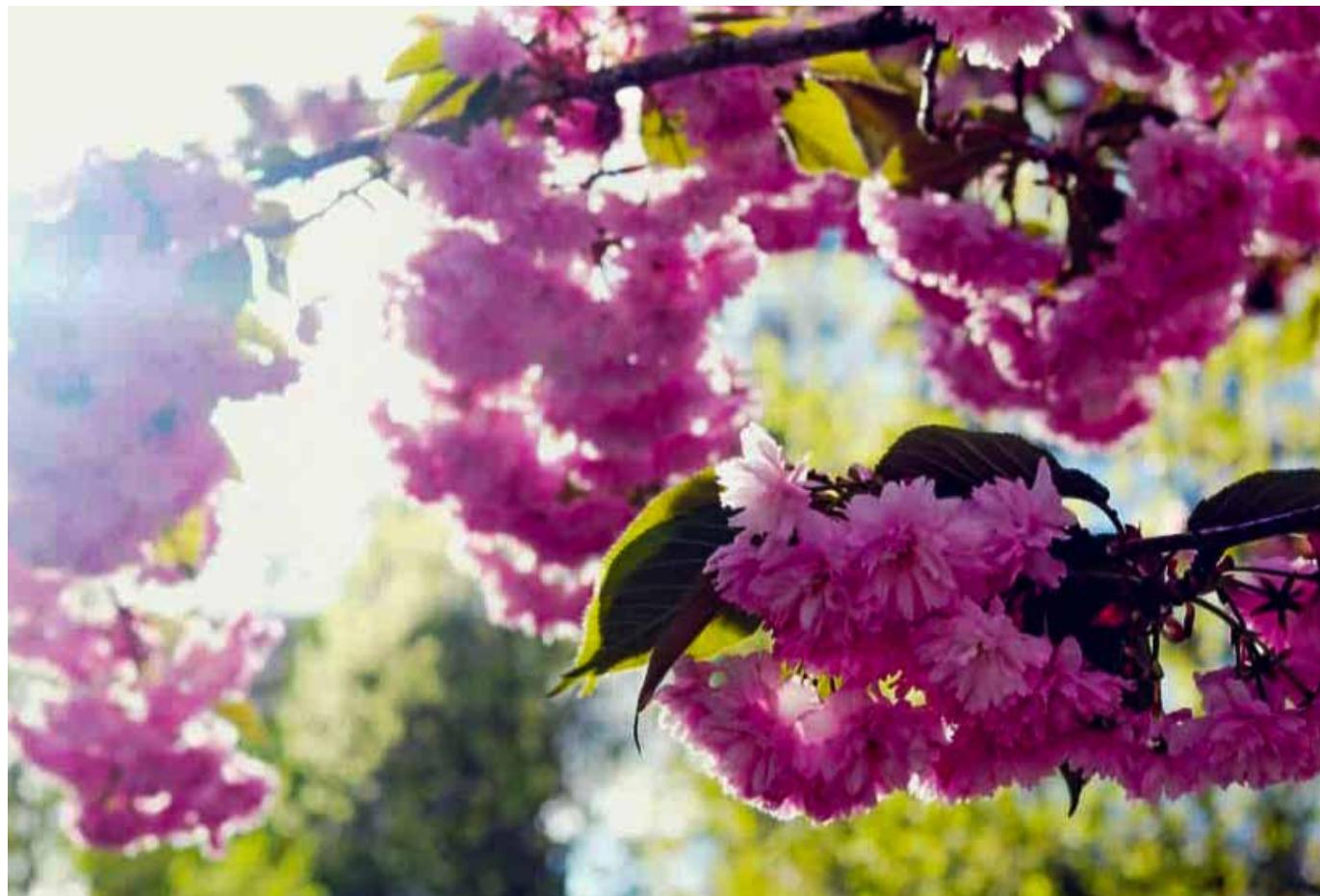
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY: NANCY KAZUMBA

SPRING

A blossoming cherry tree reminds us a time of
renewal and the fleeting nature of life.

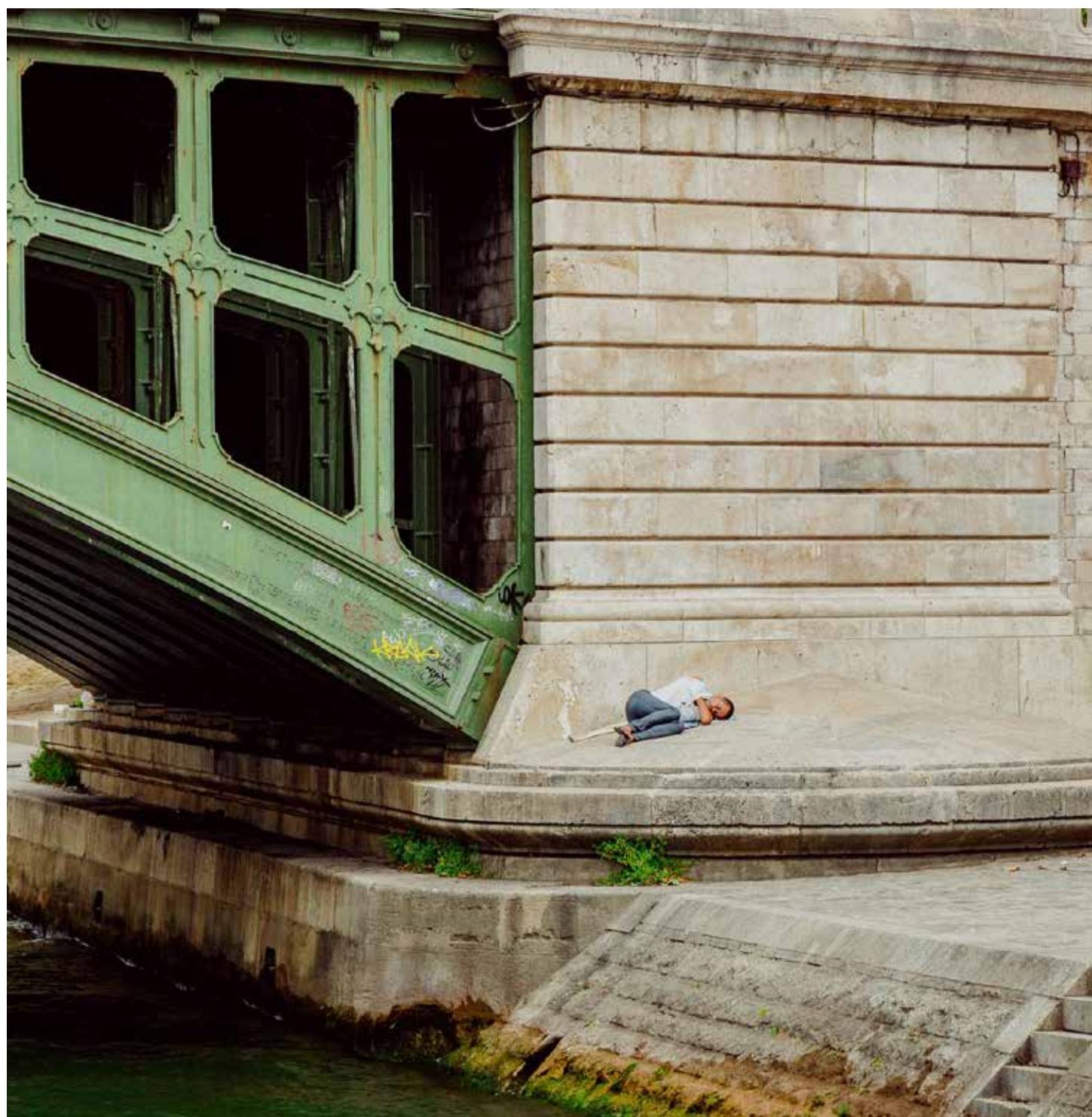


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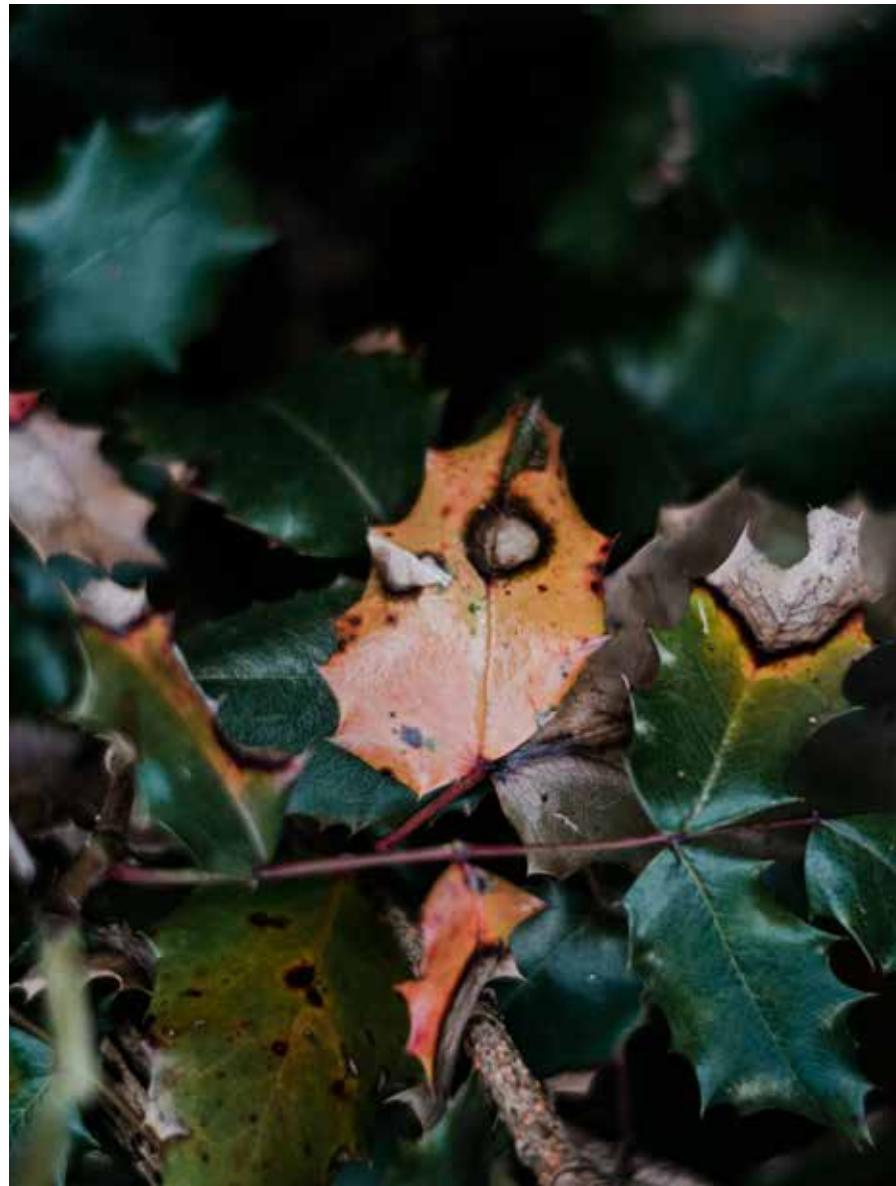
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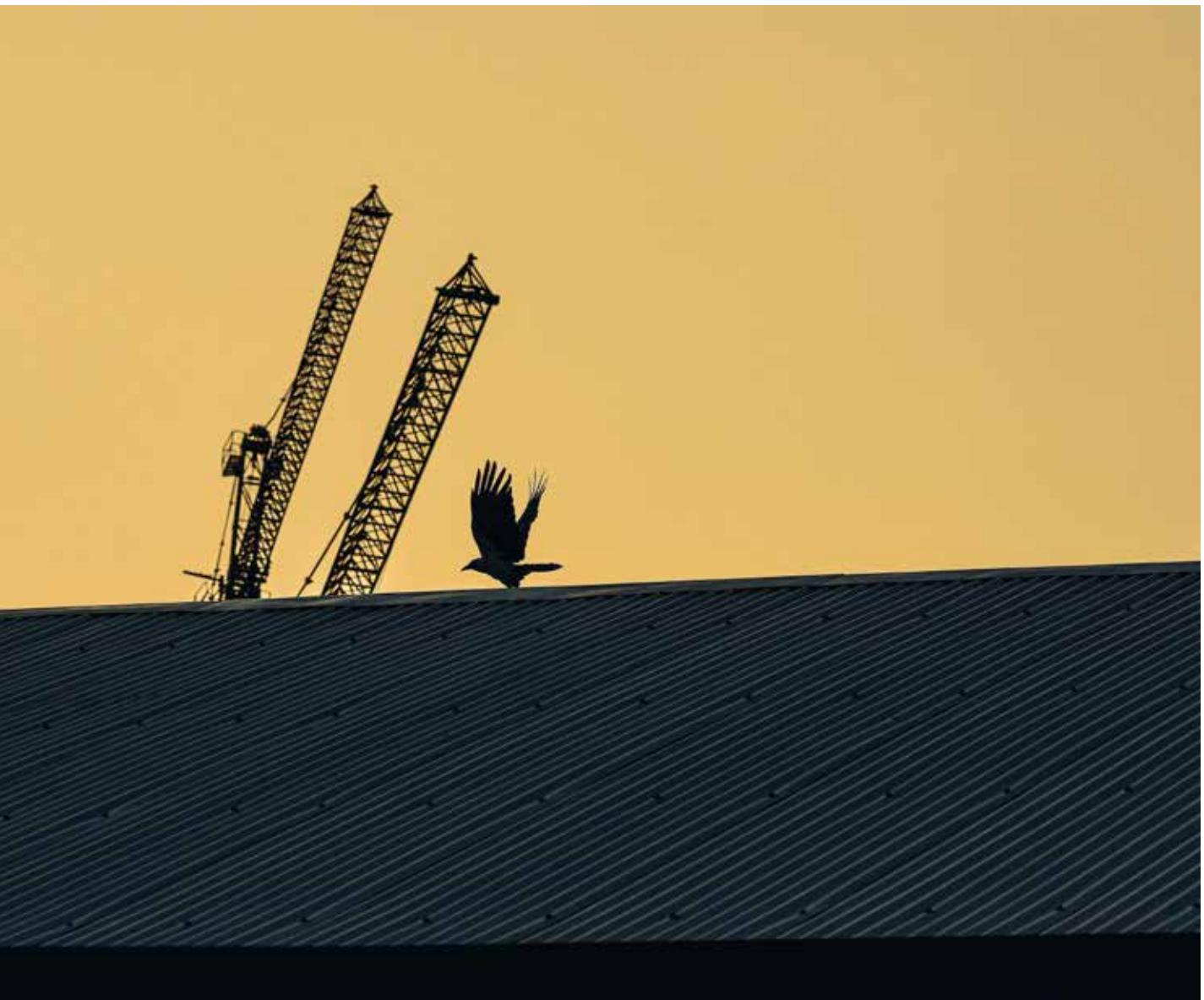




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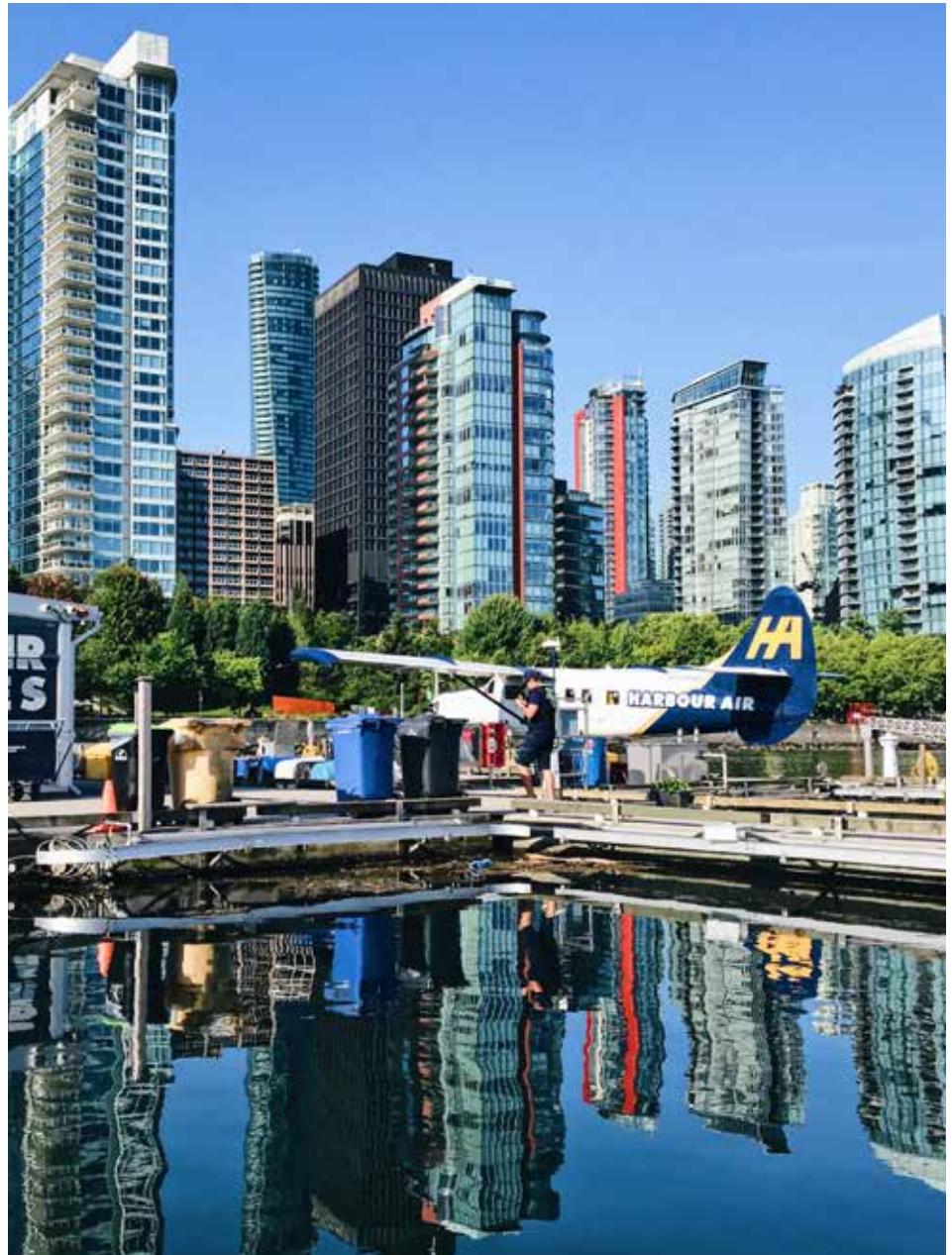
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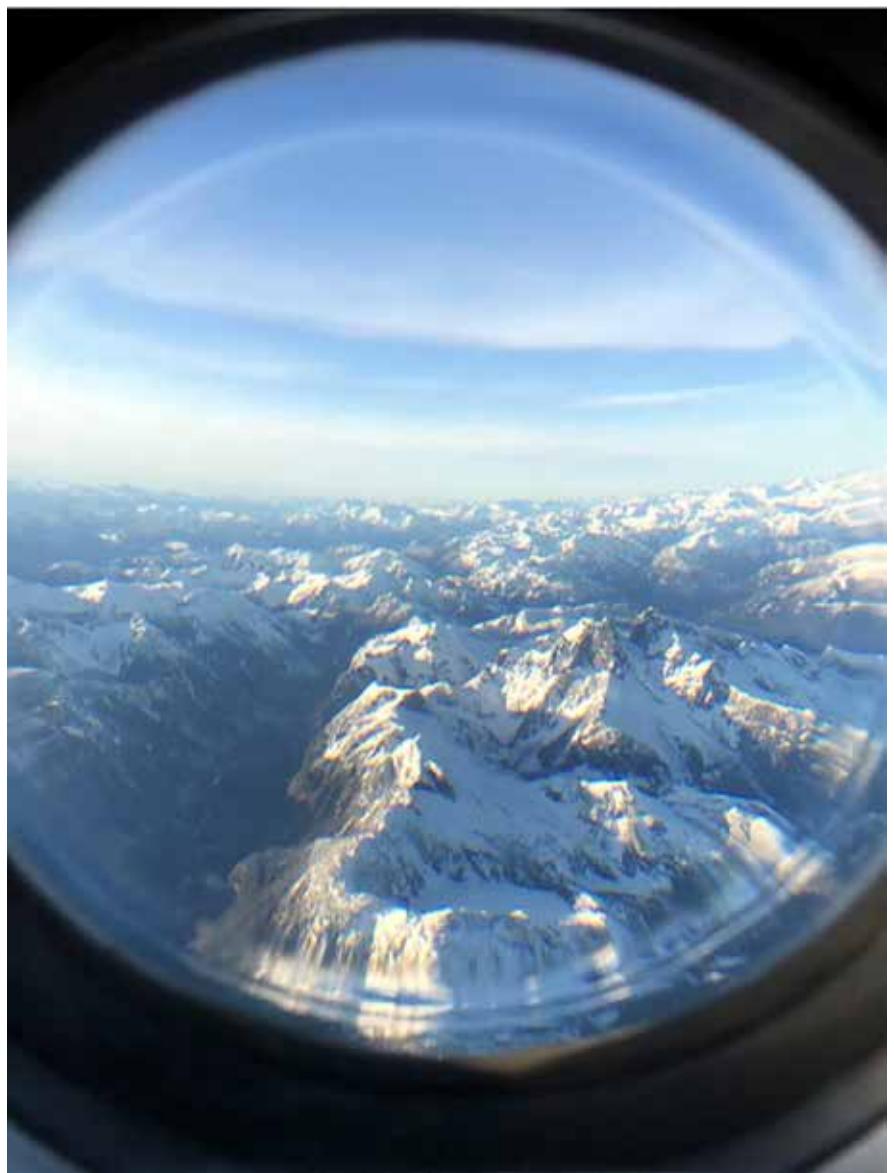
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A 2020 MANIFESTO

WRITTEN BY: GOLSA GOLESTANEH

The past few months have been filled with heartbreakening events and mentally, physically and emotionally draining experiences. 2020 began with loss and continues to remind us the cruelty of systemic violence that disrespects life and human dignity every day around the world. Today we stand with Black people in their fight against racism, we pledge to do better and actively address and dismantle the anti-Blackness that exists within and among us as non-Black people of colour. We stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples around the world, and particularly those on the Turtle Island whose lives, cultures and languages remain endangered. We stand with the queer people around the world who are now celebrating Pride. We acknowledge that our magazine is not completely accessible to all people with disabilities, we hope to share BEATS in different mediums in a near future. We stand in solidarity with those who fight against the inequalities created by a capitalistic system that was built on the backs of BIPOC. We thank all the essential workers who continue to provide us with their invaluable services while being generally underpaid.

To the youth and women who are experiencing violence at home during the quarantine, we send our love and strength; we stand with them against toxic masculinity and patriarchy. We emphasize the importance of mental health and access to services that enhance it and will continue to demand the defunding of the police and armies and instead, increased funding for services that strengthen our emotional and mental wellness. We stand against state violence exercised on people around the world, from China and Hong Kong to Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, to France, Brazil, Canada and the United States, while acknowledging that these are only a few examples.

We remind our allies and ourselves to refrain from engaging in performative allyship, that words and symbolism are not enough, that allyship is a process, not a performance, that this fight is continuous and not a limited series. We do not tolerate tokenization of marginalized identities and the exploitation of marginalized people's pains. BEATS strives to give a platform to unheard voices, not use them for personal or political benefit, and we encourage our readers, especially those in organizations that work with marginalized communities to do the same.

As an artistic medium, we believe that neither art nor media are apolitical, that being apolitical is a privilege that we do not enjoy, cannot afford and will not partake in. We hope that our actions speak louder than our words when it comes to activism for sociopolitical justice. In the powerful words by James Baldwin: "All art is a kind of confession, more or less oblique. All artists, if they are to survive, are forced, at last, to tell the whole story; to vomit the anguish up."

ISSUE 17

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