

Kaleidoscope

2026



Lemoore College
Literary Magazine

About the Cover

My Little Lion by Christal Gonzalez was inspired by our guest lecturer Alorha Baga from the Lakota Nation, who shared the history and cultural significance of Winter Count storytelling. Traditionally, Winter Counts recorded important yearly events through symbolic imagery on hides, preserving community memory across generations. The student thoughtfully connected this tradition to the evolution of Ledger Art, when Plains artists began using paper and ledger books as materials. Through symbolic imagery and narrative composition, the artwork reflects both personal storytelling and respect for this enduring cultural practice.

About *Kaleidoscope*

An annual publication, *Kaleidoscope* was first published in 1998. Students in the ENG 025 Creative Writing class are responsible for many phases of creating the magazine. Submissions are accepted from March 2026 to February 2027 for the 2027 edition. Send no more than three submissions total in poetry, prose, and/or artwork. Artwork submissions should be sent as JPEG image files, with 750 pixels on the short side and a print resolution of 150-300PPI. Prose and poetry submissions should be sent as a DOC or DOCX file, with a maximum 500-word count. Email submissions to kaleidoscope@whccd.edu.

Editorial Board

David Brooks, Neomi Daniels, Marty Ennes, Libra Howard, and Amber Tidwell

Layout and Design

All Valley Printing

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Passing through the Ordinary
by Antonio Aguilar



The Greatest Show on Earth
by Cruz Arenivas

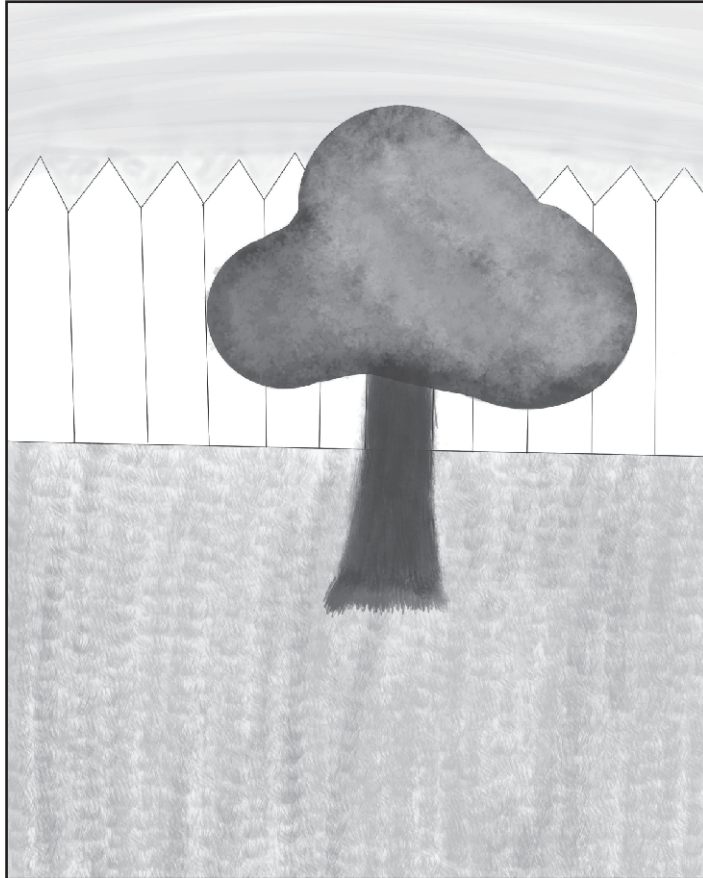
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Backyard
by Manuel Ochoa

A Broken Family
by Marlene Solorio

Discrimination is everywhere.
Some people are rude, acting like they are better.
Kids at school are bullying the ones that do not speak English,
the ones with a darker skin color.

Colored people having limitations
just because they are not American Citizens.
Some Americans do not know the struggles that
we have to face every day.

They work in low paying jobs under harsh weather,
trying to make ends meet month after month.
Americans do not have to suffer harassment
or even think if they are worthy of the
“American Dream.”

Suicide hardly crosses their minds because
they are people with some or even more privileges.
Having rights makes them think that they are better.

But there is still hope for the next generation.
In a place where everyone will get along and treat each
other with respect. In a place where everyone can achieve
that “American Dream.”



Guanyin
by Angelina Garza



Reina de Recuerdo
by Christal Gonzalez

Her

by Elizabeth Soria

Just as we were before
Under the same moon and stars
Another joins though not quite seen
Now only a spark growing into flame

Ever the beginning
Little feet playing
I move through the day unhindered
Zealous she meets me
Breathing air where once there was none
Evening comes
The quiet no longer peaceful until
Her breath fills the air once more.

Everyday life moves on
Like wind in wheat
Envious of time no longer mine
Around the morning
No one speaks
Only soft breaths from the corner
Ready to meet the day
Eleanore smiles

Leave

by Chloe Amaral

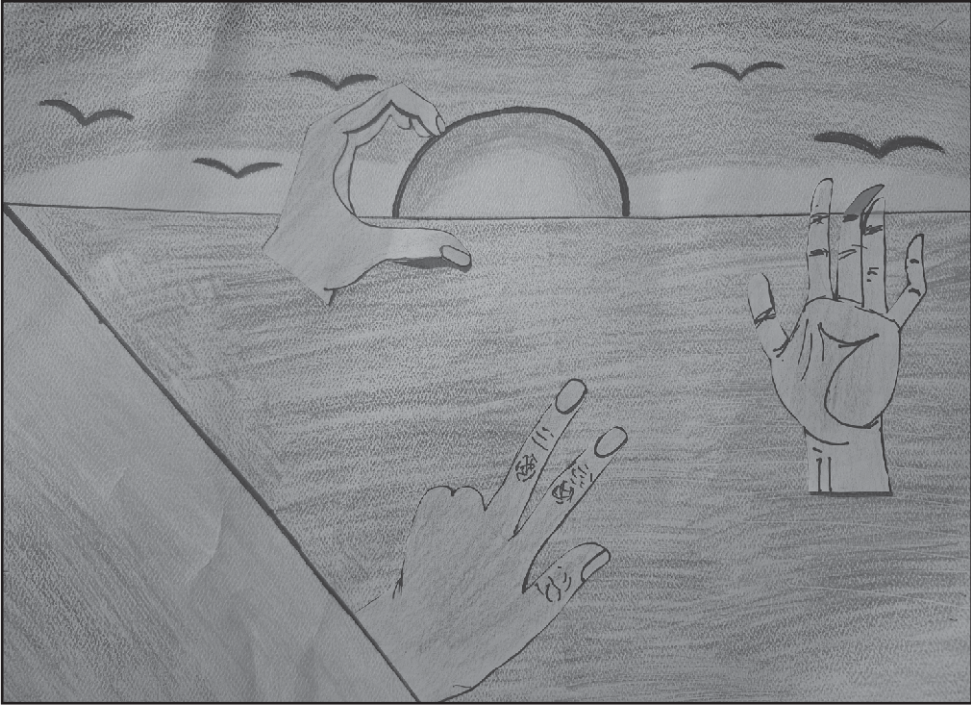
The urge to leave
To go where no other has gone
It sounds like a dream
One in which I will never belong
Generations before said they would
Yet they all stayed stuck
A nail in wood
Some may say
“Dream big dreams”
Not for us though
Him, you, or me
We all were meant to be still
Never to question
What was already set
And drilled
So now we sit
In all the “what ifs”
No matter how much
We desire to fly, we sit



Mountain
by Manuel Ochoa



Harpies
by Adrian Atilano



Held by the Sunset
by Erika Torres



Still Warm
by Brian Najjar



Alice
by Jasmine Arias

Apology to the Girl in the Mirror

by Cristal Gonzalez Abundis

I have to apologize to the girl in the mirror
Sorry for treating you that way
You didn't deserve that
Calling you fat and ugly
Comparing you to a pig
Making you cry because you didn't look like them

Questioning your intuition and strength
Not letting you eat things you craved
Causing you to binge eat
Like an addiction you can't escape

I promise to love you as you are
And heal every one of your scars
In love with my future yes I am
With the endless possibilities of success
In one field or another
People will criticize but
Like Maya Angelou, you will rise.

Doña París

by Odie Solorio

Observing every grave in the vicinity
Each sight of a cross left another burn on my soul
Ironic because of my name, wasn't it?
An ode to Santa María, the mother of Jesucristo

Kneeling in front of my grandmother's own
In my heart, there was a never-ending hole
The discolored, bronze plaque read 'París Lunero'
The most religious woman I had known

Begging her, I asked, 'How am I to cope?'
If she had learned the truth of who I was and who I loved
In her eyes, my existence would've been nothing but a sin
Forever damned to Hell, Satan's friend



Tears
by Adrian Atilano

A Ghost, Withered and Alone and Gone
by Sarah Rathburn

A ghost is floating
over the lighthouse, and
she's singing a sad sailor's tune.
The rotation of the light,
so shadows dance alone, and
the dearly departed, gone for good.

Her father's kiss, it
clashes against waves
like a waterfall, when it
falls over icy cliffs, a crash.
She drowns in its mortality and
witheres in his memory at last.



Boo!
by Kai Martinez

Growing Up

by McKenzey Fromme

Growing up changes you,
without a warning.
Your hair has lost its softness.
Your body has taken on a new shape.
Your stomach is no longer flat
and beautifully toned,
as if it were hand chiseled.
Your face has lost its fullness
as it begins to fall flat.
Who knew being full of laughter
would draw lines on your face
that you cannot erase.
Or those late nights
would make shadows under your eyes
that don't fade, no matter the time of day.
And when time stops,
that girl you once were, passes by the mirror.
She sees that she is not aging like wine.
Maturing, richer,
more wanted with time.
She is curdling like milk.
Growing sour, undesirable.
Spoiling and taking up space.
That girl has shed her skin,
like a petal in the wind.
Perhaps she will bloom again,
before the summer ends.

Motherhood

by Aries Hale

her big blue eyes
carry the weight of the world
the tears of the sea
that no one is able to see
she smiles with the sun
cries in the dark
drowns the sorrows in her heart
choking on what she wants to let out

her pride so mighty she feels like a lioness
except there is no pride standing behind her
only her shadow remains
a quiet reminder of the pressure she carries

alone she walks
with that little baby girl and her big blue eyes
bundled in her arms gripped so tight
she wonders will her baby
feel the weight of the world on her shoulders
will she cry because no one is there to listen
will she hide in the dark
even though her smile brightens the world

the sun shines down
beating down on her
as she grips her child tightly in her arms
she finally feels the relief she's been waiting for
her big blue eyes filled with the sea
the tears flow down her cheeks like a river
no longer choking
she lets out a cry the whole world felt

her baby girl with her big blue eyes
giggled as she heard her mother's cry
the sun beaming down
their big blue eyes filled with tears
the world goes silent
she was never alone
her pride that she once carried inside
now bundled up tightly in her arms

though her shadow may stand alone
it won't be long
until the girl with the bright blue eyes
stands beside her



Carmilla
by Kai Martinez



Happy Day
by Frances Star



Catching a Wave
by Ayslin Dominguez-Kuehn

Sunflower

by Hunter Guthrie

She,
A Sunflower.

Unbothered by the wind
Alone atop a hill
Her gaze met by the field below
Motion, fertilization, life.

She,
Unseen.

A heart as yellow as the sun she faces
A yearn for more
A yearn for life
But roots buried too deep.

She,
A lifeline.

The only one to notice
Mother Nature lifts her head
Seeds sprout atop the hill
You were never forgotten, sweet Sunflower.



Middle Management
by Brian Najjar



The City Without End
by Antonio Aguilar

Cadence of Cowards

by Sarah Rathburn

Poetry is the sound a bird sings when
its heart has been broken and left for dead.
It is the fruit we choke on when we take
more than what our mouths and stomachs deserve.

We leave things unsaid in the way we hide
and cower behind our mother's tall legs.
A spider that grows two inches is still
at risk to be squashed by a fearful child.

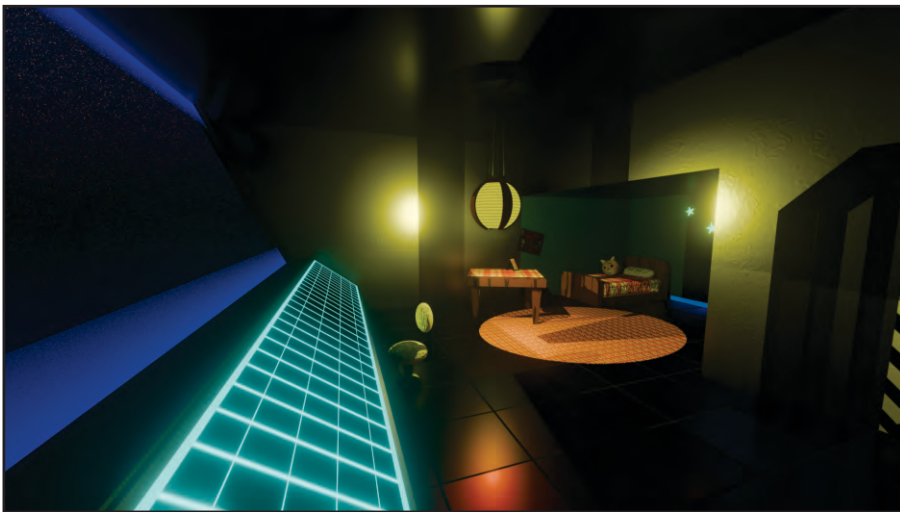
Many a thing it is to be perceived
by those with eyes like a seagull, but pray
it's not those with eyes like a hawk or owl;
they protect those who can't sing for themselves.

Worth is not made of greedy prey that hold
their gold and bread between their pearly teeth.
It is the predator that fights then lays
down their latest kill in front of their foes.

Let our blood speak for our hearts and ask to
stain the hands of those that demand to sin.



5 Glasses
by Angel Aguayo

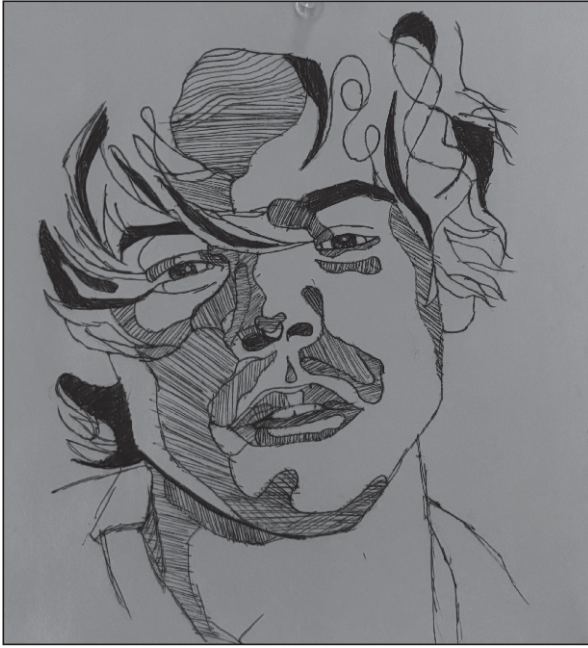


Voyager
by Abraham V.

Opinion Not Needed

by Alekita Menendez

You speak first,
call it advice.
I say it my way—
Now I'm not nice.
You point out my flaws,
call it concern.
I say I don't need the opinion,
and suddenly I'm "doing too much,"
for naming yours.
You talk over me,
call it wisdom and care.
I call it what it is,
and now it's a fight—
hands up, voices raised,
lines drawn I never crossed.
You tell me to be better,
do more, do right,
while standing knee-deep
in your own mess at night
When I ask for respect,
you call me difficult.
When I set a boundary,
you call me problematic.
I'm not weak.
I'm just done
letting everyone else
offer opinions
nobody asked for.
I'm done fighting
for the right
to live my life
my way.



Harry Styles
by Jazlyn Perez



Bad Bunny
by Jazlyn Perez



Viva Zapata
by Christal Gonzalez



Myself
by Ramiro Fernandez, Jr.

Biographies

Abraham V. is just a dreamer who wants to make people smile through art.

Adrian Atilano is an artist from Hanford. He is aspiring to be a tattoo artist. He currently attends Lemoore College and is passionate about his art.

Alekita Menendez is a resident of Hanford and attends Lemoore College. Her interests include poetry, artwork, and creative thinking. She writes honestly, isn't afraid to take risks, loves learning new things, and is driven by her two children, who inspire her to keep going.

Angel Aguayo lives in Hanford. Angel likes math, art, and solving problems. Angel goes to Lemoore College and tries to learn with patience and steady effort. Angel focuses on building confidence and growing a little at a time.

Angelina Garza is from Lemoore, is going to Fresno State in the fall, and loves combining history and fantasy.

Antonio Aguilar is a photographer from Avenal. His work explores travel, street photography, and cultural ritual, focusing on quiet moments that reveal meaning within everyday life and unfamiliar places.

Aries Hale is from Tulare and is a mother of three.

Ayslin Dominguez-Kuehn is from Hanford. She is a dual enrollment student at Lemoore College pursuing a career in Psychology. She values academics and takes pride in her studies. In her free time, she enjoys writing, painting, and baking.

Brian Najar is from Hanford. He loves drawing and painting, and when he isn't making art, he plays bass guitar. He is a fan of horror and psychological films, collects vinyl records, and enjoys exploring—sometimes driving just to end up somewhere new.

Biographies

Chloe Amaral is from Kingsburg, and she is a second-year student at Lemoore College. She is majoring in English. She plans to transfer to Fresno State in the fall and continue her education, hopefully receiving her BA and MA in English.

Christal Gonzalez is a Southern California–born artist from Inglewood, who now resides in Hanford. Her work blends culture, motherhood, and personal storytelling. She draws deep inspiration from her son, Leo, using vibrant colors and symbolism to express themes of love, identity, and resilience.

Cristal Gonzalez Abundis is from Riverdale. She loves poetry.

Cruz Arenivas is from Hanford and has created art since childhood. While working on art projects, he listens to scary stories or short animated films. Although he wants a career in art, he may also pursue animation. Cruz creates artwork that blends fantasy and reality, features glowing effects, explores

Mexican culture or American traveling circus life, and tells stories about life's struggles.

Elizabeth Soria is a former student of Lemoore College, now at CSU Stanislaus in the Credential Program. She has one daughter and a wonderful husband who keeps her on her toes.

Erika Torres is from Riverdale, and she has three children. Her interest is in helping students succeed.

Frances Star, a native of the Central Valley, continues to pass her passion for art through her paintings. Her inspiration comes from her favorite artist, Vincent van Gogh, and her art instructor who has always been patient, inspiring, and trying to help her succeed in the art field.

Hunter Guthrie is a sophomore at Lemoore College. He is an English major who plans to transfer to Fresno State to become a teacher.

Biographies

Jasmine Arias is from Hanford, and she attends Lemoore College as a Studio Arts major. She works with graphite and charcoal, and most recently has started exploring soft pastels on different paper types, including blue-toned paper. Other than traditional art, she enjoys creating artwork digitally and, over the past year, has been slowly improving with this new medium.

Jazlyn Perez is from Madera and has two dogs. She enjoys drawing in her free time and discovered her passion for art after taking two art classes in high school. Jazlyn is drawn to hands-on activities, which is why art is the perfect fit for her.

Kai Martinez is from Hanford and aspires to be a tattoo artist. They began pursuing art as a career while developing a visual novel, which led them to focus on foundational painting and drawing. They love cats and often sketch them for fun.

Manuel Ochoa is a second-year student, attending a Digital Art class for his final semester. He has

always loved art but lacked time to pursue it until his Digital Art class, where he is now learning and improving.

Marlene Solorio is a Lemoore College graduate.

McKenzey Fromme is from Hanford. She has two dogs and is an English major.

Odie Solorio is a 19-year-old English major at Lemoore College. They dream of being an author and moving to a big city one day.

Ramiro Fernandez, Jr. was from Caruthers, but now he's in Lemoore. He has a lot of passion for art and wants it to become his career.

Sarah Rathburn is from Hanford, and she lives with her mother and twin sister. Both encourage her to pursue poetry as a hobby. She is continuously inspired by her travels, music, as well as her friends and family.

Kaleidoscope 2026
ENG 025 Creative Writing Students

Allen Christian Altamirano

Jasmine Arias

Lidia Coria

Shawn Danley

Chloe Amaral

McKenzey Fromme

Angel Sanchez

Ashley Solis Valenzuela

Odie Solorio

Ethan Whitaker

Kimberly Torres

