

# THE IN-BETWEEN



MAY 2025

*THE LIMINAL SPACES WHERE QUEER LOVE,  
INTIMACY, AND COMMUNITY FLOURISH*

# lim·i·nal *adjective.*

The In-Between explores the liminal spaces where queer love, intimacy, and community flourish. Artists were invited to delve into the untidy, transformative moments where connection thrives beyond convention. It celebrates the multiplicity of queer experiences—romantic, platonic, familial, and communal—centered on authenticity, solidarity, and the radical act of belonging.

**CREATED IN TANDEM WITH**  
A Group Exhibition at The Future Front House

**GALLERY LOCATION**  
1900 E 12th Street Austin, TX 78702

**EXHIBITION DATES**  
May 31 - June 29, 2025

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH**  
Future Front Texas

**CURATION BY**  
Maria Romero

**PAGE DESIGN BY**  
Shannon Elder

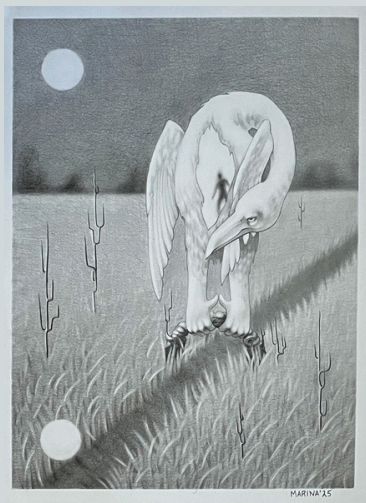
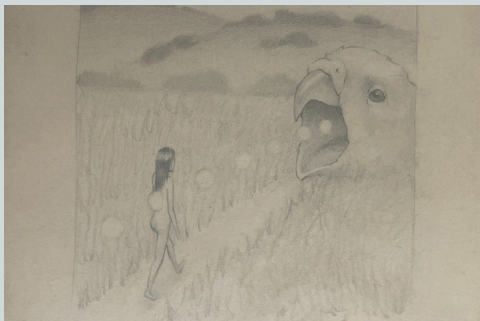
**FRONT COVER**  
Erin E Freeman

**BACK COVER**  
Erin E Freeman

*The Gallery ATX* is a woman-powered Austin, Texas based fine art collective devoted to exhibiting original and profound works of art from a carefully curated group of artists. Our mission is to impact new audiences through creative collaborations, popup exhibitions, and brand partnerships. By providing a platform to display our artists' message, we connect a community of diverse creators and collectors.

## The Depths of Discovery

The first of the series is ironically the one that isn't finished yet. It features a naked woman walking into the mouth of a giant bird. She is following a sequence of orbs. The landscape is barren but peaceful. Supposed to describe a sort of late coming of age into bisexuality. The woman isn't a self portrait, the bird is.



## The Guardian

It features the next phase of a story; another bird/guardian/portal... further into Discovery. The long necked corvid is firm yet still welcoming, demanding respect. My journey into loving women has been similar. I've taken what I've learned and applied it to all aspects of my life, to better myself and my immediate environment.

**MARINA SPELL**

## I Feel Someone Here with Me

The last phase of this particular series is a self portrait. This is me, a true reflection. I am. I just am. I am absurd and selfish and learning and changing and flesh. The Discovery of my sexuality has revealed more than I could have ever desired. I make mistakes and I am still beautiful. I am the opposite of what is expected. This world will end, but at least I have myself.





# They Made a

## We out of Us



I (Hannah) met this wonderful nonbinary frog of a human (Colin) at a time when I didn't think it was possible I'd ever fall in love again. Classic. Little did either of us know, we would soon be swept up into that fairytale kind of love. Like, "this is my person," "we fit like puzzle pieces," "I guess I'd never really known what love looked like until you" kind of love. It was dazzling. And that was that. We are one now; weathering the chaotic storm that is the world together. Taking comfort and joy in each other's laughter and holding each other through the pain. They are a radiant and magical being and I am grateful every day that they came into my life and made a We out of us.

**HANNAH  
MATTHIA  
X  
COLIN  
JENKINS**

## Kiss of Death

I have wanted to recreate Gustav Klimt's "The Kiss" painting for a long time and finally found a way to interpret it from the perspective of a trans person. The patterns and colors reflect the beauty of living openly and honestly, while the bluebonnets is an homage to my home state, Texas. The figure kissing "death" symbolizes my fear that anti-trans policies in Texas might kill us all. As trans people, we are constantly toeing the line "in-between" life and death by living out our truths- that is terrifying but also unifying.



This work deals with the fear of being persecuted, hurt, or killed for being myself, but it also celebrates all of the gifts that this community has given me. The "in-between" is where I have found the most beautiful and amazing people who are just as heartbroken yet joyous as I am- and there is a shared beauty in authenticity and vulnerability.

Am I Doomed to be  
Another Statistic?



## GARRETT SKUPINSKI

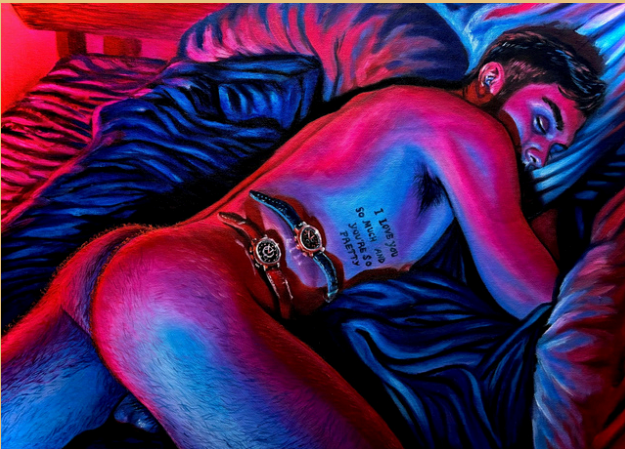
The In-Between has had multiple meanings to me especially in my work. Leaving a career and industry I thrived in to the limbo of who I was and who I was going to be became a very real reality. In my work 'Stretched' you will find the most unique and technical part to be the in-between that weaves the river grasses and yarns to hold together the splitting palm. In that woven in-between we capture the life of the design with the dried blooms, soft feathers and dried ruscus. A life being lived and it's interweaving's throughout it's time is channeled throughout this piece.



## Stretched

# Let's Watch Tomorrow Go

This painting is to represent all the sweet moments and memories that slip through our fingers time and time again. We're stuck in between yesterdays dreams and tomorrows promises.



# A Single Himbo

To exhibit artwork that advocates for queer liberation and love in a time where "identity politics" is currently determined to be erased, misunderstood and misrepresented is something my community needs and I'm proud to further the dialogue. My surreal and vulnerable perspective draws in attention for those who seek to see themselves validated and celebrated for being authentically human.



GERARDO ENRIQUE GOMEZ



# Mirror, Mirror

The illusions our minds can fall for when we compare ourselves to one another can keep us blind from seeing our true selves. The in- between of being one foot in reality and one foot in your delusions can keep you isolated in that in-between limbo state and cut off from creating authentic connection.



# The Diagnosis

To me the “In-Between” refers to those moments where you find yourself at the edge of a life changing discovery or decision. I drew this artwork in charcoal while waiting to do lab work just minutes after being told I was HIV + and it’s an exact representation of how I felt at the time.

The woman sits alone at a bar while smoking a cigarette, she’s alone and she’s in deep thought. Maybe she’s waiting for someone, or maybe that person had already come and gone. She’s devastated, but she’s also strong, she’s not defeated. Right now she “In-Between” what she was and what she’s supposed to be. She just needs to figure out how to get there.



ETHAN  
ISAIAH



DANIELA RIVERO



## Lovers in Blue: Friendship through the Sapphic Gaze #1 and #2

"Lovers in Blue: Friendship through the Sapphic Gaze" is a series of cyanotype prints inspired by a playful photoshoot of the artist's childhood friends taken during the COVID19 lockdown. Interposed between natural meadows and intimate living room settings, they evoke feelings of be(longing), adoration, and ambiguity, as the nature of the relationship between the figures shown in the images, the figures and the artist, and the figures and the viewer holds all the possibilities of romance, desire, and fantasy.

In sapphic friendships, desire, attraction, and romance can exist beyond the mandates of patriarchal and heteronormative scripts for relationships. They provide nurturing ground for relational fulfillment, interdependent care, and embodied pleasure that show us what sovereignty and liberation feels like. In her poem, "Dreaming of Lesbos", Tatiana de la Tierra writes of her eternal dream, to live in a planet of women, that "we always dream paradise, we make it ours. There, we find each other and live in our collective memory."

The "In-Between" of queer relationships is in the presence and beauty of existing in loving relationships as complex, queer, and interdependent as the earth's ecological webs. To witness each other, to play and be present in our nakedness, and to bring that eternal dream into being through our love and care for each other, is a timeless practice of world-making and a source of immense power that we fight to protect and embody every day as sappics.

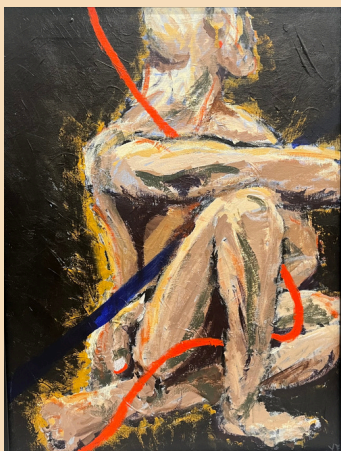


# When Will I Feel Complete?



This piece was created following a photographic project that I made in an effort to process my complicated emotions surrounding my tumultuous top surgery healing journey. The act of making this print brought together my two main areas of focus, photography and printmaking, and allowed me to explore and manipulate my photos further than I ever have before. Through six layers of silk screen and hand mixed inks I was able to

navigate what it meant to truly reconnect with my new body, and find peace in the most vulnerable fragments of myself. During its creation I was stuck in an uncomfortable in-between phase, but with the completion of this project I was able to move forward and find the peace I was so desperately searching for.



## Light

We are brought into this world naked and vulnerable. The figure is nude and seated, with head turned away, and streams of light moving through them. While the figure may seem vulnerable in their nude state, stripped away of everything, this is when we see their true light. This piece looks at how in a state of complete vulnerability, naked to the world, potentially uncomfortable and exposed, it is at this moment that we really are our true selves, with nothing to hide.

## To Drink Coffee Alone

The date on the painting reads "12/31", the day before the New Year. The figure sits, drinking coffee, surrounded by a thick black border, with unknown figures in the background. The painting poses many questions. "Is the figure lonely, drinking coffee, cut off from the outside world?" Or, "Is the figure comfortable drinking coffee alone, having found comfort in who they are, quiet and thoughtful in a state of growth and ready for the new age to come?"



## The Cowpoke

The cowboy is seen as being tough and rugged, depicted as being a hyper-masculine figure. Yet this figure has a cracked face, and a barbed wire hat that is filled with flowers. The reality of the "hyper-masculine" cowboy isn't the truth. There are many people out there who fit the stereotype of the cowboy, but their true selves might be stuck behind a stiff face and a barbed wire hat. The title isn't "Cowboy" or "Cowgirl", it's "The Cowpoke" because anyone can be just that.



# Wanderer Amongst the Fog

This painting explores the liminal space where queer intimacy, love, and community take shape. I'm drawn to moments that exist between definitions—where connection is neither entirely seen nor hidden, where tenderness and uncertainty intertwine.

The figures in this piece embrace in a way that is both protective and vulnerable. One figure's gaze meets the viewer, half-shielded by their lover's shoulder, as if caught between exposure and safety. The swirling forms surrounding them represent the intangible forces that shape queer relationships: memory, longing, resistance, and care. These ribbons act as both barriers and threads of connection, emphasizing how queer bonds exist within and beyond the constraints of societal expectation.

In this work, I explore how self acceptance is a form of love. The eroticization of myself to myself becomes a way to embrace my queerness. For me, this work is about the spaces we carve out for ourselves and each other—where belonging isn't given but created, where love thrives in its own language, and where being seen is an act of both courage and tenderness.



**AMALYA GRAHAM**



## Closeness in You

The In-between means many things to me, specifically being a pansexual and nonbinary person. I fall in a place where our country's hetero culture doesn't understand. There appear to be these clear markers set by our society of gay or straight, male or female and my identity is both or neither. After moving to Texas I was able to find my queer community. They helped me discover things about myself that I never would have realized on my own. My artwork "Closeness in You" is a collage or memory of myself discovering and accepting my nonbinary identity. The metamorphosis of becoming who I was meant to be all along. The feeling of being seen, the first time my partner used my pronouns. This piece is a love letter to the queer community of Texas. The softness and kindness I received from them. Knowing that they see me and accept me and in return I see them and accept them. The focal point of this piece is a caterpillar going through metamorphosis. This speaks to me in many ways as a queer person in the South. Growing into who I was meant to become and helping my loved ones in their journeys. I also used icon Texas imagery like the monarch butterfly and blue bonnets, found and ethically sourced by me in Texas.

## There Are Universes in You

This piece created in 2023, is an exploration of my newly discovered nonbinary identity. "There Are Universes in You" is made up of three layers. The viewer looks through the clouds and rippled glass revealing the piece's inner mechanism. The three moveable circles, the focal point of the work, calls attention to the different phases or the magical parts of our life. The turning of the inner mechanism is symbolic of a pattern of moments and experiences entering and leaving our lives. The third layer is a mirror bouncing our reflection back to us. Reminding the viewer that they are seen and are still themselves no matter what passes.



ERICKA  
LABORDE



# The Dinner Table

To be queer is to struggle, or so the media says. We wake up, have breakfast, and get ready for work or school. And from the minute we walk out the front door into society, we are put under a microscope as our identities are examined and probed. We are representatives thrown into the fray until we come back home, and the world can forget we ever existed.

This narrative isolates us and wrongly suggests that queer people lose everything to live their truth. But we eat at the dinner table with our families and friends just like any other person. In-between the moments we live in agony are the times we find happiness. The meals I share with my family, at a dinner table that has over the years seen our relationship crackle and calm, are my reminders that I and my existence are loved.



GABRIELA RODRIGUEZ

## Golden Child

"Golden Child" embodies the experience of coming out. Posture is regal with the pride of self-knowing. Legs crossed in timidity. The rainbow emanates beautifully, the figure refracting through the colors.



## Self-Intimacy

"The In-Between" is the intimate space where self-exploration meets self-realization. This series of drawings depicts positions in which I self-soothe — holding my own hand, feeling my own warmth, accepting my own love — showing myself how I can provide the nurturing care that I so craved. The body acts as a symbol of the queer experience; how this marginalized community must bend and console itself in a world that does not treat it as kindly.

## "Hold Your Breath" + "Don't Tell" Diptych

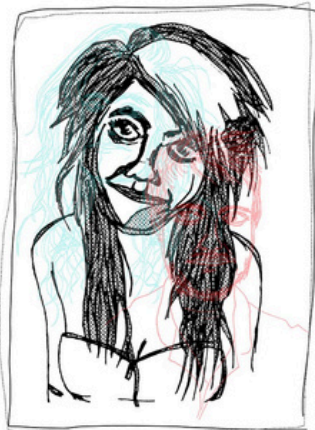
The queer experience can be complicated for those from religious backgrounds. These two pieces, "Hold Your Breath" and "Don't Tell", narrate a story of being in "The In-Between" of a religious childhood home and a queer adulthood reckoning. The water acts as a visual metaphor of floating in "The In-Between."



## COWBOY ROCKY

I have adopted various gender identities and expressions throughout my life. Though I have now transitioned to what feels like the most 'correct' gender and expression, I feel that past versions of me are still in tact, just not front and center. For me, transsexuality has a lot to do with harnessing and chasing the constantly moving target that is desire.

I WENT FROM ONE TO ANOTHER AND NOW I AM WHOLE;  
ONE STEERS THE SHIP AND TWO BALM THE SOUL.



I AM A WO AND A MAN AND SOMETHING ELSE TOO.  
I AM A DYKE AND A FAG AND COMPLETELY ASKEW.

Rocky  
5/14

# Transsexual Triptych



## The Mystery of The Woman and The Beast She Rides

Two women dance, blurred by motion and night, pressing themselves together. They are shimmering, they are glowing. This could be an invitation but if so, for who? What are they celebrating? And whose hand grips the whip?

## Tasting Menu

This painting offers a look into a singular moment of ecstasy; the luxury of sweetness, the decadent softness of cream on her tongue. Her enjoyment and delight in the taste have encapsulated her, placing her outside of time and the oppression of being watched.



**ERIN E FREEMAN**

## Sing Echo

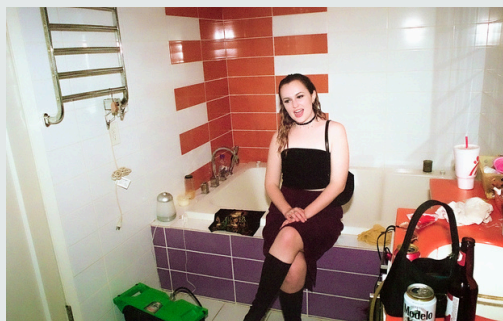
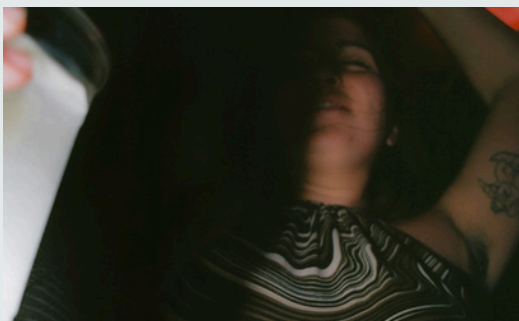
This piece shows a young man surrounded by and perhaps emanating soft colors, haloed in light. He seems to be lost in thought as the intimacy of warm water envelops his soft skin. The bathing, the wine glass, even the pastel hues might feel like traditional feminine prompts. This piece is inspired by the myth of Narcissus, a youth who fell insatiably in love after glimpsing an intoxicatingly beautiful man.





# Claire and Chrissy

This photo was taken at Ladies' Night at Sahara Lounge, which quickly became me and a bunch of my queer girl friends favorite place to dance. This photo is of my friend Claire, a queen of Ladies' Night, dancing away probably to Abba. This night is a monthly ritual for my friends for the eclectic atmosphere of Sahara Lounge and its beautiful diversity. Something hard to find in Austin sometimes. When we go we dance in a circle for hours until they kick us out. This photo is intimate and dynamic in the layers of color, light, and subject. It was taken on sole admiration for Claire and her contagious joy at an intimate angle. It shows who we are in the dark sometimes just needs a light from someone else to shine on.



Getting ready with your girls is the most exciting part of the night. Full of anticipation, gossip, and stress we all get ready for wherever the night takes us. This is my friend Chrissy who I caught mid sentence sitting so nicely and patiently in a trashed bathroom. I couldn't have ever discovered who I was without my friends hyping me up on my outfit before a party. We need people close who make us feel good about ourselves when we want to try something new, and better yet who go do it with us.

JACEY  
HARBIN



## firmament

I love how "The In-Between" theme seems to center around queer community, intimacy and love. I feel those concepts have been especially and consistently relevant in my life as a gay trans man. The three pieces I am submitting in turn seem to follow these three facets of queer belonging- this first piece representing community. I made this first piece as an anniversary gift for my best friend and their partner, who I met through a trans support group when I first came to Austin. We all have been close friends together for the past six years, and have always been there for each other during our best and worst times. My friend's partner has realized more recently that she's trans, while I myself have made milestones in my own transition. I feel that these friends are my chosen family and am so grateful to have known each other through our respective gender journeys.



## dream scene

This second piece centers around sexuality and intimacy as a gay trans man; I was inspired by a dream I had of my partner (at the time) and I, where we were laying naked on a beach together in the sun. It felt so real and calming, everything was white and warm and bright yet fresh. It's not often I've felt that way, so the dream and memory stood out to me. It reminds me that there are moments where I can feel entirely safe and happy with myself and loved ones as a trans man. The background image of the print is a still from gay filmmaker Derek Jarman's film *Sebastiane*, in which there's a montage of two men playing in water and embracing each other. It's another rare moment I wanted to cherish and print-embracing all the sensitivity and gentleness in my identity as a gay trans man.

ANDY  
DEAN

## attrition

This last piece I made in Spring 2023, almost 7 months before I would get top surgery. At the time I didn't know when I would be able to get top surgery; I had worked for years throughout high school and in college to save upwards of \$5000 for my surgery. I lost all of my saved funds to an unexpected financial setback in 2021, and tried to schedule a surgery date in 2022, only to be set back again because I couldn't afford to pay the deposit at the time. By then I had been wanting and working towards surgery for almost 9 years, and was feeling utterly defeated. I knew though that in order to get surgery though, I would have to continue no matter what. I would have to make peace with myself pre-surgery, I would have to keep working to afford my surgery, and I would just have to keep surviving until I got to that surgery. This piece embodies the height of my feelings of both helplessness and hopefulness in my transition, two feelings I often felt simultaneously.



# Southern Live Oak Hammock



**ESSIE SOMMA**

My current body of work helps me navigate the world. After moving home to a small island off North Carolina, I found myself scared to leave the house, wary of running into locals who proudly support the current administration. I'd spent nine summers waitressing and bartending at a local restaurant, where I was harassed by customers and employees alike. Despite being female-run, the environment was hostile—and I was told to lighten up when I pushed back.

I've never felt at home here, yet I've found one in the community of others who never fit the mold. Together we grow, resist, and reclaim our power. Sometimes, fighting back means stepping away from what harms you.

On a walk, I read a plaque about how freshwater plants are protected by surrounding trees—a metaphor for resilient Southern communities that thrive despite stereotypes. My piece, Southern Live Oak Hammock, depicts platonic love, shelter, and interconnectedness. Native plants symbolize our growth, and fragmented figures ask what we give and take in relationships.

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

## **HANNAH MATTHIA X COLIN JENKINS — PAGE 2**

Hannah Matthia (she/hers) and Colin Jenkins (they/theirs) are a couple of goobers living in Austin. Hannah is a pillar of the local figure drawing community as well as an employee and student at Atelier Dojo. Colin is an accomplished musician and master doodler who has leaned into their visual art in recent months. We are very much in love. This is our first collab.

## **GARRETT SKUPINSKI — PAGE 4**

Garrett Skupinski (they/theirs) is located in Austin, Texas and grew up in New Hudson, MI. They recently finished a 15 year career in floral and botanicals design that took them throughout North America and Europe as in house designer, freelance designer then a Team USA designer. They've placed individual bronze in international competitions and multiple top 5 in team competitions. That career ended with the development of a chronic illness that luckily opened their world to exploring and embarrassing more artistic endeavors such as upcycled botanical sculptures and designs.

## **REWON SHIMRAY — PAGE 13**

Rewon Shimray (she/her) is a native Austinite and biethnic Asian American who processes her cultural and queer identity through autobiographical paintings. Her compositions blend childhood photographs, popular iconography, and cultural artifacts to narrate her upbringing in predominant white and Christian fundamentalist spaces. Rewon's paintings offer a site of contemplation, recognition, and connection. She earned a BA in Journalism with minors in religion and studio art from Baylor University in 2020. Rewon has exhibited work in over a dozen Austin galleries, including her debut solo exhibition in May 2023, titled "SPLIT: Portraits of the AAPI Diaspora." She is passionate about building communities through art, investing her time in the Austin art community as a freelance art educator, full-time graphic designer, and an artist-in-residence with Future Front Texas.

## **COWBOY ROCKY — PAGE 14**

Cowboy Rocky (they/he) creates visual art about transsexuality, millennials, mental illness, drugs, the American Southwest, U.S. politics, and whatever the Internet's collective psyche is internalizing at the moment.

## **ERIN E FREEMAN — PAGE 15**

Erin E Freeman (she/her) is a self taught multidisciplinary artist living and working in Austin, TX. She's spent time pursuing a variety of creative endeavors, including costume design, abstraction, and others outside the realm of visual arts.

## **MARINA SPELL — PAGE 1**

Marina Spell (she/her) is a multimedia visual artist living in South East Texas. She has been creating since before she can remember and she travels often to better understand herself and inspire her artwork. Her mediums include oil paint, graphite, color pencil, and tattooing.

## **GERARDO ENRIQUE GOMEZ — PAGE 5**

Gerardo Enrique Gomez (he/they) was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas, ever since his mother introduced him to painting and drawing preceding elementary school, he has always kept art as a practice in his life. He has a BFA in Drawing from Texas State University, but courses in painting awakened him to the language he was able to speak through intentional brushstrokes and vibrant colors on a large scale. He lived in Brooklyn, New York for two and-a-half years following undergrad and relocated back to Texas to pursue his MFA. He has been showing his artwork here in Austin for the past 3 years and made many friends and connections within the community!

## **SHELBY CRISWELL — PAGE 3**

Shelby Criswell (they/them) is a San Antonio artist, illustrator, graphic designer, and amateur banjo player. They have won Ignatz and Ringo awards for their work in the comic anthology, BE GAY DO COMICS. They also wrote QUEER AS ALL GET OUT and illustrated TERMINAL PUNKS and HEEBIE JEEBIES. Shelby's current studio work focuses on being mindful and finding peace in a scary world by combining quilt patterns with plein air painting.

## **JACEY HARBIN — PAGE 16**

Jacey Harbin (she/her) is a photographer based in Texas. She specializes in analog and documentary photography. Jacey's work began in capturing live music in the DIY scene and expanded to capturing the intimacy in all of life. Her work is driven by the serendipity of life unfolding as a young girl in Texas, and it embraces imperfection and the universe's natural order of things.

## **ETHAN ISAIAH — PAGE 6**

Ethan Isaiah (he/his) is 24 and lives in Riverside, Austin TX. He is originally from Somerset, TX but moved here in 2018 to study history at UT. He left school before completing his program so he could work and help support his family back home. He is mostly self taught but he made connections with incredible artists who eventually became his mentors. He will often paint/draw while hanging out with his friends or when he wanders around the city. Art on the go excites him and he tends to work from observation or memory because he loves the spontaneity of it. He gets a kick out of how light on an object can change from one second to another. He doesn't really like to spend too much time on anything unless he feels particularly drawn to an idea and he often changes his mind rapidly. Obsessing on one thing for short period of time then moving on to the next.

#### **ERICKA LABORDE — PAGE 11**

Ericka Laborde (they/them) was born in Texas, spent their childhood in Louisiana, then moved back to Texas in 2018. They graduated with a degree in Art Education from the University of Louisiana. Ericka has created art their whole life for escapism and comfort, seeking out community through art websites. This journey has brought about Sappy Go Lucky, an eco-conscious brand, inspired by their love of nature and sustainability. Despite the current trends of disposability and newness, Ericka focuses on slowness and intentionality with every piece they make. This entails creating art with as much secondhand or repurposed materials as possible. Their medium of choice right now is stained glass, using all previously owned and secondhand glass. Ericka finds inspiration in nostalgia, nature, and their queer community. They make themselves visible so that other people can know they're not alone.

#### **BEN SODERBERG — PAGE 8**

Ben (he/him/his) is a 23 year old transgender artist from Tomball, TX who has been making mixed media work about his transition since he was 13. He primarily works with photography and textiles to create sculptural photos that illustrate his experiences with gender and queer community. Ben also frequently works with alternative print making techniques as well as painting and drawing. He now lives and works in San Marcos, TX and is working towards a BFA in photography at Texas State.

#### **AMALYA GRAHAM — PAGE 10**

Amalya Graham (she/they/he) is a painter, photographer, and printmaker based in Austin, TX. Their work has been exhibited in galleries across Texas, including in Austin and Dallas. As a print fellow at Austin's only Risograph printing lab, they explore the intersection of traditional and experimental print techniques. Passionate about DIY art spaces, they have curated exhibitions showcasing both their own work and that of their peers. They also intern with Shedshows and have volunteered at The Contemporary, contributing to Austin's vibrant arts community.

#### **VINCENT YANNICELLI — PAGE 9**

Vincent Yannicelli (he/him) is a San Antonio-based artist, originally from California and Washington state. He has shown in only a couple shows including the Old School Makerspace in San Antonio and The Museum of the Pacific War. He works mostly in acrylic and watercolor, but is looking to expand into other paint mediums and into sculpture. Along with creating art in his personal time, he has also done historic-based painting demonstrations at the Alamo and The Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture while working as a Living Historian. He graduated with a Bachelors degree in Creative Writing with a Focus on Poetry from San Francisco State University and completed a Masters degree in Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins University. He is very lucky to have been able to utilize his studies of Creative Writing and Museum Studies, and his love of creating and studying art, to find ways of engaging and educating visitors to San Antonio.

#### **ESSIE SOMMA — PAGE 18**

Essie Somma's (she/her) work explores themes of identity, introspection, and environments. Each piece represents a fragment of personal and collective experience, inviting viewers to delve into a world where reality merges with the abstract and symbolic. Combined multi-dimensional renderings foster a sense of disassociation and transformation, evoking tensions between confinement and freedom, tradition and modernity. Somma has completed residencies at NES Artist Residency, Rimbun Dahan, Huerto Roma Verde, and Space A Nepal. She's exhibited across the United States, Nepal, Iceland, and Malaysia, and was the first non-resident American artist to exhibit at Treasure Hill Artist Village in Taipei. She began traveling after working as a project coordinator for the Elisabeth Jones Art Center in Portland, Oregon. She received her BA in fine art from the University of California Santa Barbara and attended Sotheby's Institute of Art in London to study art marketing, business, and history. Essie now lives near her home town on the coast of North Carolina where she's researching and using painting to imagine Southern American culture outside patriarchal parameters.

#### **DANIELA RIVERO — PAGE 7**

Daniela Rivero (they/them) is a queer Mexican artist, herbalist, educator, and espiritista. Located in the northeast, they inhabit the wetlands and woods that raised them, and the homes and couches of their queer friends and chosen family. They recently completed a residency with Atina Catskill, where they birthed Mugwort Medicine Dreamlab, a creative studio and ceremonial space for engaging with the grandmother medicine of Mugwort (Artemisia Vulgaris).

#### **ANDY DEAN — PAGE 17**

Andy Dean (he/his) is an Austin-based printmaker and artist. He received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin, with a double major in Art History and studio art. He served as manager of the University of Texas Riso Room from 2021 to 2023, a digital print lab specializing in mass multicolor printing and zine production. He has had work shown at galleries such as Icosa Collective and Flatbed Press. Andy's work merges printmaking with textiles, two mediums he values for their physically intimate processes. He seeks to archive and celebrate his existence as a gay transsexual man, focusing on themes of sexuality, religion, and home in his work.

#### **GABRIELA RODRIGUEZ — PAGE 12**

Gabriela Rodriguez (she/her) is a Mexican-Filipino artist based in the Rio Grande Valley and Austin, TX. She primarily works in digital and acrylics, using these mediums to explore the colorful dialogue between the real and the surreal. Her work has been displayed at the International Museum of Art and Science with Hinovations Art Gallery hosting her first solo show, "In Love With Everything." She is currently pursuing a BFA in Studio Art at the University of Texas at Austin.

# LIMINAL

1: OF, RELATING TO, OR SITUATED AT A SENSORY THRESHOLD : BARELY PERCEPTIBLE OR CAPABLE OF ELICITING A RESPONSE.

2: OF, RELATING TO, OR BEING AN INTERMEDIATE STATE, PHASE, OR CONDITION : IN-BETWEEN, TRANSITIONAL.

THE  
GALLERY  
ATX