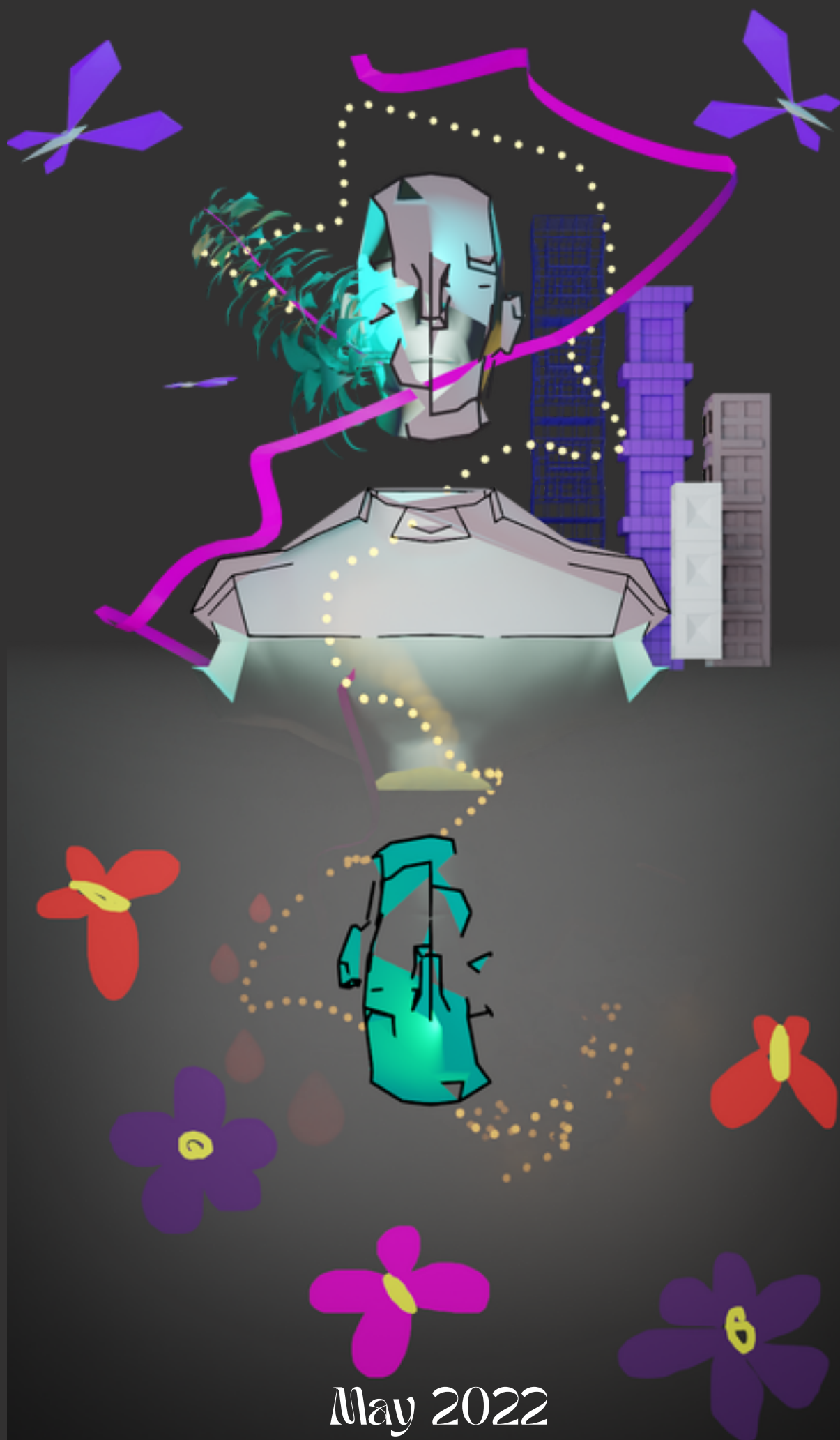


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May 2022

NATURES WAY

A person is shaped by those who they care for
Relationships are flourishing butterflies, and therefore
Bonding and laughter must be the leaf
Upon which the swiftly growing caterpillar feasts
However, some relationships may resemble a moth
Who circle the candescent moon, or so they thought
For the moon is nothing but a candle in disguise
Holding the moth captive with their beautiful lies
Hobbies and passions emerge around one's fickle mind
Like a blank stone wall enveloped in ivy vines
But habits gather gradually, like soft blankets of dust
Settling on a decaying flower bed, overgrown with
moss
Humanity is in perpetual motion, change is but our
essence
We're fireflies, known for our consistent luminescence
And we come to a conclusion as this poem draws to an
end
Nobody is so static as to never change again

– Aisshu Fadia.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

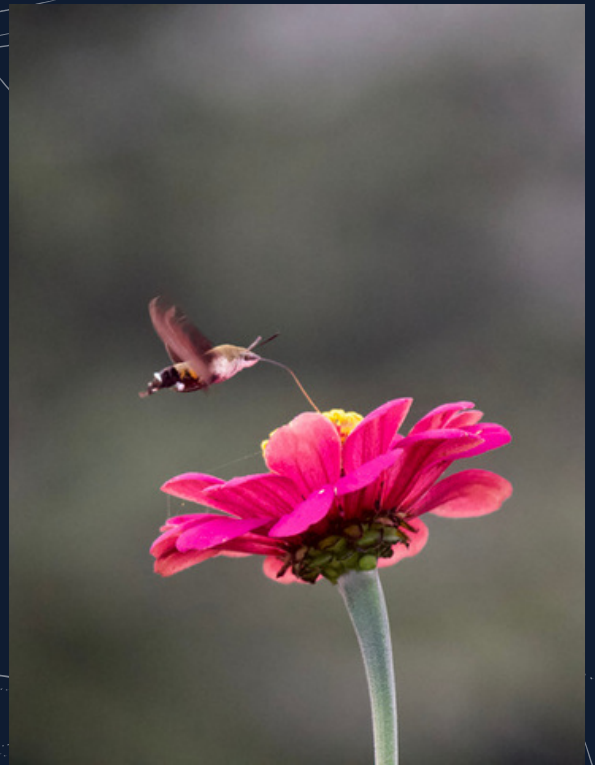
If you cannot keep up, or cannot be the best at what you do,
Then continuity is onerous, one must bid adieu,
When it comes to the world, animals and humans alike,
Survival of the fittest is in accordance with reality belike,

Evolution as an individual shapes our lives,
If succeeds an organism then it thrives,
A world where there was no change,
Would be very honestly quite strange

Because how would we make
progress,
Without some individuals who
wished to digress,
All these intellectuals, with their
ideas spread far and wide,
For future advancement provide
many a guide,

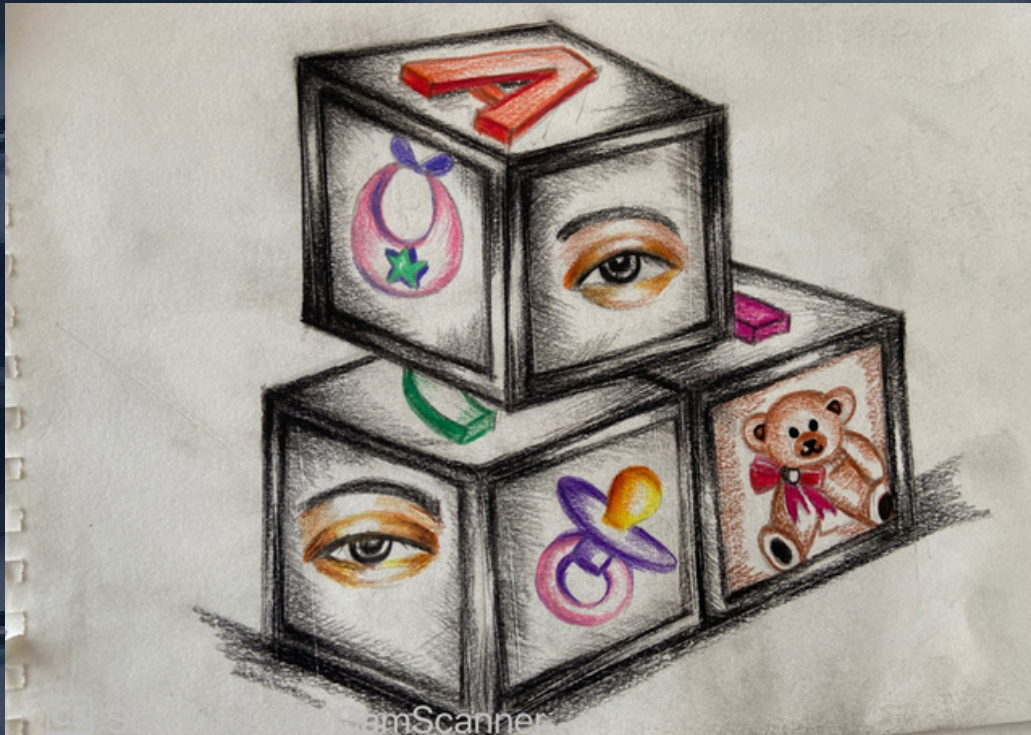
Correspondingly, wouldn't you
agree,
That progression and development
are key,
To a life well-led and satisfaction,
Oh, yes, the conventional direction.

- Ria Chawla



Photograph by Rihaan Bhansali

GROWING OLDER



Artwork by Pranaaya Jhaveri

A sight of fright for some.
For as you pass through your life,
you travel through stages succumb by one.
But as you strive on a journey through being,
you strive through
infant, as parents call you just a bundle.
school kid, as you lark around.
lover, as you have just one aim.
soldier, as you combat life's challenges.
judge, as you magistrate your decisions.
married life, as you move towards conjugal.
serious life, as you open a window right to your entity.
old age, as you reach out to your inner child.

– Kiana Fernandez

NO PAIN NO GAIN

December 16th 2021. A day forever entrenched in my mind. The day I appeared for my IGCSE PE weight training exam. I had spent the last 1.5 years waking up early on Fridays, lifting until my muscles gave out, and then forcing my sore body to join registration. All those training schedules, protein shakes and extensive muscle infographics had come down to today. I was ready.

As I got ready to leave for school, I suddenly felt a sharp pain in my knee. I took another step, and I felt a surge of pain – I couldn't put any weight on my leg. My mind flashed back to two years ago, where I injured my knee in the exact same place. I was incapacitated for 6 months, after which I spent 6 more in physiotherapy. For someone obsessed with basketball, it was torture.

But I had recovered, hadn't I? Why was this happening today, of all days? I packed a leg brace and got into the car, fighting tears. I prepared myself for the worst. I couldn't miss this exam. But when I reached school and saw 9 of my nervous friends, I realized I wasn't alone. We were doing this together. In a surreal moment, the pain faded away into oblivion.

I box jumped 42 inches that day (a personal best!). The lesson I learned is that ghosts from our past will keep appearing from time to time. Our mistakes, regrets and fears. But we need to learn how to overcome them. We need to move forward.

And grow.

– Entropiccloud

THE BATMAN

A WHOLEHEARTED FILM TRYING ITS VERY BEST
TO OUTDO ITS PREDECESSOR.

A gripping tale of a masked vigilante fighting crime in a somewhat forlorn city, Matt Reeves' latest film *The Batman* is the perfect definition of what you would call dark and dingy. Lurking in the shadows of its predecessor, the *Dark Knight Trilogy*, the film brings to stage a completely revamped version of Batman – vulnerable, persistent and troubled by his surroundings. We see a more mature individual, too, in Robert Pattinson's portrayal of the Batman, now in his second year of defending Gotham from its corrupt and malicious habitants. Throughout the film, the protagonist seems to be undergoing a turbulent internal conflict, in the form of a recurring question – to be or not to be? To take on his family's legacy and be part of Gotham's elite (the majority of whom are corrupt), or to renounce them and root out corruption in a city rotten to the core.

The dark and gloomy atmosphere depicted in the film excellently compliments the underlying theme of the movie – oppression. The main antagonist of this film, *The Riddler* (Paul Dano), is a much more refined version of his 1995 counterpart, Jim Carey's wacky yet devious character.

The Riddler seems to be perennially one step ahead of Batman through almost the entirety of the film, striking a great contrast between '*The Batman*' and most superhero films.



Artwork by Richa Jindal

Instead of a typical superhero flick, Reeves' neo-noir detective mystery attempts to delve deeper into societal and psychological issues. We see a very self-centred man in the Batman who is slowly familiarizing himself with the concept of teamwork in order to achieve his desired purpose.

Supporting characters Selina Kyle (Zoe Kravitz) and Carmine Falcone (John Turturro) are excellent in their representation of determined citizens of Gotham (one determined to avenge the death of her friend and the other to expand his empire as a mob boss in Gotham). Colin Farrell's depiction of the Penguin displays his adaptability as well as his agreement to step out of his comfort zone if necessary. His character acts as the bridge in a film, creating a link between the many events simultaneously taking place, while also providing occasional comic relief.

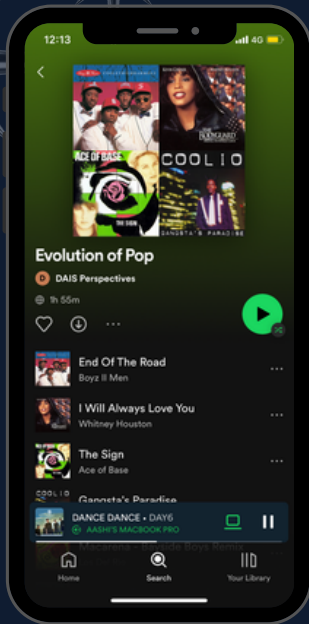
All and all, The Batman is a very well-made film that comes as a relief for Batman fans after 11 long years of waiting. While it may not be able to live up to the Dark Knight, it is surely a film that subtly highlights the themes of growth and change in a character once known to be very conventional and one-dimensional in nature.

– Vikram Karra

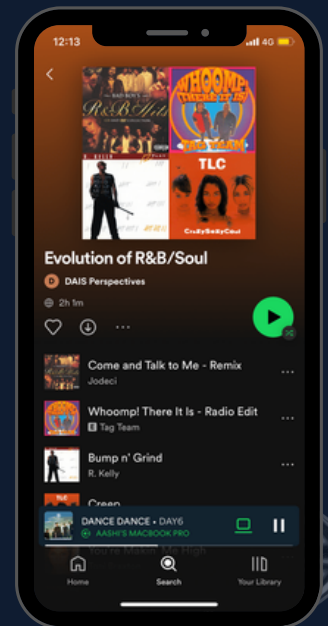
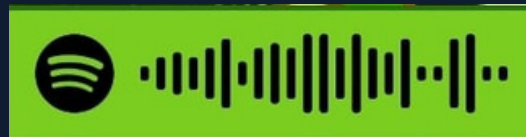


Artwork by Richa Jindal

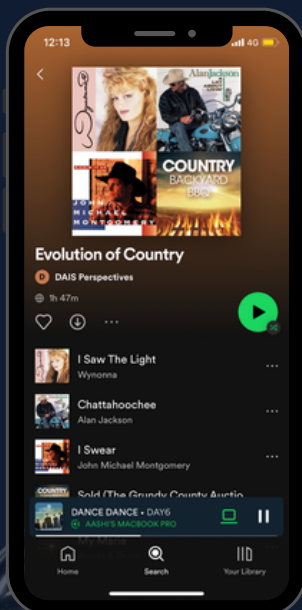
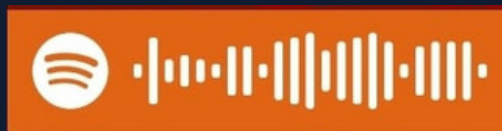
SOUND ON



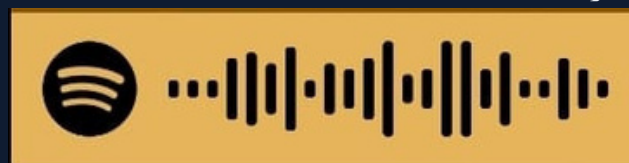
Evolution of Pop



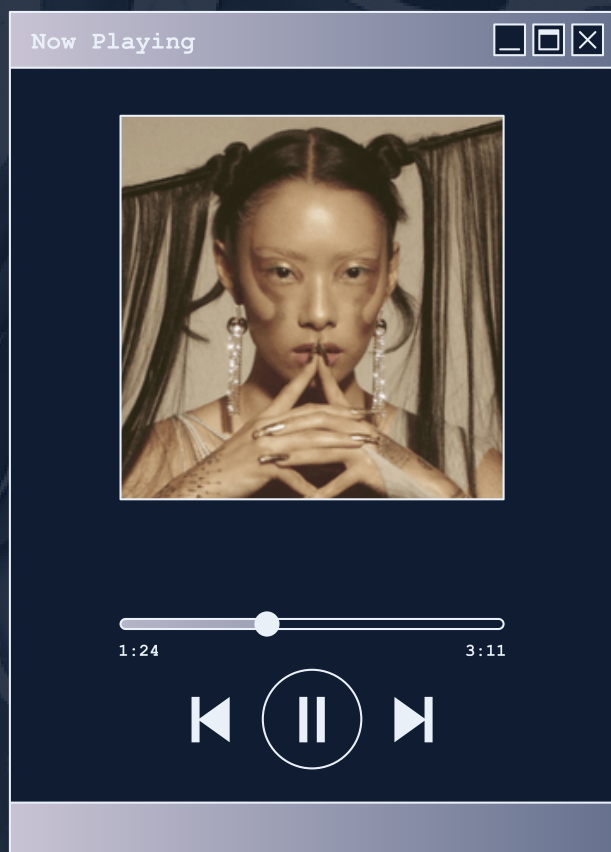
Evolution of R&B



Evolution of Country



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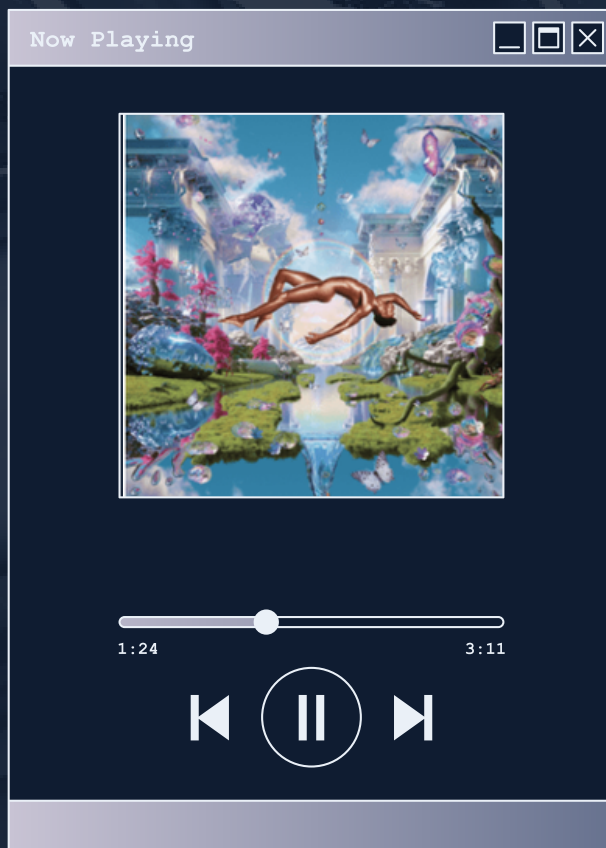
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sawayama>

SAWAYAMA (2020)

SAWAYAMA, Japanese-British musician Rina Sawayama's debut album, is at its core a collection of stories about growth—personal, political and social. Tracks like Dynasty, Bad Friend and Chosen Family feature her growth as a person, through generational trauma, insecurity and into finding a sense of community. XS, one of the most popular songs on the album, covers themes like consumerism and environmental decay. This album is incredibly diverse, displaying Sawayama's unique ability to discuss complex personal and social growth in carefully crafted songs. And the cherry on top of the cake is this album's production—which can only be described as incredibly distinctive and futuristic, and hopefully, the future of pop production.

MONTERO (2021)

When he burst into the music industry in 2019 with his hit single Old Town Road, Montero Lamar Hill, known by his stage name Lil Nas X was far from being taken seriously, and was considered more of a meme than a real artist. He truly did prove critics wrong with his debut album, Montero, a touching autobiographical take on the music industry and how Hill hopes to navigate it in the future. He celebrates his current victories in Industry Baby, but doesn't shy away from vulnerability, addressing his fears of being a one-hit wonder in Am I Dreaming?. With an extraordinary collaboration list ranging from upcoming artist Jack Harlow to industry legend Elton John, the album defines Hill as an artist who will grow to become an invaluable part of the music industry very soon.



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montero_\(album\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montero_(album))

THE LION KING

The Lion King, a coming of age Disney film, uses marvelous animation to present the development of Simba, a lion cub, through hardships in life. The movie zooms into the life of Simba, who faces a terrible tragedy which causes him to run away from his family. He exiles himself due to the burden of being responsible for his father's death and finds love and friendships in the corners of the forest. Over the plot, he learns to move on from loss, shoulder responsibility, and become a strong leader without parental guidance. The movie conveys impressive growth upon discovering one's true identity and purpose.

WAKE UP SID

Directorial debut for Ayan Mukherji, known for 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani,' this Ranbir Kapoor starrer is a coming of age romantic comedy set in Mumbai. The movie revolves around lovestruck Sid Mehra, an incompetent, spoiled college boy who wastes his time and parents' money. For love, he explores avenues of life he had never dealt with before to grow into the man that his parents always wanted him to be. He learns how to make a living for himself and grows into a photographer who is both content and successful. Culminating with a cheesy Bollywood rain scene, this was the movie that shot one of the contemporary greats to stardom and teaches the audience how important independence and self-belief are.

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ROCKET BOYS

Rocket Boys, a web series, reflects India's quest to become self-sufficient and self-reliant while presenting the journey of India's space research. The show captures the countless experiments performed by Homi Jehangir Bhabha and Vikram Sarabhai as they strive for excellence to achieve their dreams and ambitions as well as gain acceptance within society. Rocket Boys, depicts Homi and Vikram moving on from conflicts and helping each other grow in their respective fields to overall leave a striking legacy in Indian history.

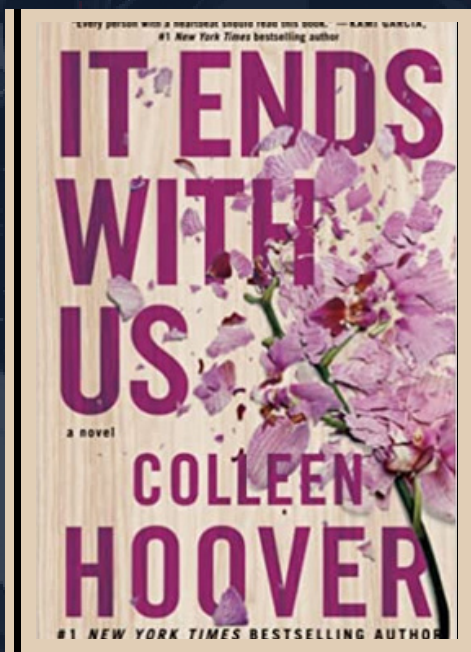
MODERN FAMILY

The template of a family sitcom, Modern Family is a criminally underrated show that only just concluded its final season. It revolves around the large family of the Pritchett – Dunphy – Tuckers, consisting of a couple with a major age gap, a homosexual couple, adoptive babies, foreigners, you name it. As the seasons progress, the viewers become one with the cast and grow along with them. As young Luke goes through the phases of puberty, or as Manny moves away to college, the comical mechanisms of their family are something that every viewer can relate to. This inclusive show makes sure nobody is left out and raises the bar of humour with each season.

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JUST ONE MORE PAGE



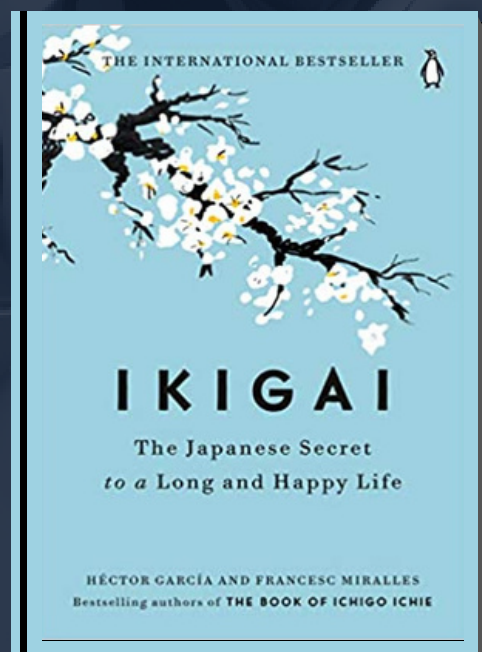
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/27276318-it-ends-with-us>

It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover

'It Ends With Us' depicts a woman's struggle to break the cycle of abuse and grow to establish security and explore love again. It is a tearjerker that evokes a blend of emotions by describing the protagonist, Lily's past and her navigation towards her goals. The book presents the social issue through an unbiased perspective and details the journey of growth and independence. Colleen Hoover, beautifully conveys how one overcomes the differences in relationships and achieves one's dreams by grave determination. The book encompasses humorous and intimate day-to-day life that touch the reader's hearts.

'Ikigai' by Hector Garcia and Francesc Miralles

Ikigai is the reason readers get up every morning. A combination of passion, mission, vocation and profession forms our ikigai. This Japanese concept birthed in the island of Okinawa, home to the most centenarians in the world, has become a very famous one. This book explores the different behavioural alterations one can and should make to find their ikigai, and by extension, the key to a longer life. May it be changes in diet or the people we surround ourselves with, the book provides insights from experts and diverse case studies to urge readers to adopt a better lifestyle. It helps us understand the importance of our health, and grow mentally, while keeping ourselves physically active.



<https://www.amazon.com/Ikigai-Japanese-Secret-Long-Happy/dp/0143130722>

INTERVIEW

1. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Graduating from a really good university and pursuing my dreams of stand up comedy, engineering, and law, as well as working towards expanding my startup! – Jiwanshi Shah

Unemployed, probably. Everyone told me to follow my passion but maybe my passion should have been making money. – Aaryan Jagtap

Working a job, hopefully – Malvika Murkumbi

2. What's been the biggest change in your life recently?

Moving to this school! It was a slightly overwhelming experience, and I had to adapt to a new set of challenges, but it's really important for me to step out of my comfort zone, make new friends. – Jiwanshi Shah

I've been learning how to knit! I'm still quite an amateur, but I'm slowly working on getting better, and it's super fun! – Malvika Murkumbi

3. What do you regard as a milestone, or turning point, in your life?

My sister going away to college. This was really intimidating for me at first, but I got used to navigating my life independently. I really miss her, but having her move away was also an important aspect of my personal growth. – Aashi Mehta

Joining the FTC in 8th grade, which was the beginning of my journey in Robotics. It was the gateway to me exploring a lot of other STEM applications and figure out what I want from my future! – Aryaa Rojekar

4. How has the reopening of school progressed in terms of rules and regulations covid wise?

I think they've been a lot more lenient than I expected, especially with getting rid of masks. COVID protocols have eased out so much and become a part of our routine to the point that having a stick stuck up my nose is second nature for me now. – Vivaan Turakhia

I'm really happy that our school has been regularly testing us and doing everything it can to stop the spread. It makes me feel really safe! – Aryaa Rojekar

5. What excites/scares you the most about graduating next year?

Being independent and self reliant excited me the most, I also really appreciate the opportunity to take control of my learning process to explore what I care about a lot, which is Sociology. – Aashna Parikh

Having to deal with my own finances, and actually stand on my own feet. School and family are like a shelter, so stepping into the real world seems daunting, but exciting! – Aaryan Jagtap

6. Has our school community grown in any way over the last years?

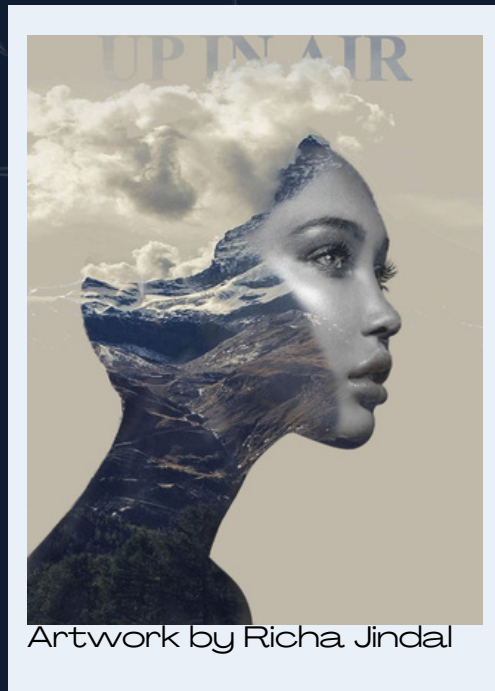
I think the school community is constantly evolving every year. But personally, I strongly feel that since the reopening of school full-time, no student, especially in high school, has been taking for granted the time they spend here. Our school community is grateful to be back and it can be seen. I see it every morning, the excitement and the big smiles adorning everyone's faces as they enter. I also feel like we as a community are taking steps in the right direction to be a lot more open in regards to discussions and expressing our feelings, and I hope that we stay on the right path and see more progress in this area soon. – Sanaa Beriwalla

TECHNOLOGICAL GENIUS OR REPACKAGED COLONISATION?

Over the last 7 years, camera filters have taken social media by storm. When Snapchat introduced their 'Lenses' feature in 2015, teenagers and adults across the world were enamoured by the ease with which they could transform themselves into puppies, rainbow-spitting leprechauns, and fairies, with the touch of a button. In fact, I can guarantee that every teenager and young adult has at least one remnant of this era on their camera roll—and it is most definitely a baby-faced selfie with the flower crown filter.

Instagram soon followed suit, introducing their own filters in 2017. Around this time, the popularity of more bizarre filters like the quintessential puppy filter and the flower crown filter began to falter, and a wave of semi-realistic, subtler filters took over. These are arguably technological marvels in their ability to subtly enhance facial features, but the insidious side of this growing trend cannot be ignored.

I mentioned earlier that these subtle filters 'enhanced' the user's facial features, but what does this actually entail? Often, it translates to lightening the user's skin tone and eye colour, shrinking or narrowing their nose, and sharpening their cheekbones and jawline—essentially, it means conforming to Western beauty standards.



Artwork by Richa Jindal

It might be an exaggeration to call this a new form of colonisation—after all, I'm sure the artists behind these filters aren't trying to reinforce harmful beauty standards. These Western standards are just what is generally accepted as 'beautiful' and 'aesthetically pleasing'.

Oddly, social media markets itself as a place for positivity, and a huge part of that is body positivity.

Models, actors and influencers are becoming increasingly transparent about body modification procedures (both digital and surgical) that they undergo, reducing unrealistic body expectations significantly. On the other hand, these filters are incredibly regressive for the body positivity movement, subtly imbibing in teenagers that this is how they must look—smooth-skinned, with a petite nose, and a sharp jawline.

And so there's no denying that these filters are doing significant harm. So many teenagers using Instagram take pictures through the app directly, often donning these filters as a habit. This has sinister implications for self-image—in fact many experts are now asking if these filters could lead to a growing trend in body dysmorphia in teens, and I truly believe that they actively are doing so.

In what direction are we going? Are we sacrificing cultural decolonisation for technological growth?

By Malvika Murkumbi

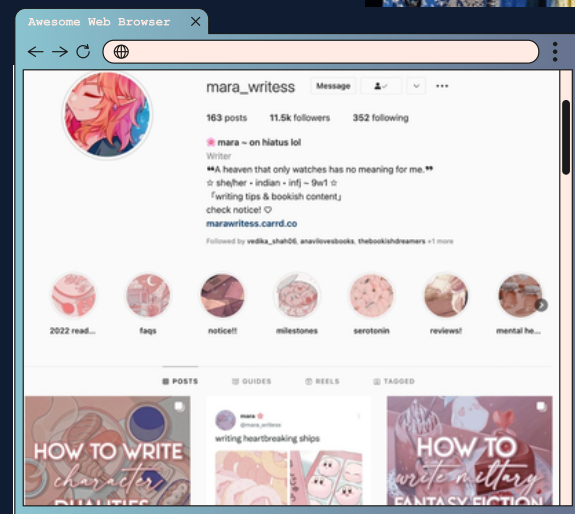
TALENT PAGE

Aamanya Sejpal – Year 10



What inspired you to start this page?

I started the page in July 2020 in the middle of the lockdown. It was a spur-of-the-moment decision that somehow made my life so much better. I don't think there was a single 'definite' source of inspiration: I wanted a platform to talk about my writing and hobbies, so I created it. It was definitely kind of scary, but having your friends support you and hype your account up to get it started definitely gave me the motivation to take that 'jump.'



@mara_writess

What kind of content do you make?

As a writing page, and someone who personally has a lot of experience writing, I try to offer advice to those just starting out or stuck on a certain aspect of writing. I have to design an aesthetic 'theme', post covers, outros, and naturally write the actual advice itself! The page also has book recommendation reels, memes and posts appreciating other members of the writing community.

How did you manage to grow your page so much?

I was one of the lucky people whose pages went viral! I got more than a million views on a reel I posted and gained about 10,000 followers as a result. Before going 'viral' I had about 1000 followers I gained simply from having interactive and engaging content – but when one of the reels I made went viral, it was incredible (and scary)! Reels are Instagram's favorite child – if you have a platform, definitely experiment with them: you never know what might happen.

TALENT PAGE

Niharika Naik - Year 11

Youtube: niharikanaik9

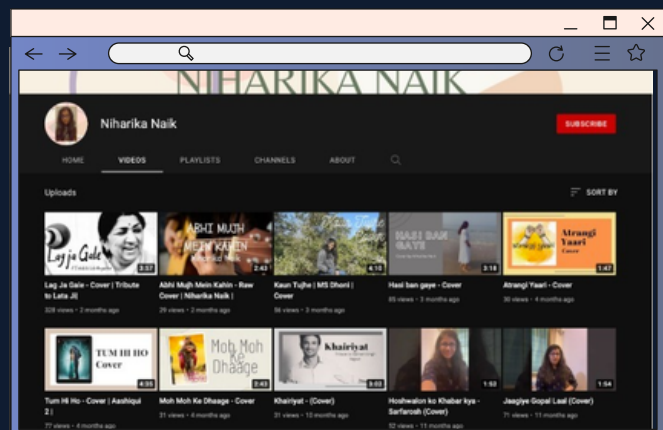


Since when have you been singing?

I have been singing since I was about 3 years old. Even at such an early age, I used to thoroughly enjoy listening to and humming along with songs. However, I only started proper, professional training after I turned 5. So, I have been learning and practicing music for 12 years now.

When did you decide to showcase your talent to the world?
What sparked this decision?

I started my YouTube channel back in 2017. At that time, it was merely something to flaunt among friends and have fun with. But recently I have begun to take it more seriously. I have been posting more regularly and am now completely in charge of the channel. I think this sudden interest in growing my YouTube channel came from the fact that it was a way for me to share my skill and talent with others.



Also, from past experience, I knew that my music made people happy, so I figured why not share it with a bigger crowd

How has music helped you develop as a person?

I can confidently say that music has played a very significant role in my personal development. It has become such a significant aspect of my personality and individuality, that I would probably feel incomplete or uncomfortable in its absence. For me, music is a means to spread joy and happiness, a means of communicating unspoken feelings. Singing uplifts my spirit and allows me to express my feelings. It enhances my mood, reduces stress levels, and sometimes even motivates me to get work done.

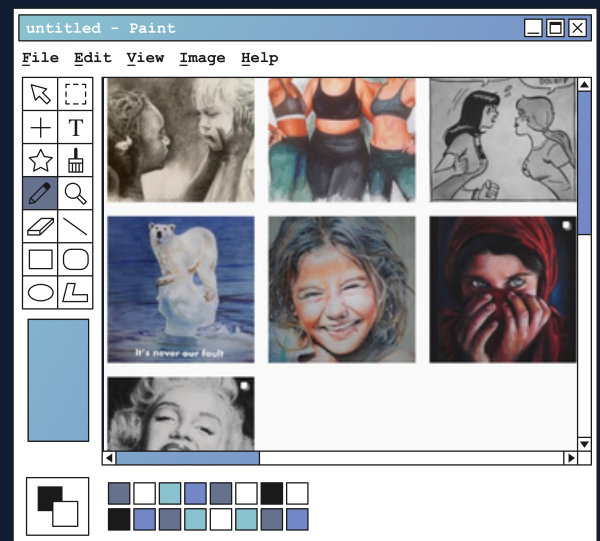
TALENT PAGE

Anika Singi - Year 11



When did you start developing an interest in art and what encouraged you to share your art?

I started doing art in grade 8th and took up IGCSE art to explore my passion. I thoroughly enjoyed learning about various art forms, styles and mediums. Art, for me, helps transport the audience to a world created by my imagination. My art encompasses my creativity and stances on different topics. To share my ideas and advocate for various subjects, I decided to start an Instagram page on which I shared my art.



@anika.singi

What does your art represent?

I started the Instagram page in 2021 to advocate for issues regarding pollution, gender equality and body image. I believe by sharing my art I can help spread messages regarding ways to help improve society and the environment. My art represents that inspiration and dedication are the keys to achieving change and promoting awareness about urgent topics.

How has art helped you develop as a person?

Art has helped me expand my capabilities and step outside of my comfort zone to better express myself and gain the courage to advocate for ideas I believe in. It also helps me relax and become patient as the entire journey of making an artwork is a learning process. It has helped me understand that one's creativity is not limited to one's abilities but can be expanded by viewing life through different lenses.

EPILOGUE

When plants grow, they grow in search of survival. Their stems soar in search of sunlight and their roots spread in search of water and minerals, securing the foundation of the plant in the soil. It's nice to think about how we grow in similar ways—desperately seeking to secure our place, our foundation, in the world, trying to search for light, for meaning.

Growing can be daunting. A plant can grow in a little greenhouse box until it can't anymore, when its roots touch the bottom and its leaves brush the top. Eventually, to grow, the plant must let go of its comfortable glass box and enter the real world, exposed to wind and dust and poison and all kinds of predators. Growth can feel like that too—letting go of your safe space and stepping into a world filled with threats and fears.

What growth is not is the quality of success that endeavor has. That, literally, is success. Growth is about taking that calculated risk to try something new despite being vulnerable and putting yourself out there. A sapling can feast off its resources for only so long before it must spread its leaves wide, face the sun, and create its own. There may be an eclipse, a drought, or floods. That doesn't matter. Growth isn't just a measure of success, it's about the attempt.

This is what we've tried to do over the last three issues—we've stretched past our comfort zones and grown into unfamiliar space. We've explored the untold and the familiar, the past and the future. We've tested out new material like the anonymous section, the STEM section, the confessions page, while paying homage to the Perspectives' past—through satire, polls and interviews. We hope you've enjoyed the three issues we've put out, because through them we've truly and genuinely grown.

CREDITS

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