

pearl press



# ISSUE NO. 7: UNORTHODOX

September 2021

This issue of Pearl Press features work from:

Stephanie Taiber

Armando Zamora

Edward Gia

Alvin Ng

Ariella Gibson

Megan Hill

Sam Light

Kira Walz

Brian Lau

M. Apparition

Kailyn Hooley

Emily Mueller

Jenica Heintzelman

Cover image: Armando Zamora

Curated by: Delilah Twersky

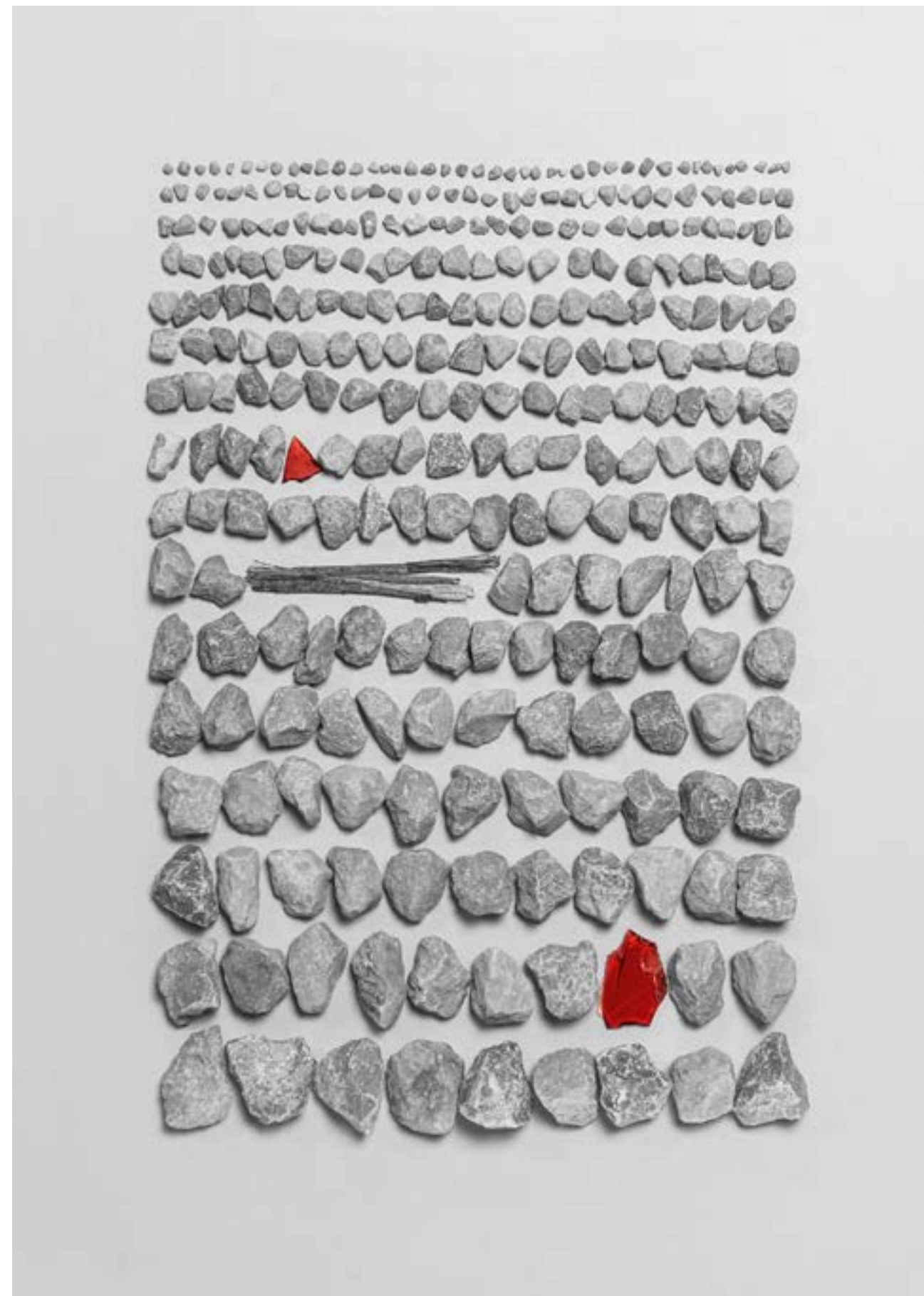




Frost Boil: Stephanie Taiber



is that all there is?: Armando Zamora



Solid Objects: Stephanie Taiber





que esta luz sea tu guía, 2021: Edward Gia



Mary, Mother of Jesus, 2020: Edward Gia



It is both formless and eternal like water,  
temperamental like the wind,  
the light that guides with clarity but yet, blinding.  
The darkness that is both foreboding and intriguing,  
the warm presence of a lover in a stranger.

Samsāra: Alvin Ng





is that all there is?: Armando Zamora



Pleasure Me This: Ariella Gibson





A New World, 2019: Edward Gia



# CHANGELING

She has a dead chicken in Her freezer,  
feathers not plucked.  
I didn't mean to look  
but I was seeking relief  
as I sweat in Her attic with the window open  
and the Passersby gawks.

And He sees my nakedness  
And I stare back at Him  
And My flesh feels heavy.

She brings me breakfast in the morning.  
I do not know these strange fruits;  
they grow on the street - but She tells me  
to not pluck them and eat them  
they are dirty  
they must be washed.  
the juice of the clean fruit  
runs down My quiet lips.

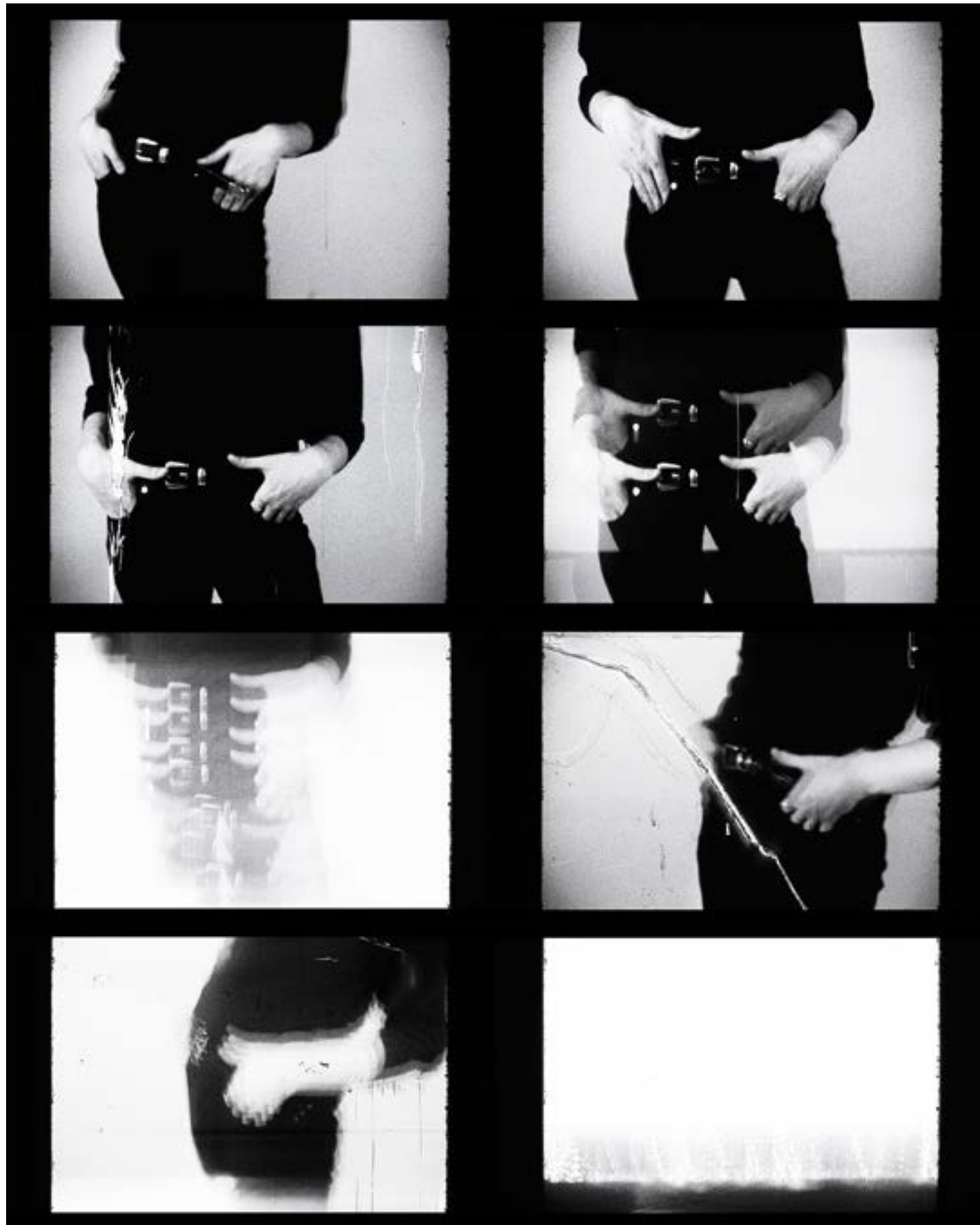
Her children run around Her ankles  
while My uterus sheds into Her toilet  
and My sin stains Her sheets  
but My blood washes out easy  
but My flesh feels heavy.

The heat boils and bears down  
breaking Me.  
I sweat in this body.  
She takes Me to the mountain pool  
and She sees My nakedness

and My flesh feels heavy  
and My flesh feels empty  
and My flesh feels foreign

and the Passerby gawks  
and Her dead chicken thaws.

Megan Hill



A Short-Lived Fault, 8 Stills from 16mm Film Self Portrait, 2017-2021: Sam Light



Pleasure Me This: Ariella Gibson



# WHAT I WANT TO TELL YOU IS THAT I AM ALWAYS HEARTBROKEN.

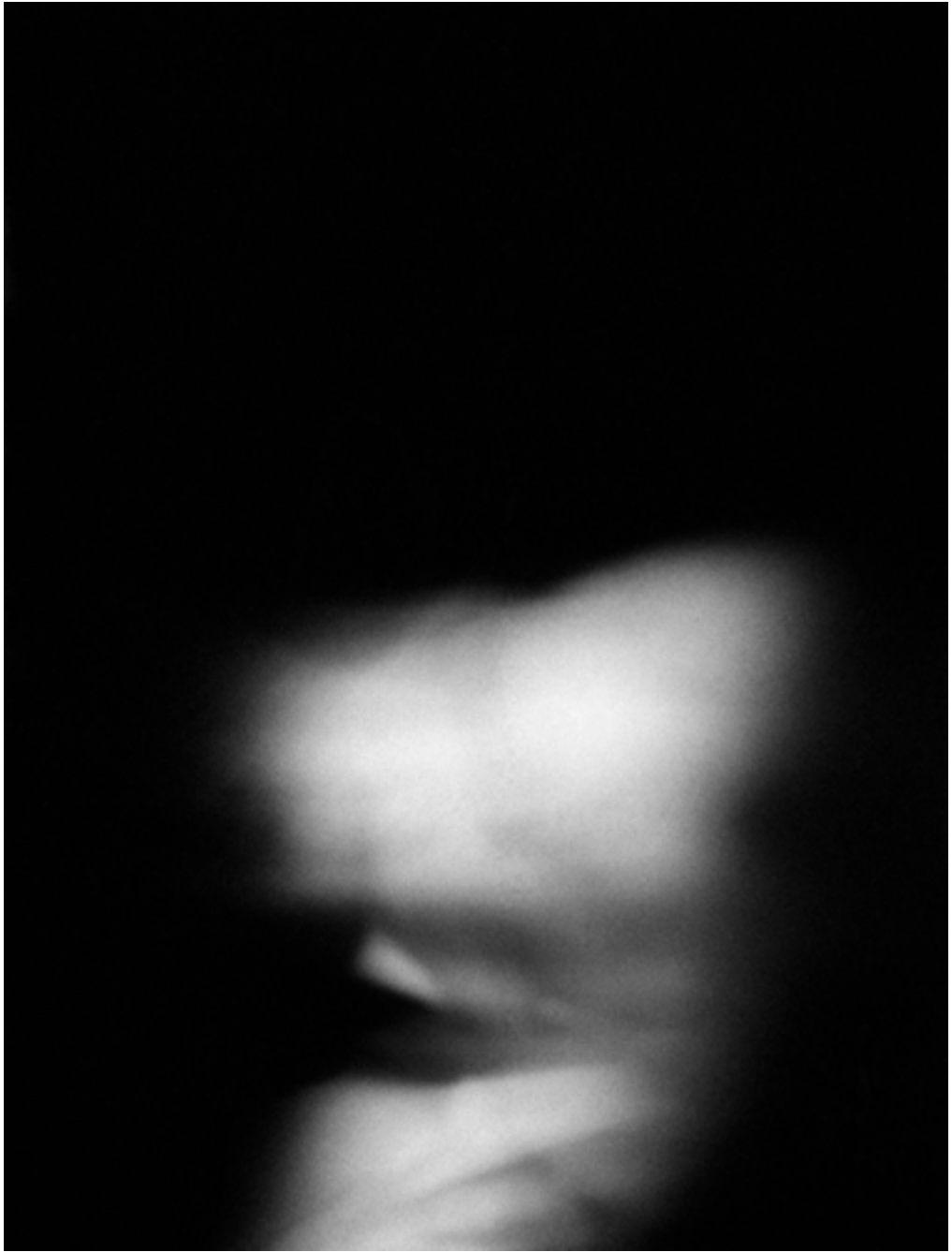
I am always in grief. It is this grief that also brings joy, a sense of balance. But I want to make it clear: I am always heartbroken. The grief that one feels at knowing that you're not supposed to be here, not supposed to be who you are, only to be accepted in fractions, is always there. It is in the slight things. It's a slow, grating sense of rejection. It's the feeling of only ever partially being allowed at the table. Of wondering if you can use your real pronouns on your university application or if you have to play by their gender game. It's being confused when someone who doesn't know you well enough, refers to you as "she" to another person and you have twenty seconds of wondering who the hell they're talking about before you realize: it's you. It's laughing when your parents send a happy birthday card to their "dearest daughter" even though y'all have talked about it before. Numerous times. It's wondering sometimes if it's really worth all of the effort.

It is always lonely.

I turn to poets who have more to say than me.

Kira Walz



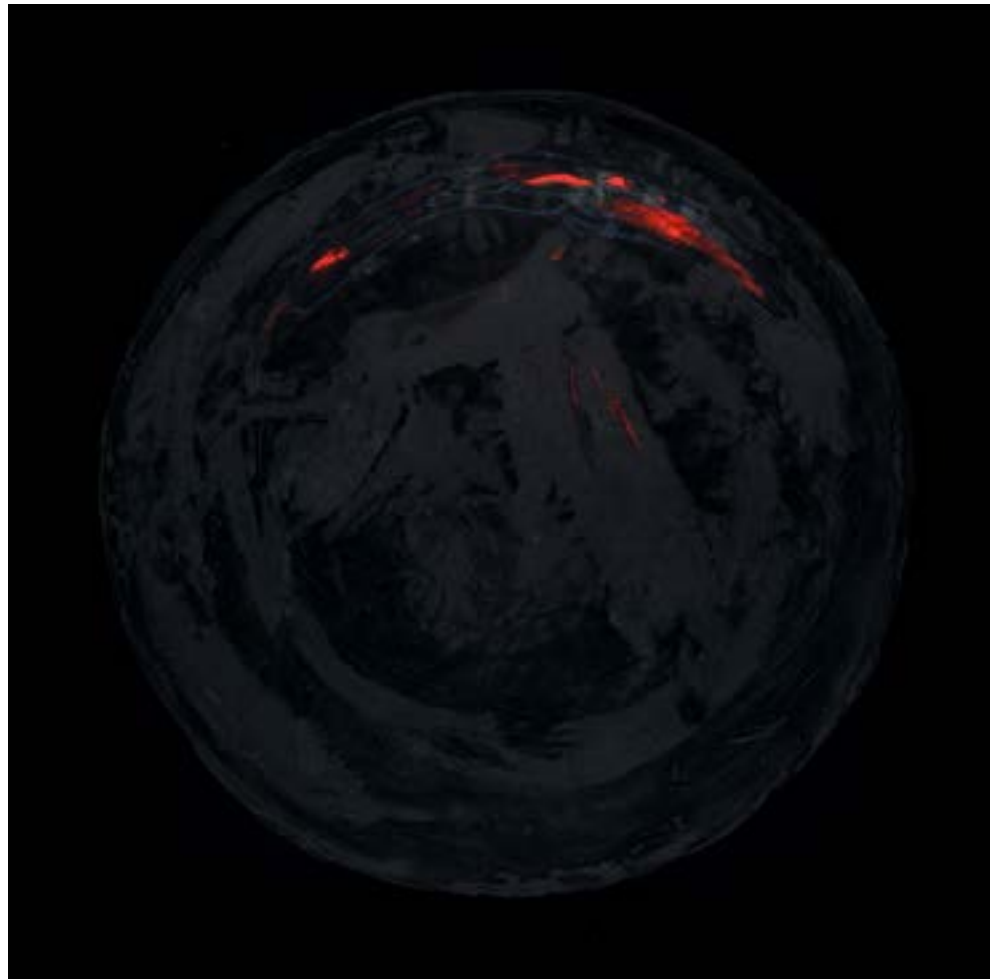


Take Me: Kira Walz

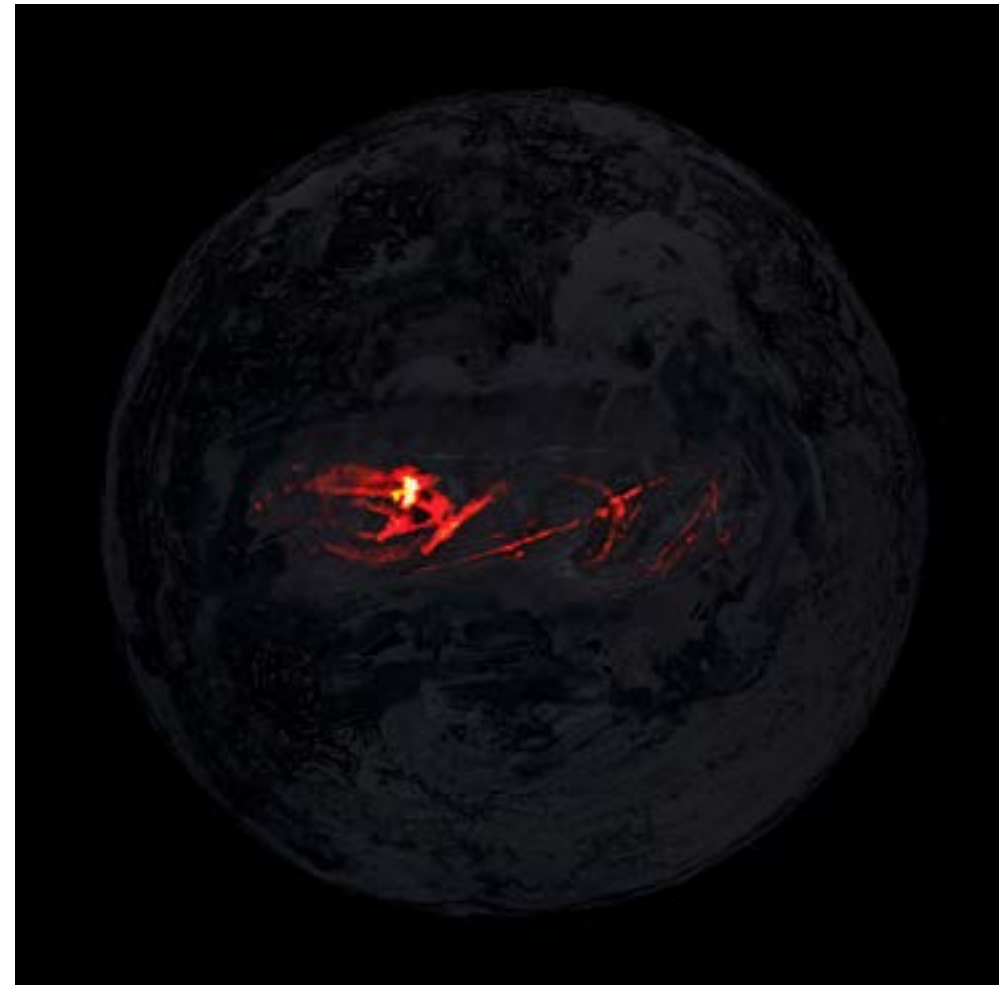




We're Just Here For the Bad Guys: Brian Lau



A Portion of the Universe/The Bright and Hallowed Sky 2-2-17-2: M. Apparition



A Portion of the Universe/The Bright and Hallowed Sky 2-14-17-1: M. Apparition





I was the same, but different somehow: Kailyn Hooley



Untitled: Emily Mueller



Untitled: Emily Mueller





## PRAYER

Not good but gold  
ten cent prayer  
electric candle flickering  
on -  
while the murals decay  
--  
is that statue watching me?  
do you think they can understand?  
if they knew what we say  
maybe we'd catch flame  
--

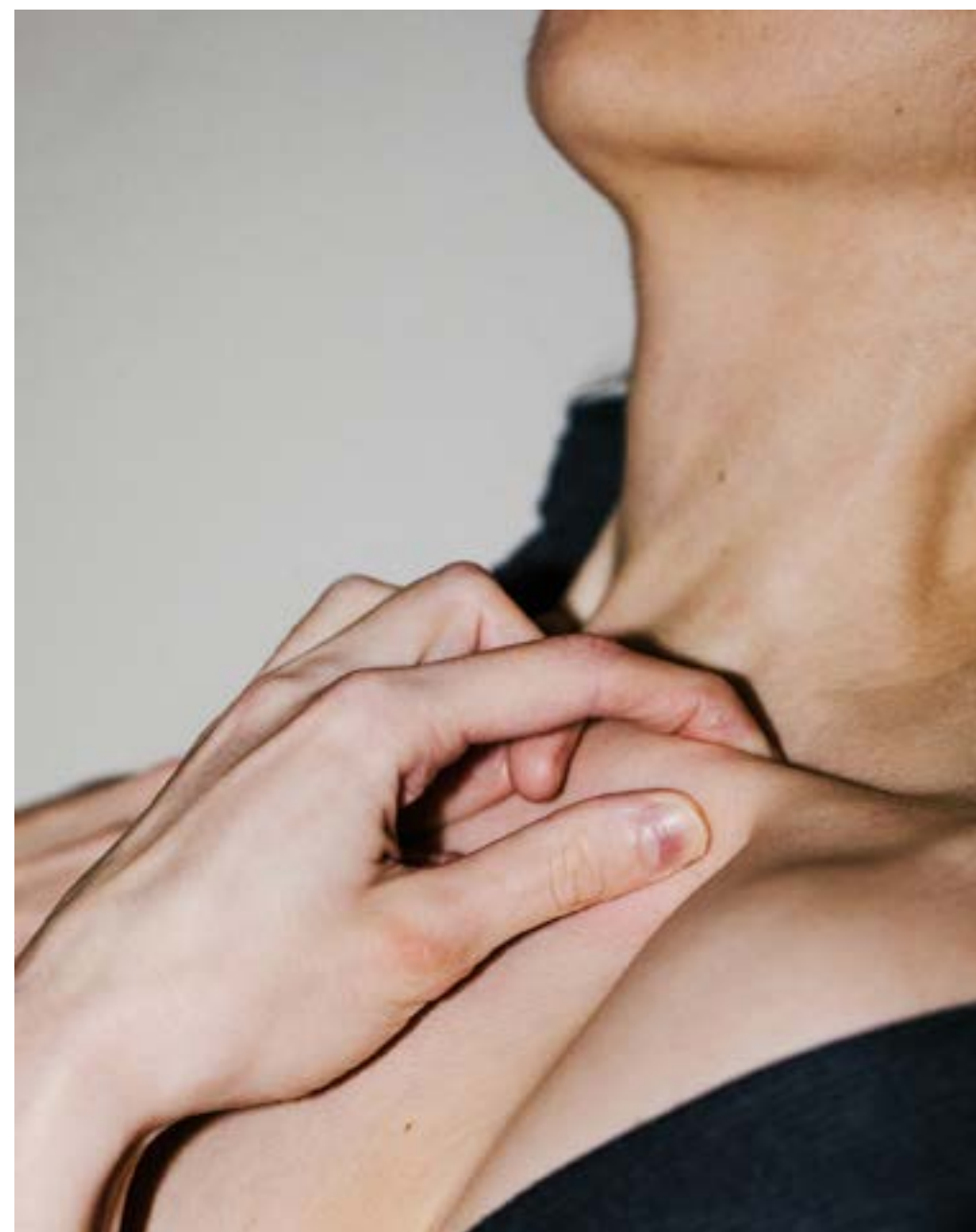
two hundred years  
isn't that old  
-  
the electric candles  
don't catch fire  
as the world around us  
burns -  
not good but gold

we laugh sacrilege.

Megan Hill



Two Feet: Jenica Heintzelman



Clavicle: Jenica Heintzelman



Thank you for reading.  
For more updates check @pearl.press on Instagram.

[www.pearl-press.com](http://www.pearl-press.com)

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Pearl Press  
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