

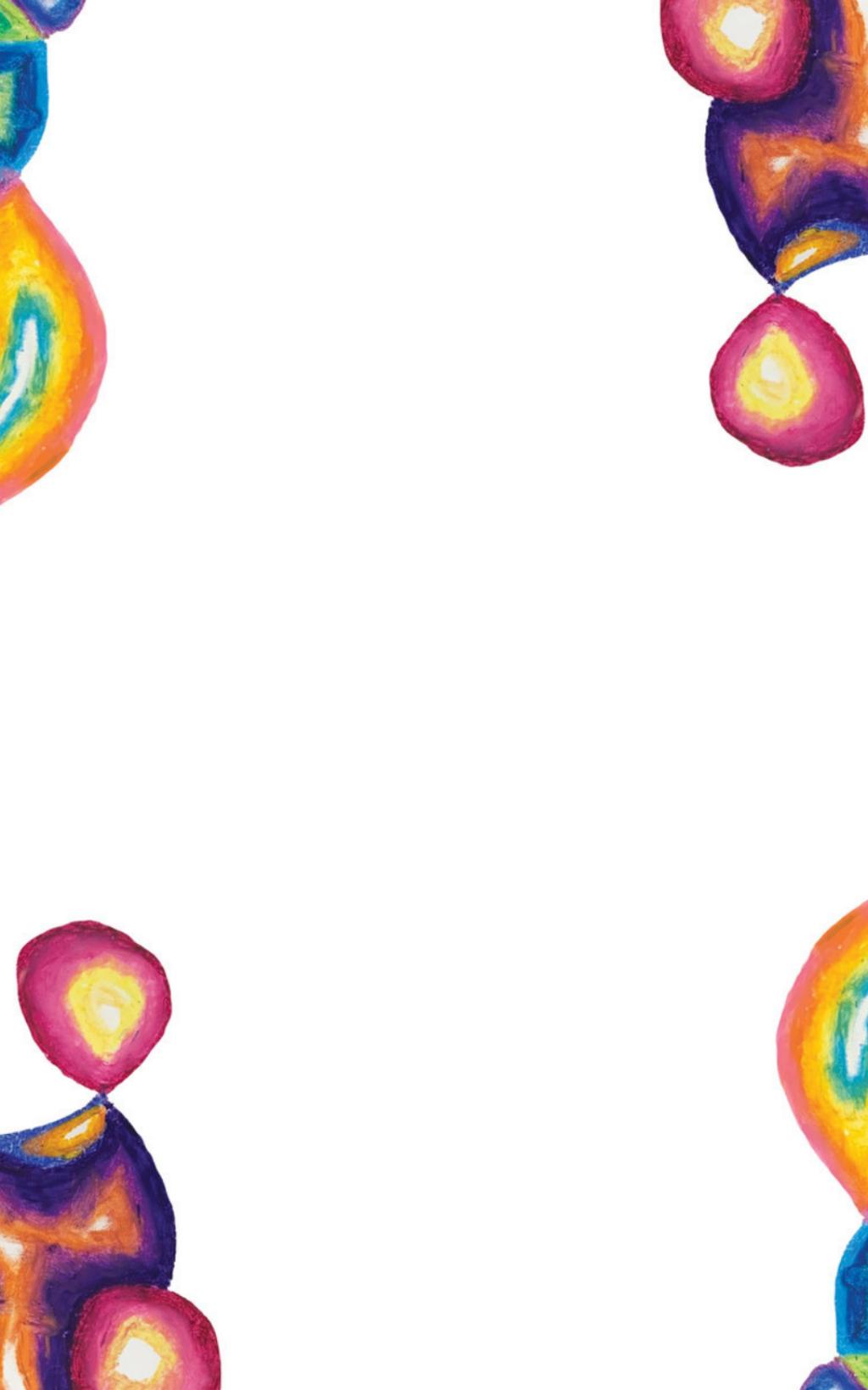
NO.WEST

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cover design by @ kitchentomatoes

ISSUE
NO.ONE



NO.WEST

is a student organization at UWF that was founded with the intention of giving students a space to create and share their art, but has quickly blossomed into much more. Our first semester together as a group has allowed for some interesting art, but also new ways to promote local activity that embody what NO.WEST is about and wishes to support. In this edition and future editions, we hope to provide a window into the creative world of UWF students and provide insight into the Pensacola arts community.

Table of Contents

- 2organization description
- 3table of contents
- 4 - 8.....spotlight artist
- 9 - 10place of interest
- 11 - 22artwork
- 23editors and contributors



SPOTLIGHT ARTIST



EGO DEATH (@egodeathpcola)

is an indie-rock band based in Pensacola, Florida. Their music is characterized as having a raw and psychedelic sound, with distorted guitar riffs, driving drums, introspective lyrics, and emotive vocals. They often incorporate elements of various genres such as shoegaze, post-punk, and psychedelic rock. Known for their high-energy live performances, ego death has become one of the most prominent bands emerging from Pensacola.

Ego Death members (from left to right), Matthew Barlow (lead guitar, guest vocals), Liam Ward (drums), Shelby Lands (bass guitar, guest vocals), Dillon Hunt (rhythm guitar, lead vocals), Owen Reese (keys)



Ego Death, live at the Vinyl Music Hall, 12/18/2022)

What can we expect from Ego Death this year?

"Right now, our priority is on recording [and] releasing our first full length album. We're taking some time off from live shows to work out the finishing touches on the songs and are hoping to start recording within the next couple of months. Beyond that, our goal for this year is to try and expand our following beyond Pensacola – so fingers crossed on a tour some time this summer." - Dillon

"Adding onto what Dillon said, we're also trying to invent new ways to make our shows one-of-a-kind in addition to having tight, one-of-a-kind music. When we were playing simpler songs, it made more sense to make a huge mess and have random shit thrown around. Now it's honestly really annoying. Nonetheless, there's a sea of opportunities for us and the audience: things like extravagant diy decor, free sockem boppers, getting off the stage, bringing folk on the stage, magic tricks, fire breathing, manic choreography, etc." - Owen

what informs your songwriting process?

"I think for all of us (myself included) in regards to lyricism I think we're all naturally drawn towards taking something that's happened to us, or maybe a friend, whoever really, and maybe making something that's a disaster into something, into a tangible piece of art. its self reflection at its finest I'd like to think...I think we draw inspiration from our favorite artists. We all listen to vastly different things so it's cool when we all come together and create something sonically that's uniform, but also unique." – Shelby

"I would describe my own songwriting process as whenever my bottle that contains all my emotions finally fills and I have no other place to hide them, so I exert them by my third arm – my guitar. At times I'll write lyrics to them if I'm feeling very strong about the focus of my emotions. A writing session for me is just a spill of emotions all over the place and when I'm finished, I can put them back together." – Matthew

how do you all work together to complement the lyrics? the lyrics? do the words inform the music or vise versa?

"... I think it's obvious that the lyrics have to reflect the atmosphere of the song. Another important thing is to remember that the lyrics are the main instruments of the melody. A lot of the best lyrics I've written, I've written following some type of melody in my head. That melody may well not be the finalized melody of the song, but having those lyrics that just flow well gives you a hell of a point to start from when you start actually singing." - Owen

"The thing I always tell people who ask for songwriting advice is to just think about anything you can ramble on about for a long time; that could be something you love, something that pisses you off, something that you find really interesting, anything like that. If you're passionate enough about something to where you can rant about it for hours - that's what you should write a song about. That passion really shows when it comes to writing lyrics." - Dillon

"I think it's relatively important to have sounds that reflect the lyricism. But it truly is just about what comes first, you know? Sometimes I'll be driving and a riff will spawn in my mind, as will lyrics. It's just a matter of which one I grab by the horns first." - Shelby

What is your favorite performance so far?

"I think my favorite show was the Handlebar. Perfectly roomy but intimate size, the great acoustics, and that place just means so much to the scene. Hell, my parents' first date was at the Handlebar." - Owen

"My favorite show we've ever played was at the Handlebar. The energy was fucking nuts and really bounced back to us up on stage." - Shelby

"My favorite performance was at the Handlebar on October 1st, 2022. I loved the way we sounded and I felt as if it was my best personal performance at that show, but I strive to be better than my last." - Matthew

An 'ego death' is traditionally defined as a "complete loss of subjective self-identity". Listening to Ego Death, we can hear a bit of a collective voice shining through the band as a whole and in that way we feel like the name does a great job to describe the music. What inspired the name Ego Death? What does it mean to you on an individual level, both as a term and as a group?

"We were all really sad and young when we landed on the name Ego Death, so I'm going to assume that has something to do with it; however, I do think that the name 'Ego Death' still fits into our sound and appearance overall now." – Matthew

"'Ego death', if you've ever experienced it, is a life-shattering experience, almost literally. I think the main takeaway you get from it is the thought "I'm not who I thought I was." Our music is a lot about figuring out who we actually are. I hope through our music, other people can learn about themselves too." – Owen



"... way back before we started the band when I was in high school, one of my friends said that he thought 'ego death' would be a good band name, and I thought back to that when I started [Ego Death]. I do think that the name is pretty fitting for our music. Seeing as a lot of our songs are about things like having an identity crisis or trouble estimating your self-worth, I think that the dissolution of the ego in itself is a good description of what we're trying to represent." – Dillon

What does Ego Death have to say?

"I used to give a damn, but I neva gave a fuck." – Shelby

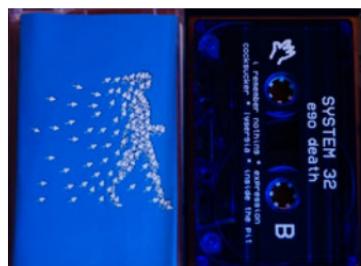
"I am so thankful for not only the people who have supported us and continue to do so, but also the four people I work with so frequently. They are my best friends in the entire world and even when we have our moments I love them all so much and value our friendship and our 'bandmateship' so very much and I love growing with my closest friends." – Matthew

"I'd like to give a big thanks to all the cool punk rock people of Pensacola who have been streaming our music and coming out to our shows, I can't express how much it mans to me. Also you should buy one of our cassettes from Deep Puddle Records." – Dillon

"If you've read this far, you're probably really cool, more probably, you're really weird, and that's all terrific. Find other people like you who inspire you and make something you're proud of - and don't measure your success by conventional means, make sure you know what success means to you and then you can be truly successful. We can say we're successful to have met and befriended so many other cool musicians and people in the scene, to have learned so much about all the ins and outs of making and maintaining a band, and most importantly to express ourselves so honestly with our work. Ego Death loves you." – Owen



Barack Obama, #1 Ego Death fan



Ego Death, System 32 cassette – available at deppuddlerecords.com



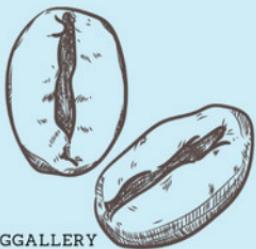
PLACE OF INTEREST

(see next page)

With every new edition of the NO.WEST magazine, we will be highlighting a place of interest. These places of interest are usually locally owned and oriented around the various growing arts scenes in Pensacola and Northwest Florida.

EASY GOING GALLERY

COFFEE SHOP | 701 N V ST., PENSACOLA, FL | @EASYGOINGGALLERY



Easy Going Gallery is a Pensacola coffee shop that is dedicated to local art and artists, espresso, vinyl, and dancing. Be sure to check out some of their upcoming events!

Hours:

Tuesday-Sunday from 10 am-6pm*

*times vary depending
on events



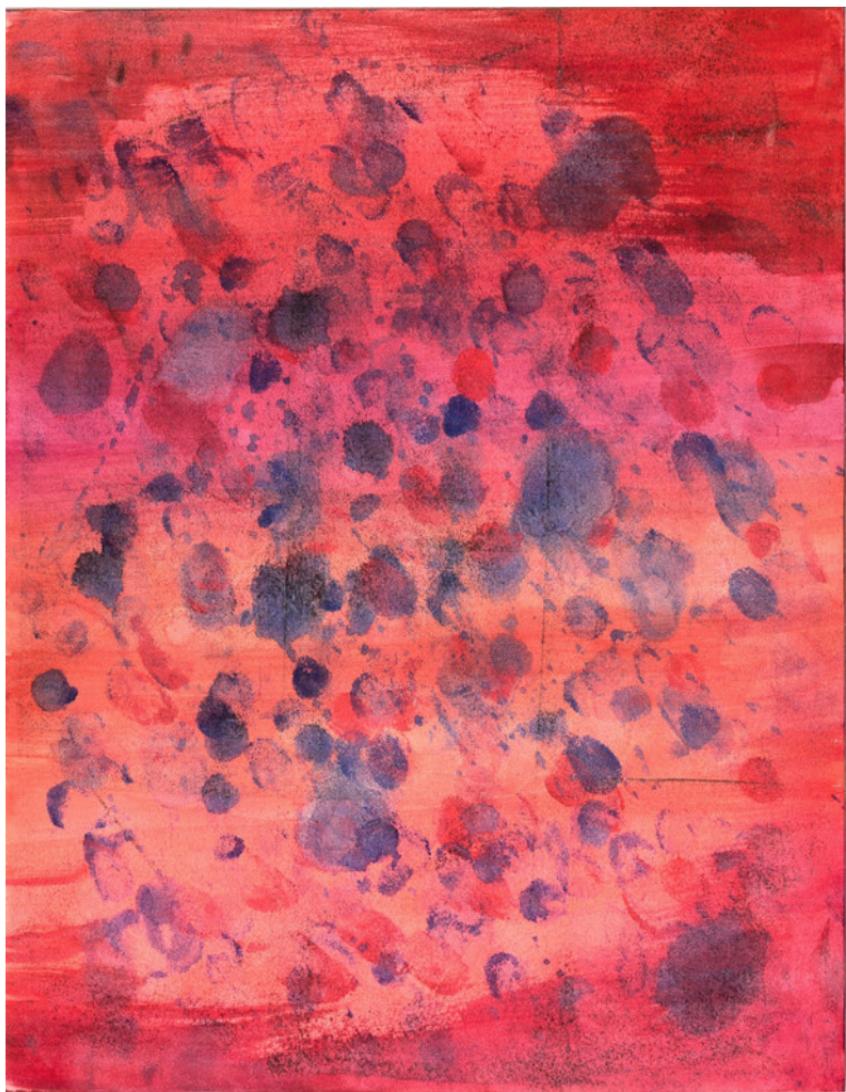


Yaseen Moftaqir

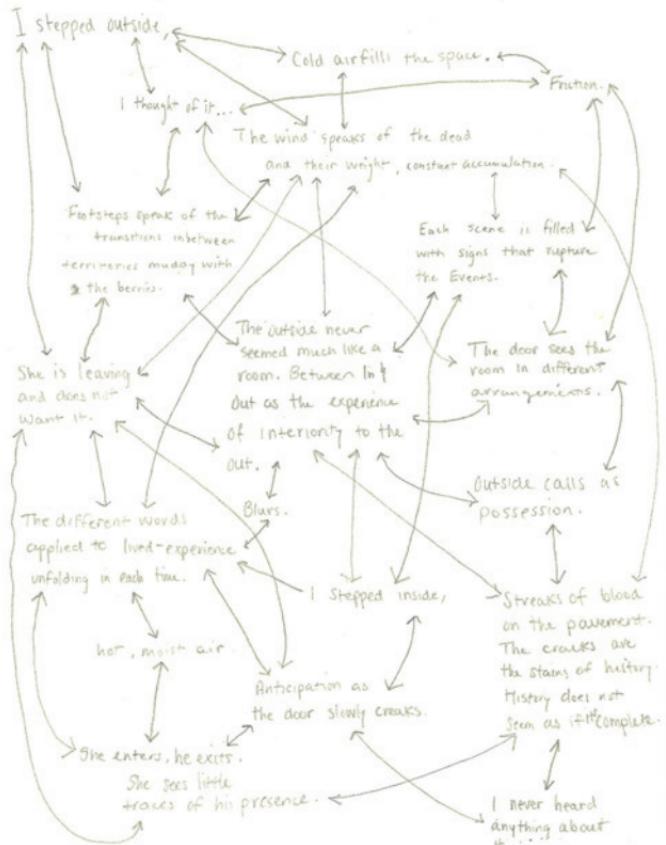




Sam Wise



Yaseen Moftaqir



"Process of a single moment in time", Nicolas Vargas



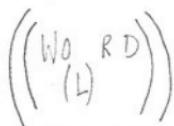
Chase Stalcup

re sceptre paints an oblique posture tracing the outline of its own
lis apperance

recession into blank

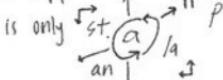
The world ~~disappears~~
disappears into the word.
no longer directed to it.

is a world to
pear in the syntax?



sets no longer
contain the
approximated set.

What appears

is only  st. / a / p

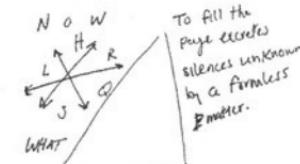
Name is only a
designation of a
no longer proper function.

Backwards

toward
gesture

now what if

stops. stops.
stops.



THERE IS THERE BUT
NOT THERE.

The vase had
all their fingerprints
on it. She storing
—exit.

To fill the
page creates
silences unknown
by a formless
matter.

The alt.

Arbitrary lines
define the
structure.

"Torn Page", Nicolas Vargas



Sam Higgins



Sam Higgins and Chase Stalcup



Chase Stalcup and Sam Wise

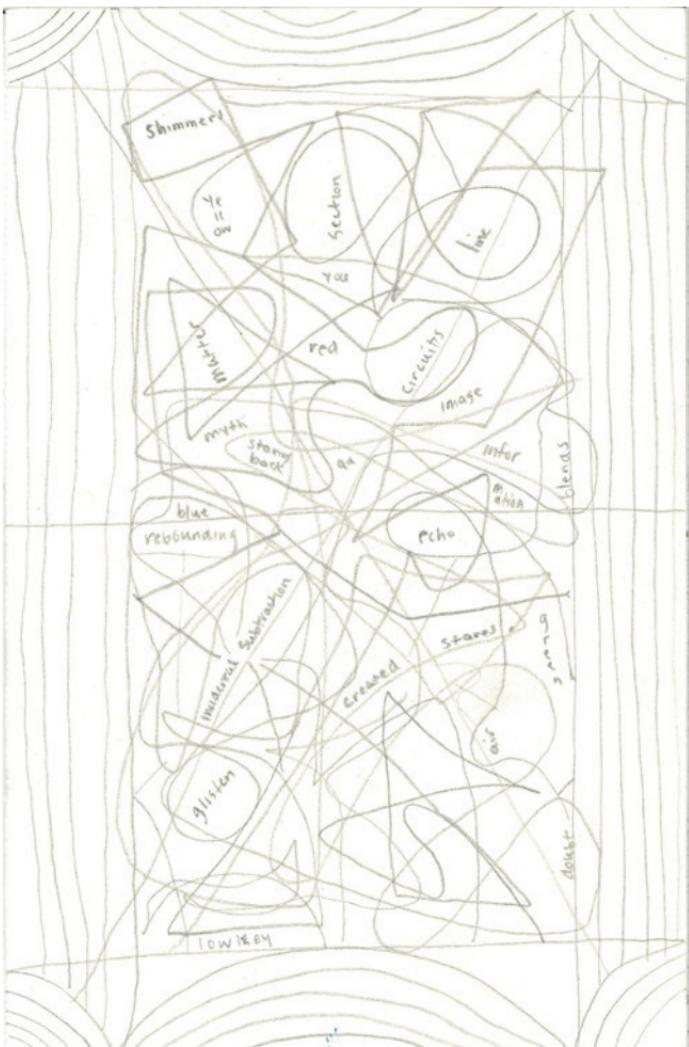


"Love for me"

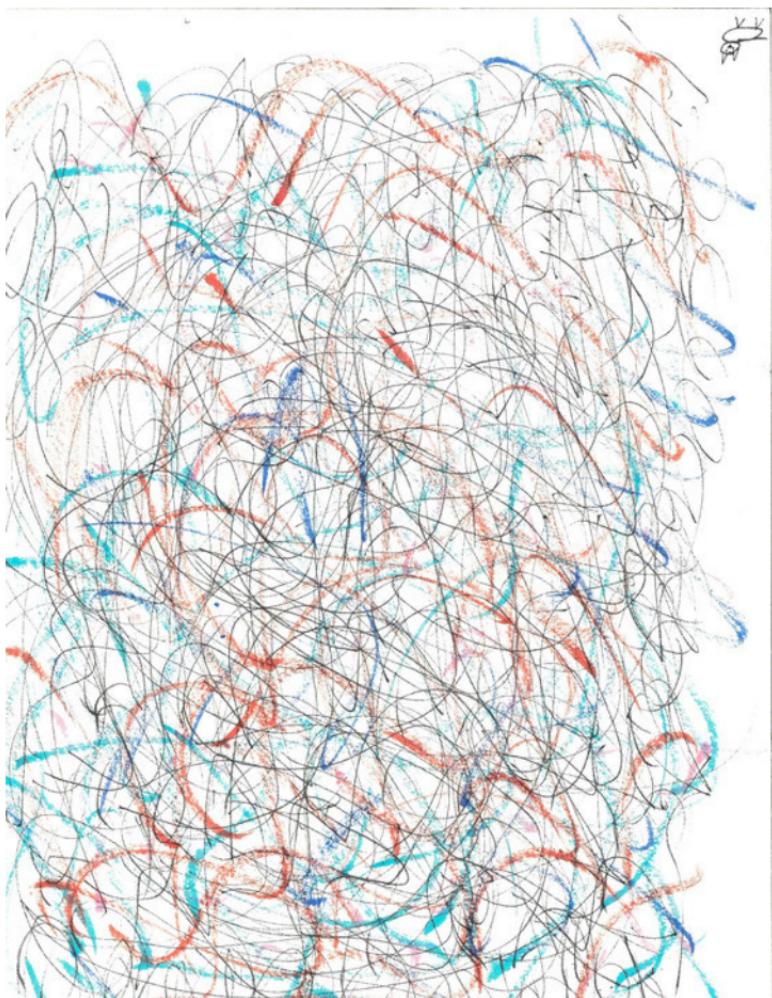
Ash Riddle



"In their eyes"



"Echoes", Nicolas Vargas



"Automatic Drawing #3", Nicolas Vargas

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