

DESIGNERS' NOTE

It's been such a fulfilling experience working as a full *Brushing* team over the past couple of months. From visiting the printing sites to choosing the materials we wanted to include in the journal, we cherished the freedom and possibilities available that allowed our ideas to come to life. Overall, assembling the issue, filming a Wes Anderson-influenced promotional video, rereading past issues for inspiration, and meeting and working together have enhanced this experience.

Our creative process began with the intention to emphasize and celebrate the Golden 50th Anniversary of *Brushing*. We thought, what better way to do that than with a *Great Gatsby* inspired theme to allude to its regal essence? Immediately, the team was drawn to materials like blue velvet and gold foil to elevate these elements and consistently took inspiration from the archives to inform our vision for this year.

When approaching the visual theme, reactive to the submissions we received, we were fascinated with curvy, flowy, and circular accents related to growth and the body (both as a whole and in parts) infused with nature. Graphics of illusion, combined with an old, sleek minimalist style were intended to bring something new and unique to *Brushing*, while keeping connection to the designs of preceding issues over the last 50 years. There's something tender about the human body and strong emotions that we felt could best be illustrated through simple, yet delicate line art, and we wanted to implement that relationship from each of the pieces selected.

As designers for this issue, and twins in real life, we were happy to work together because teamwork's always been a natural strength in our creative pursuits. This was both of our first time working on *Brushing*, which sealed our involvement in every department of Student Media. We're super honored to be a part of this special 50th anniversary publication and hope that the lines on the page run through your veins just as they have traveled through ours.

All the best,

Jaianne & Dassika Gilkey

Head Designers