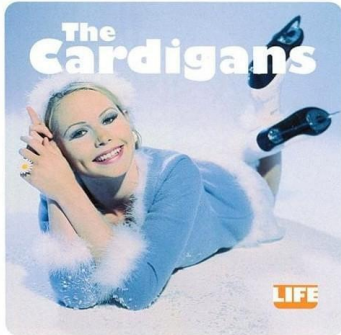


# music recs & reviews

## **Spud by Whatever, Dad**

*"It's just that your absence makes me grow  
An absence of my own"*

*Elaiza Santos paralyzes listeners with her smooth, whispery vocals as she grows and wanes with emotion. A song of both confrontation and fear, Spud details an intimate story of self doubt in the face of all consuming, overpowering love.*



## **Fine by The Cardigans**

*"Why don't you wrap your life around?  
Those certain words I just found"*

*Nod your head along to the bounce of The Cardigans classic 90's beat, a perfect combination of pop vocals and rocky guitar and drums. Fine is the embodiment of glowing indifference towards secrecy.*

## **Powerful Man by Alex G**

*"Maybe he had hurt me bad  
But a brother is a brother and that is that"*

*Chock full of hearty guitar and crisp finger plucks, Alex G delivers on heart-wrenching lyrics describing the struggles of friendship and sympathy. This song is a proud declaration, a powerful statement on recovering from betrayal and moving on.*



## music recs & reviews



Music is one of those universal forms of art; it promotes connection and conversation, but also provides comfort and companionship in moments of loneliness and solitude. Here are some curated songs to pull you out of, or put you into a cool, mellow spring funk.

Written by Mahealani LaRosa

### **Spring by Angel Olsen**

*"Alive with a past, No other can share, Alone with a heart, No other can bear"*

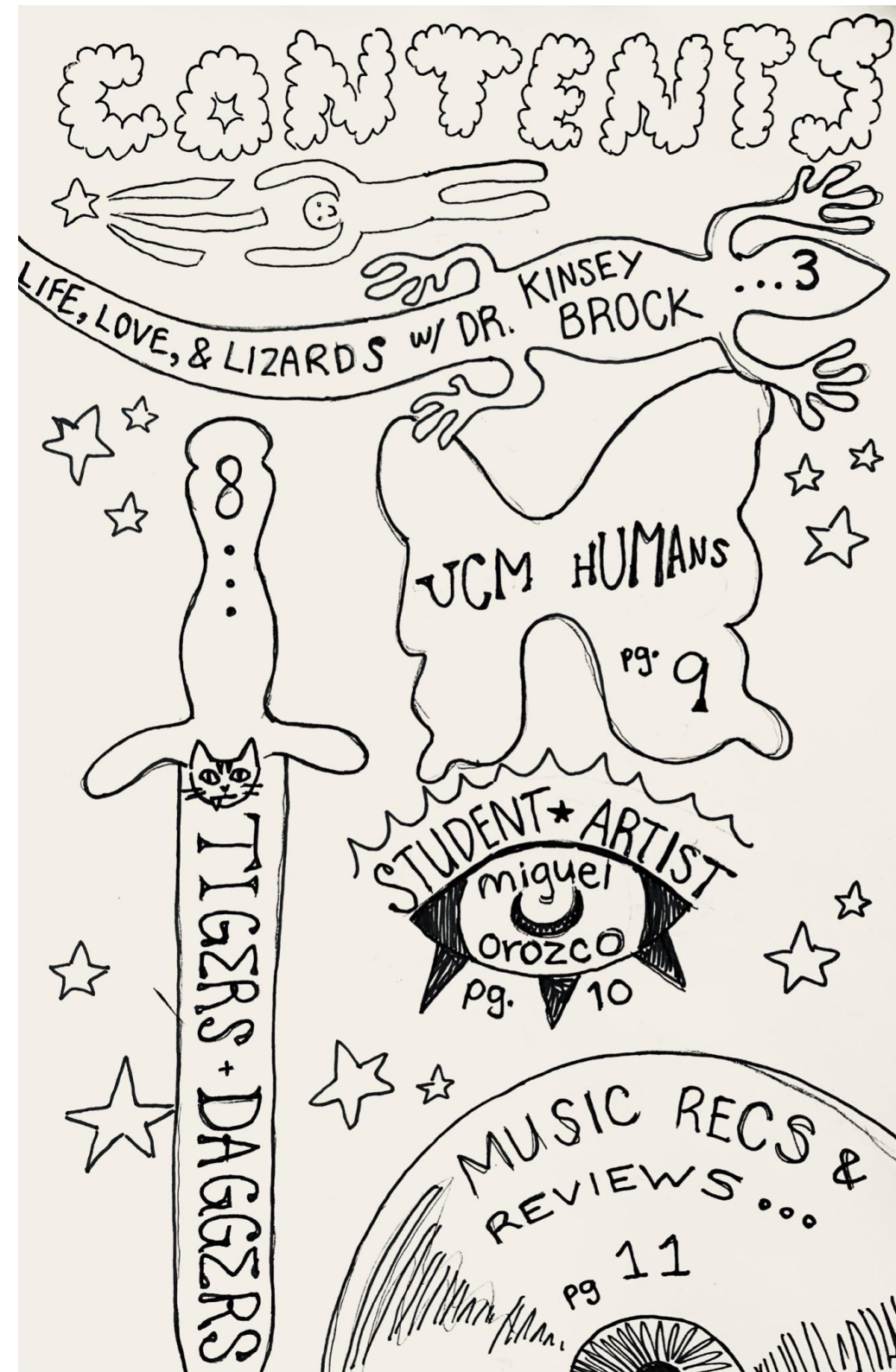
This song leads with a gentle piano melody, which crescendos into a sense of repeating urgency. Olsen croons about the difficulties of coming to understand the complexities of love and loss as we change through the seasons.



### **Be Kind to Me by Michael Hurley**

*"Told you once and I told you twice: Why be mean when you can be nice?"*

Michael Hurley leads with an age-old question in this comforting folk song, and ends it with a simple request: love and kindness. The positivity and unconventionality of this song remind us that in the midst of misery, a little bit of affection can go a long way.



# student artist



Miguel Orozco-

about the artist // I'm 21 year old photographer, and beat maker out of Los Banos California. Growing up I have always been drawn to photography, fashion, and music. I have been doing photography for about 2 years now and draw a lot of inspiration from photographers like Hiroshi Sugimoto, Andy Warhol, and Ansel Adams. I try to utilize a more beat up, grungy approach on most of my work and I hope you all enjoy what I've put together.

-Music: [https://soundcloud.com/soultaire\\_svmg/sets/pretty-places](https://soundcloud.com/soultaire_svmg/sets/pretty-places)

-Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/adustypairofcortezs/>

## Life, Love, & Lizards



*In our interview with Kinsey Brock, a UC Merced Graduate student and Quantitative & Systems Biology Ph.D Candidate, we discussed the inspiration behind her fascinating art, the connection between her artistic expression and her chosen field of study, the bullshit of binaries, the value of community and connection, and so much more! In a close conversation between Kinsey and Mariposa Magazine Co-Founder Grace Garnica, the magic and opportunity that UC Merced provides for students is visible, through the shared experiences of artists and scientists, the creation of platforms and groups that give space for passions and talents to grow, and simply through deep conversation and recognition of personal achievement and love. You can read all about Kinsey Brock and her research, and even take a look at her art, on her website: <https://www.kinseybrock.com>*

GG: Grace Garnica, Mariposa Magazine

KB: Kinsey Brock

The interview started on a general note with a question about artistic inspiration. Kinsey explained that her main inspiration is something that she constantly thinks of, "which is... lizards."

She continued to break down the artistic process,

**KB:** I really just try to draw the way I see the world. And I'm very realistic, but I'm also very imaginative and like to make things. So it's kind of a blend of my real life and fantasy life.

**GG:** That makes sense, I love that so much. When I look at your drawings I just want to be a lizard person so bad, just to escape into that world.

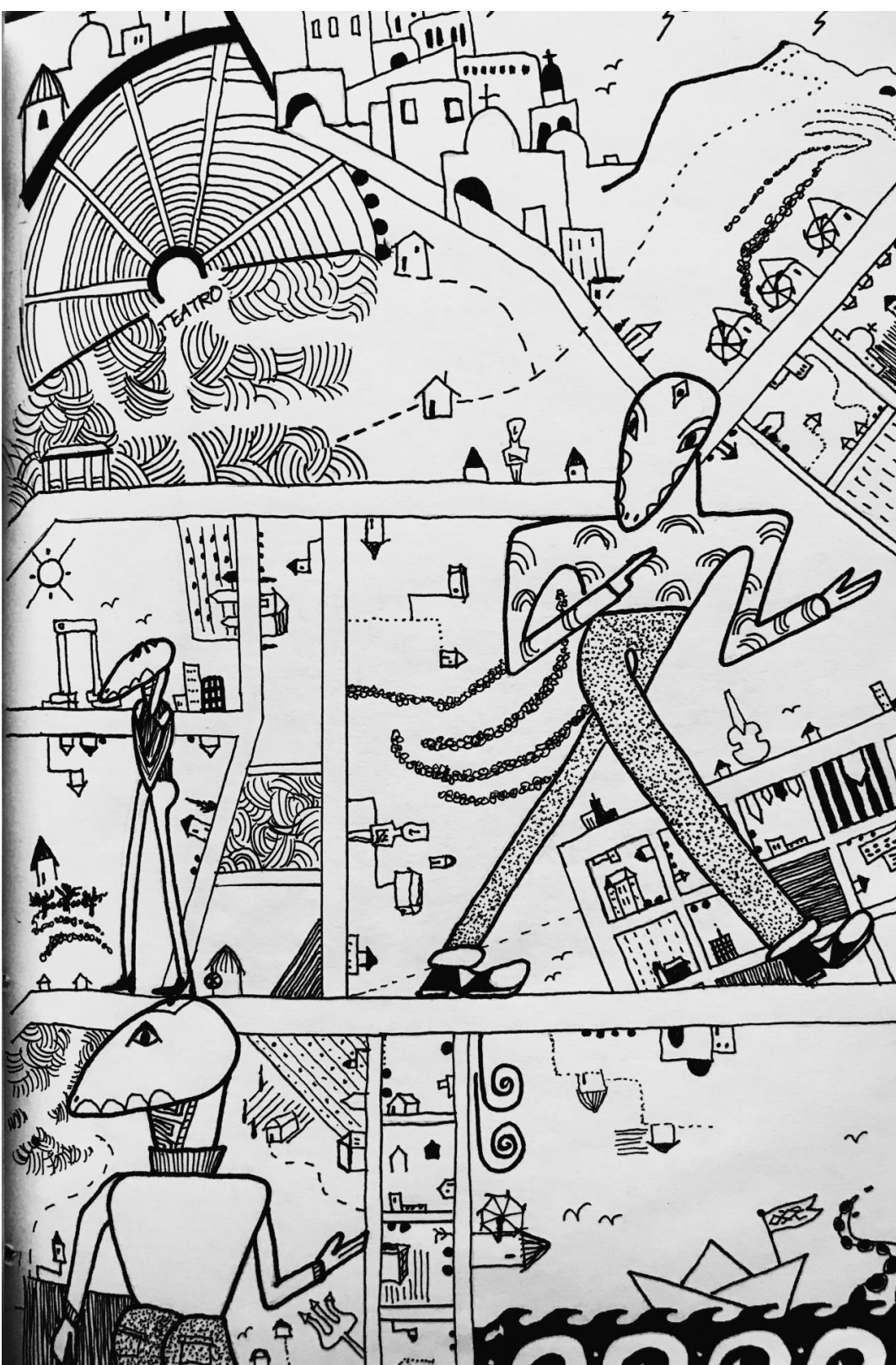
**KB:** I love being there. I love when I'm making the art that I just- you know, you're an artist. **When you open the flow, and I'm just like, it's me. It's the paper. It's what's in my head and all one thing, and I live for that feeling I love, that feels amazing.**

**GG:** Oh, yeah, and for our readers who don't know all about your history with lizards, where did it all start? Where does it come from?

**KB:** Well I think about lizards a lot because I'm a PhD student, studying lizard evolution. **The science that I do with the lizards is a story, and the art is the story of my time in Greece watching and studying these lizards- spending all day with them in the sun, watching what they do, while having my own thoughts about life in that space, on those islands.** Just thinking about lizards, science, my life, and where I am. And that's really, I feel like, *who* I am. And that's what comes out on the page.

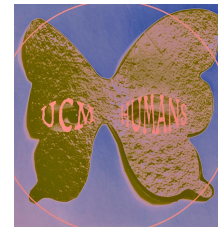
**GG:** So, how do you feel about art being more involved in STEM, science and biology and the like? It's pretty uncommon at least, in my limited experience, I haven't seen anything like this before, where you combine both aspects and even put your artwork into your science- it's super unique.

**KB:** Oh, thank you! Yeah, I don't really get that (separation of STEM and art) at all. I've been told my entire life you have to pick one- you have to be an artist or you can be a scientist. And I just think that's bullshit. **There's nothing more natural than the intersection of art and science.** They're both very creative endeavors- it's creation, creation of knowledge. Both art and science do that. Art is a really intuitive way to



# Humans of UC Merced

Instagram: [tmm\\_humansofucm](https://www.instagram.com/tmm_humansofucm)

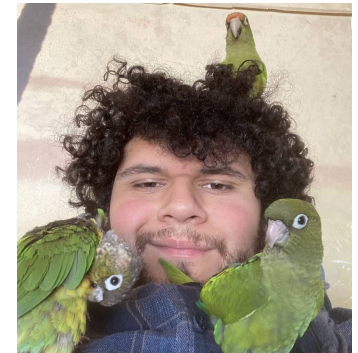


“One of the classes I teach is a Spark seminar titled ‘Dungeons and Dragons: Skills in IRL?’ and I have said this consistently for a while, probably the biggest influence on me was playing Dungeons and Dragons at an early age. From that I learned a lot of study skills, collaborative skills, research skills. I learned a lot about different cultures. I learned a lot of mythology. I learned a lot about systems. I learned a lot about note-taking, programming. All kinds of stuff I’ve learned from playing that game at a very young age when I was like 9. That’s probably the biggest influence on me as a thing.”

John Bultena, Merritt Writing Program, Continuing Lecturer

“I’m trying to be a high school teacher. My personal goal is to be the best teacher I can be. To be the best of the best. I feel like I was raised by teachers and that they’ve made a huge impact on me, so I want to be a role model for students and help them succeed in reaching their achievements. I’ve done a lot of internships and I am heavily involved with CalTeach. One internship I have done is the Yosemite Nature Bridge Externship, it’s your science summer camp for the week but it was spring break instead. I was co-teaching students about the environment through an outdoor setting. From there, I picked up a lot of techniques such as knowing how to teach in different teaching environments. Also because of the pandemic, I got to teach in a virtual setting as well. Because I had the experience of teaching various subjects to varying grade levels in varying classroom settings, it’ll help my goal of being a great teacher. I’ve applied to two more internships in the summer and I’m very excited about that.”

Carlos Garcia, Chemistry major, Third-year



“My most treasured professional memory is working as a Resident Assistant during the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school year. Those years were unforgettable and if I could do it all over again I would. Including having to help Glacier Point with their flood. My greatest personal memory was becoming VP of Phi Mu Eta Sigma for the year of 2020. It was my first time in a major leadership role in the organization and going through the pandemic along with handling social unrest was quite an experience.”

Ayonna Jones, Cognitive and Informational Sciences M.S. program, Incoming first-year

# Tigers and Daggers: a not-so-hidden gem of Merced



In the heart of Merced, a music-lover's haven is in the shape of a neon orange building on Main Street. The endless stacks of records to flip through and tapes to admire are only a sliver of what makes Tigers and Daggers Records in Merced so great, especially for college students. It's common to run into classmates and friends in the atmospheric shop full of posters and punk music. Records aren't the only things this store has to offer- there's vintage band t-shirts, posters, and pins- not to mention the sweet Fairy Shrimp stickers near the cash register. But the life of this colorful store comes from its owner and founder, Travis, who we were lucky to interview! Check out Travis' instagram @tigersanddaggers  
Find the interview at <https://mariposamagazine.tumblr.com>

communicate ideas and with science's complex ideas, you need to make them simple. You can do that through images. An image is like, a feeling, it's a perception and there's a lot of learning involved in looking at images. Art and science belong together- and that's what RadioBio was and is. It's all about talking with people, learning about them and their creative science process, and using art to communicate it all.

**GG:** Yeah, I love (radiobio) so much, I would always look forward to seeing the cover art on Instagram! And also to combine the podcast act of listening, as well as talking about art, science, and combining it all together- it's super unique and needed. I think, at a school like ours which is so heavily STEM based, which is a good thing. But that doesn't mean we have to exclude other aspects of learning. And like you said, science and art are both taking in what we see of the world and making sense of it all.

**KB:** Yeah. I think it's just so cool, it's what we're here to do. Like, what else is there to do? And I think, both artists and scientists are really good observers. And that's what life is all about, is noticing things. I think they belong together,

**GG:** They're completely a match made in heaven. And for our

readers who don't know about RadioBio, do you want to talk a little bit about your involvement in it?

**KB:** Yeah, it's in my past now, which is crazy to think about. I spent so much time and love and have good friends doing it now. Well, it's a science podcast, all about biology, where grad students at UC Merced interview scientists about their life, their work, what drives them- and there's artwork associated with it. It's run by the next generation now and they're really doing a wonderful job. It's so cool to just wonder what it'll be in the future. Yeah. I just love making things.

**GG:** So, what's your favorite thing you've ever made, then? Tough question, I know!

**KB:** Huh, It's hard to pick one thing during my time at UC Merced, because Carson house was special. And we made that yeah, it wasn't just me. It was we. And it's awesome. We made radio bio- me and a bunch of nerds are just super enthusiastic about a shared idea. And it was that we and the same with like, the first thing that I started here with other people was Women in STEM, which is now a thing living without me, so is Carson House and Radio Bio and I'm so happy about that.

**GG:** It's the best feeling, I'm sure. Making communities around cool, good, needed things. I feel like that's all we can hope for, for the things we create, you know! **Art is so much more than paint on paper, it's the stuff that you put effort into in your life and the connections you make with people.** It's so important. And speaking of Women in STEM, that's another important part of science in general that is so necessary. And I also see that theme in a lot of your work and it inspires me, even as a non-STEM person. Like, wow I don't have to be a non-STEM person, I can still be interested in this and participate and be a part of this lizard world.

**KB:** Yeah, I'm glad that you see that and that you feel that way! I think it didn't always used to be that way. Like the visibility of even just the issues, let alone the visibility of women, but just talking about issues. And talking about issues, is how progress happens. You know, building a new shared understanding of why this thing is an issue. And then like, let's solve it. I cannot just stand by and watch all this bad shit happen, to women in STEM, and Black people in STEM, and Trans people everywhere. **Science and art are for everyone.**

**GG:** Yeah, and they're both about solving problems, you



know? In art you solve the problem of how to put that thing on the paper, in the most direct sense. And science, you're solving specific problems and trying to deduce the answer. And that's ultimately what we're trying to do when it comes down to life- we shouldn't just let things go, we should work together and find a solution.

**KB:** Grace you're a natural!

**GG:** (Laughing) I'm glad, cause this is my first time interviewing someone!

**KB:** Literally, write everything that you're saying, you have to add this too, add this right now okay? Grace, you could really be an interviewer! You could be anything you wanna be.

**GG:** Okay okay, Kinsey you're my hype man!

**KB:** Absolutely.

**GG:** I appreciate it so much. You know, I feel like these connections really make college special. I feel like especially with our school, it's so unique. I feel like I've made connections here at this school with mentors and people who are so diverse and different. And like, I actually can sit down over zoom and talk to you and I just feel like that's so unique and special. And it's something that I cherish and I hope that other students here

take advantage of and cherish as well and are able to make those connections. And, you know, that's what my magazine is trying to do, too. It's one of our main goals, is just trying to get stem and art to combine and not make it such a crazy binary.

**KB:** Binaries are bullshit. They are in general! Gender, everything, **Binaries are just categories we made up, and I'm bored.**

**GG:** Exactly! Shake it up.

**KB:** I want to go back to something that you just said- Which was that, it's so unique that you get to have an experience where you get to know people and that's what college is all about- making connections and whatnot. It is easier at our small school, but you can do that anywhere. **You just have to want to do it.** I hope that people aren't afraid to send that email, you know, because it could be your next big thing. How cool is that?

**GG:** Yeah! I mean, that's what we did with this magazine, it was an idea that I had with a friend in a dorm. We were like, damn, we really wish we had a cool magazine, but nobody's going to make it unless we do.

**KB:** I would love to read this magazine.

**GG:** You will! We plan on making physical copies, I do feel like our print mag is super necessary because it's how you get people to care! People don't want a whole other website to log onto. I do hope we can find the most sustainable way to print, though.

**KB:** There's also the physical experience of holding it, it's a different way to interact with what you're making. **Art is worth some paper, it is.**

As our interview came to an end, neither of us had realized how quickly the time had passed while we were lost in conversation. As an alumni, mentor, and most importantly- a friend, Kinsey Brock moves on into the world as she defends her PhD this spring. It's an all new beginning for KB. ✨

