

Good

But

Not

THE FINAL GRAIN OF SALT ZINE

END OF DAYS
THE MOVIE
STARRING SALTY
MAY 2024
ADMIT ONE

END OF DAYS
THE MOVIE
STARRING SALTY
MAY 2024
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END OF DAYS
THE MOVIE
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OFFICIAL GRAIN GANG membership card



ISSUED TO SALTY
DATE OF BIRTH 05 / 2020
MEMBER NO. 48395720506739

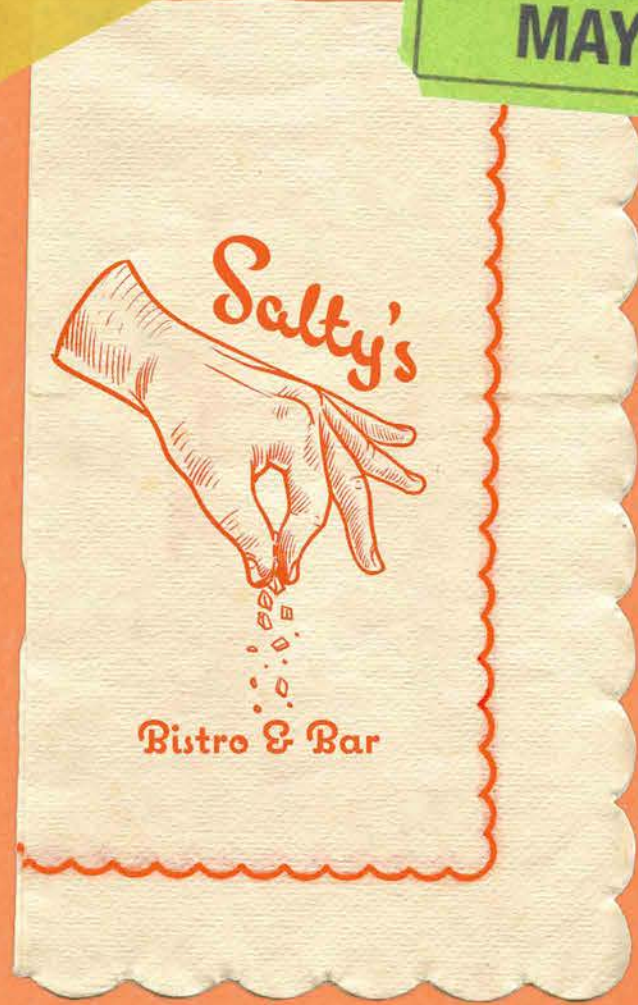
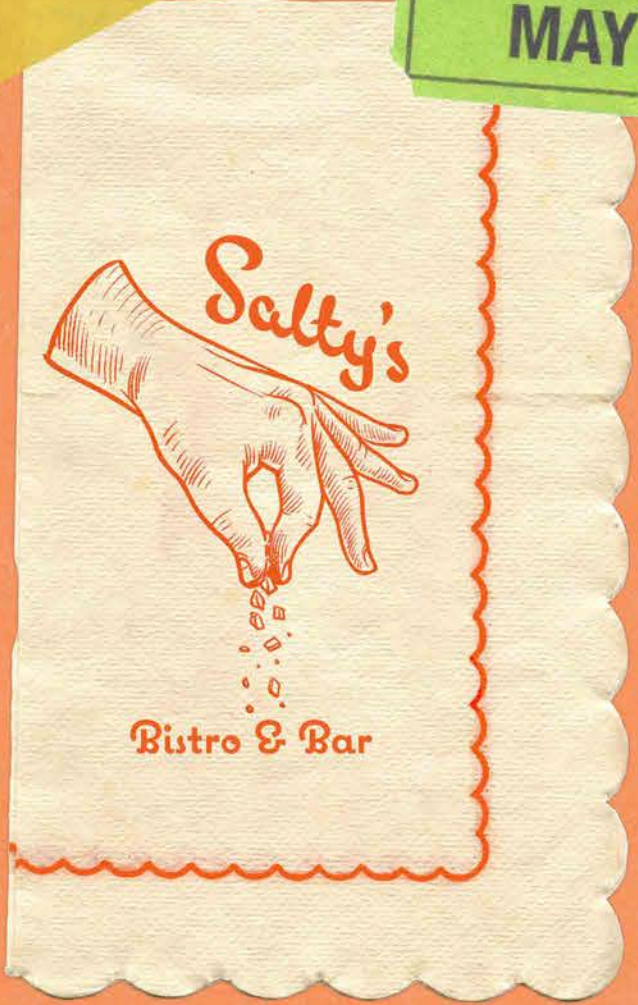
This certifies that the above-named member is in good standing with the Grain Gang and is loud, bold, and unashamed, for it's all taken with a grain of salt anyway and is entitled to all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

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950855

TABLE	NO. PERSONS	WAITER	AMOUNT OF CHECK

Thank You!

YOUR PATRONAGE IS APPRECIATED

TABLE	NO. PERSONS	WAITER	CHECK NO.
			950855

best of 2020	11.20
frozen adolescence	8.21
sublime	11.22
let's talk abt sex	6.23
index x glitch	2.24
TAX	
STYLE XX	Thank You -- Call Again 😊

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Foreword: Letter from the E-Board

hey there, old friend. it's lovely to see you here. we are so happy you stopped by to chat, one last time.

we'll keep this letter short and sweet — this digital zine will be filled with more than enough sappy sentiment, so we thought we'd spare you at least the first page. and regardless, it is impossible to encapsulate all we'd like to say into one letter. how can you fit four years of creativity, friendship, collaboration, community, giggles, memes, silly slack messages, fights with internet trolls, batshit emails, viral tiktoks and so much more onto one page?

so we present you this archival work: "**Going Out in Style.**" It will not encapsulate everything from grain of salt mag history, but it's a damn good attempt at doing so. furthermore, it will ensure that grain of salt mag will never be forgotten: the people, the words, the stories, the achievements. we were here, and we did some pretty fucking cool things while we were at it, just because we wanted to.

we are so fucking proud.

and we thank you so incredibly fucking much for these last several years.

we hope you enjoy this walk down memory lane as much as we did.

and for the last time, with all the love and the world,
the grain gang

grain of salt THROUGH THE YEARS

MAY 2020

- Co-founders **Kayla Otero** and **Ritamarie Pepe** have a Facetime call about zine and digital mag culture. Stuck in their childhood bedrooms during the pandemic, Kayla is itching to express herself, but feels like she's "not enough of a creative" to submit to zines. Rita suggests creating their own online mag as an accessible, community-oriented space for creatives to connect during this period of isolation. The two get to work developing grain of salt mag.
- Rita and Kayla invite their mega-talented friends, Melanie Riehl, Faith Terrill, and Isa deLeon to join them as founding members and leaders of grain of salt mag. All three accept, and the team gets to work organizing their first issue.



JUNE

- Each member writes one article to publish on their new website, grainofsaltmag.wordpress.com. They use this sample work to send to their friends and spread the word about grain of salt mag.
- The board hosts their first pitch zoom call with friends and peers who are interested in learning about the magazine. They talk about article ideas to celebrate Pride 2020.

• **Pride** articles are released.

Rita: Throwback to when I used to send meeting invites through evite like it was my fucking birthday party.

Case Study: First Impressions of GOS

Sheila: I was so relieved/amazed by how inclusive it was—as someone who was a part of the early pitch calls, they really gave everyone a chance to express their ideas in a supportive environment. Getting to hear everyone's ideas and riffing off each other was so joyful—it gave us something to get excited about during a time where there wasn't really much to look forward to. I used to spend quite a bit of time writing out my pitches and brainstorming ideas!

Maddie: SO FUN!! I remember it being so colorful and not scary like other Big Girl mags were. I liked that it was a space to learn from each other and make mistakes!

Brian: The creativity and passion was overwhelming.

Ella: It was basically everything I wanted to get into (design, writing, publishing, running my mouth) all rolled into one!!!

JULY



- The executive board members are interviewed by their university newspaper, **The Observer**, about grain of salt mag. **Alyssa Macaluso** who later becomes a staff member of the grain gang, conducts the interview.
- GOS's first TikTok goes viral on **TikTok**.

Faith: I had never been interviewed for something before, and was so so excited to talk to Alyssa—I wrote out answers to all her questions like I was going on a late night show.

Alyssa: I was super impressed with the vision, articulation, and execution of the project as a whole. I remember interviewing Rita and Faith for **The Observer** article and getting so excited learning about what y'all had created and where you wanted to take it.

Rita: I remember that day all too well, but because I thought I was being left out of the interview. Through the **Fordham grapevine**, Alyssa got our contact information and reached out to e-board members about conducting an interview. I remember Kayla, Faith, Mel, and Isa blowing up our group chat about getting a message, but I never got one. I was **SO** upset about it, and definitely cried for a bit. Turns out, I had accidentally switched on some phone setting that sent texts from unknown numbers into a separate "junk" tab. I'm a fucking idiot.

AUGUST



- grain of salt mag releases their **first-ever** feature piece: an interview with **Andi**, Toronto-based singer/songwriter, written by contributing writer **Maddie Hilf**.

Maddie: It was incredible to handle the first feature for grain of salt - first getting in touch with the talent and subsequently conducting the interview granted me valuable insight into that realm of entertainment journalism, which I've now carried into my career! I will always credit grain of salt as a very special place for learning and growing and serving as a foundation for so many of us!! Not to mention the community & the way small artists have always been prioritized and championed!



- grain gang contributors **Naomi Buchanan**, **Crea Dow**, and **Annie Cruz** start covering the 2020 presidential election.
- The magazine welcomes its first team member outside of the e-board: **Sadie!**

Sadie: I was so so excited when I got the email saying that I was accepted to be on the social media team, but I also worried about being under-qualified. After making my first few TikToks/graphics and having everyone hype me up, I got over the anxieties and was able to have fun making videos and animations. I truly never expected that one day I'd be running art residencies and jurying submissions for the very same magazine! Even though I was like 800 miles away from the rest of the team, everyone always made me feel welcome and included. I am truly so grateful for the experience I've gained and the connections I've made because of this

magazine. If I remember correctly, I'm pretty sure I was late to my zoom interview because I calculated the time difference wrong (which is sadly still an issue for me). But y'all have always been so amazing and understanding, and even though I was nervous before a lot of the first meetings, it soon felt just like chatting with friends. Also, lots of technical difficulties! I felt very cool sitting at my desk in my dorm and being like,

"Sorry, I have a meeting for the magazine I'm a part of."



Case Study: *Residency Program* !!

grain of salt mag was founded with the intention of establishing a space and community for creatives to grow and share their work regardless of their prior experience. Artistic spaces have historically been dominated by patriarchal values that scrutinize non-cis men for not having perfected pieces before sharing them. There is also a major barrier to gaining experience that disproportionately impacts marginalized identities. Unpaid internships, artistic expenses, nepotism and noninclusive work environments all discourage young professionals and artists of diverse backgrounds from pursuing their passions. But where there is no room to workshop, to share, to fuck up, there is no authentic growth.



The **residency program** was a semester-long commitment that provided hands-on experience for young professionals interested in the various departments that supported the magazine. By working with our teams, residents supported real time efforts of the magazine, all while building a strong portfolio to share with the world.

Lily: I found the grain of salt residency when I was looking for internships during my junior year of college. This was during the COVID lockdown, so I appreciated that I could build work experience remotely and work with creatives all over the world! I was able to get two more internships after that, followed by a full time job in graphic design—I'm sure that having gos on my resume helped me out. My favorite part of the experience was illustrating the work of poets and essayists by directly asking them for feedback. I loved that opportunity for direct communication.

Abi: When I visited New York for the second time in my life, I got the opportunity to meet Rita and Faith in real life—the memory is still one I cherish! I had never been one to make online friends, but due to the residency being virtual, plus the commitment to connecting with one another, I was able to make friends and build relationships beyond geographic access! As a freshman and later sophomore in college, I had yet to figure out the professional skills I needed to make sure I was ready for the job field before the gos residency. The program literally whipped me into shape, from starting my LinkedIn to building a better resume (I still use the job resume template that was shared with residents to this day!)

Emma Wiseman: It was in 2021 and I was in college, working at an ice cream shop, wanting to be creative! Alongside working on Frozen Adolescence, where my spread “frozen blueberries” was featured, grain of salt has given me lots of connections, and even inspired me to make my own zine, called Lurch Magazine.

Anna: Through the grain of salt residency, I got to be part of a supportive and special community that allowed me to further explore an area outside of my academic degree. As a resident, I not only got vast experience and portfolio building opportunities, but I also was able to connect with young creatives from all over the world. I loved my experience so much that I was able to stay on as a social media specialist!

Jo: The residency program offered through grain of salt was truly the perfect way to get introduced to the professional world of journalism/art/creativity. Every single person involved was not only supportive, but they wanted nothing more than to help you grow! I applied for the residency program on a whim to try and boost my resume for college applications, and left with a multitude of new skills, friends and a permanent position.

AUGUST

The mag hosts the second “let’s talk” career event about creative careers, featuring speakers:
Gabrielle Saydee (*Motion graphic designer in the music industry*)
Sierra L Boone (*Writer, digital strategist, impact storyteller*)
Michelle Cohn (*Film Publicity and Freelance Writer*)
Lily Herman (*Writer, Editor, and Digital Strategist*)

OCTOBER

The grain gang drops “**Frozen Adolescence**,” a time capsule of growing up and navigating young adulthood during quarantine + the COVID-19 pandemic, sponsored by the Fordham University Dean’s Summer Research Grant.



NOVEMBER

grain of salt mag shares their first ever in-person interview with **Phoenix James**, produced by Juana Moya and Sidney Barmoha.



2022

APRIL



- The grain gang donates the **\$713** raised through Frozen Adolescence to New York Community Trust’s COVID-19 Relief fund.
- Executive board members Ritamarie Pepe and Faith Terrill present Frozen Adolescence at Fordham University’s Ars Nova Research Symposium.

MAY

GOS turns 2!



JUNE

In light of Roe v. Wade's overturn, grain of salt mag hosts an instagram fundraiser to support the National Network of Abortion Funds, an organization that works to remove the many barriers to abortion access across the United States. **The goal was \$200—in total, they raised \$1,852.**

NOVEMBER

grain of salt mag releases **"Sublime,"** their third print issue, dedicated to beauty, joy, tranquility, love, and of course, the sublime. The first 20 orders included a beautiful sticker from artist **Nat Rosa!**

Rita: Nat was a JOY to work with. Just wanted to share that.



@lilsadbighappy

DECEMBER

grain gang drops new merch designed by former resident and staff member **Lily Johnson!**

AUGUST



grain of salt mag publishes their first concert photography and live review for up-and-coming German singer-songwriter **Zoe Wees.**



the rise of the toxic girl



Mina Le references grain of salt mag article "My Year of Rest and Dissociation: The Anti-Feminist Feminism of TikTok" by Aurora Muir in her video **"toxic" femininity: what's up with girlbloggers, female manipulators, and femcels?"**

MARCH 2023

grain gang staff headcount reaches *50 total members!*

MAY

grain of salt mag publishes the spring 2023 residency zine, **"Lost in the Cloud."**

JUNE

grain gang stocks the shelves at Bluestockings NYC with mini-zine **"Let's Talk About Sex."**

SEPTEMBER

Mina Le shares Paola Raygoza's graphic for grain of salt piece **"Hot Girl Walks for All"** in her video **"why is everyone dressing like a little girl?"**



FEBRUARY 2024

Leonie Christel mentions Kayleigh Wolta's article **"Romance Novels Aren't Stupid, You Just Hate Women"** in her YouTube video **"why are romance books 'cringe'?"**



DECEMBER

grain of salt mag drops zine bundles including **"Glitch,"** an exploration of our societies' movement from the physical world to an ever-growing digital universe, **"Index of the Internet,"** a silly, creative guide to the internet created in a collaborative effort between the grain of salt mag team + our Fall 2023 residents, and **"Let's Talk About Sex."**



preview Index of the Internet



preview Glitch

MAY

GOS celebrates their *4 year anniversary!*



PS: You can still shop all the merch here!



Grain of Salt

print issues

zine descriptions/

in honor of our six month anniversary, we wanted to compile the Best So Far into one zine that will serve as a time capsule for our journey thus far.

zine details/

- part of the proceeds from this issue went to the people's bodega of nyc, a mutual aid fund that provides free water, food, safety supplies and PPE to new yorkers involved in the fight for abolition.
- we did sticker bundles!

Best of 2020



"frozen adolescence" is our print magazine that serves as an artistic time capsule of growing up and navigating young adulthood during quarantine. it seeks to reveal and reflect on the isolation, stagnance, growth, introspection and all other feelings and processes COVID-19 has unearthed.

- thanks to Fordham's generosity with the Dean's Summer Research Grant, we were able to cover all costs of print production and shipping fees. allowing us to "sell" copies through a donate-what-you-wish system to raise money for COVID-19 relief through the New York Community Trust's Community Emergency Fund.

Frozen Adolescence



warm rays wash over your skin. the juice of the ripest strawberry trickles down your chin. a light breeze floats through the open window and blows out your candle, but it is no bother to you. it's summer; it's sunlight; it's sublime. the third grain of salt mag print issue is dedicated to beauty, joy and tranquility. it is an ode to the sublime; the things in life — big or small — that ignite us with pure peace and love.

- the first twenty orders included a beautiful sticker designed by the talented nat rosa!



Sublime



Let's Talk About Sex



zine descriptions/

a mini zine compilation of previously published work regarding sex and sexuality, curated by grain of salt mag editorial team.

zine details/

- zine theme proposed and executed by design team
- first mini zine
- first zine we manually printed
- first zine in store!!! — Bluestockings NYC
- very limited edition

Index x Glitch



"glitch" is an exploration of our movement from the physical world to an ever-growing digital universe. through this curated collection of art and writing, we aim to explore the digital spaces we gravitate to, how we express emotions and behaviors online, the ways we construct our personas, and how virtual community impacts our human connections. to complement "glitch" is "index of the internet" — a collaborative effort from the grain of salt mag team and our fall 2023 residents to put together a silly, creative guide to the internet. inside, you'll find a guide for soft launches vs hard launches, a recap of the best celebrity twitter fights, a timeline detailing how 9/11 led to ellen's downfall (it's true!), and so much more!

- first bundle
- also offered a bundle with 'Let's Talk About Sex'

what

Frozen Adolescence



Maria: "to me, frozen adolescence was the perfect way for people to reflect on their pandemic experiences. it was challenging for many to spend some of their most formative years inside, something which the published pieces really capture. i felt that depth and heaviness all throughout this print issue, and see it as an incredible time capsule for what living through this time period was truly like."

Faith: "the time period that frozen adolescence captures was so crucial to the foundation of grain and why we're here in the first place - it's awful that our generation lost out on such key experiences, but the fact that we were able to make impactful art out of such a tough time is very special."

Mallika: "frozen adolescence was one of the first places I ever shared my writing. my published piece, veggie tales, was the first piece i had written that was honest and true to my experience living in an intergenerational household in Portland, Oregon! when the story was published, my mother read it and translated it to my grandmother. the story helped them understand me which was not only exciting, but touching. seeing their response was the first time i realized that my writing could help build community in my family!"

Maddie: "my first interaction with grain of salt was with frozen adolescence, where my pandemic list of things i missed was published. seeing the care the design team took for my little list and seeing my name in print was so surreal - i got emotional when my copy came in the mail."

Rita: "this one is definitely my pride and joy, but also the bane of my existence. i think we ordered about 100 copies, and for some reason we could NOT get rid of the last 15(ish), even though they were essentially for 0 dollars. but regardless, they were absolutely gorgeous and i think is our best, and most important, collection of work."

people

Sublime

Jayde: "i had never been published before, and being featured in sublime was an honored experience that I will treasure forever. i remember seeing my vision come to life on paper, and shared it with everyone. it felt like i was sharing who i was - not just a story, but a real piece of who i am."

Maria: "this might be my favorite print project! after the intensity of frozen adolescence, i truly loved how we switched gears to a print issue dedicated to things that bring us happiness and peace. i love love, i love reading about what brings people joy and what they're passionate about. this mag was a sweet reminder of the beauty in life and how we can find the sublime in everyday moments. the spreads are absolutely BEAUTIFUL and truly convey what - sublime - is."

Faith: "this is probably my favorite print project to date. if i were to show aliens and/or pilgrims one piece of work that defined grain as a whole it would 100% be this one."

Kayleigh: "i started working on sublime a few weeks after joining the grain gang which was really fun because i felt like i was just diving in. even though this was the first big project i did, i was able to experiment with different design styles depending on what i thought fit each piece best."

Mallika: "this was probably my favorite print project! i was working on Sublime during a time where i was going through a lot of change, graduating college, moving to a new city, and figuring out how to face not being in school. it was also a time i was feeling really scared, questioning my identity, and trying to come to terms with leaving school. working on my piece for Sublime everyday was grounding, helping me carve time and space to reflect on different memories in my life, accept my fear about college ending, and find gratitude even when experiencing difficult emotions."

Rita: "i really wanted to do something happy and lighthearted after "frozen adolescence," so i pitched sublime. i don't think everyone was sold on the concept at the beginning (and were probably a bit scared to tell the editor in chief no), but by the end everyone really came around and it really has become a favorite. on a personal note, i wrote a piece about how antidepressants saved my life in an effort to challenge mental health and medication stigma. by the time we actually published sublime, the antidepressants i had spent pages raving about stopped working for me, and i had to change my prescription at least three times before my meds started working again. i still stand by my piece, but it was just hysterical to me"

Rita: "i'd also like to note that this was the print project in which one of the contributors had an issue with our layout design and fought us through email about it. we send out digital pdfs of the final magazines to contributors for free, and were so excited to FINALLY share sublime with our talented creatives. well, one contributor clearly had a) never seen our previous work and/or b) never flipped through a magazine/[insert any other type of editorial material] because they responded with a list of very unreasonable and false complaints about their piece AFTER we had already sent the pdf to print. thank god the company we used lets you re-upload files after you order. i simply removed it from the magazine."

2020

Faith: "i had never worked on a creative project in such a hands on, from the ground up way before. we were aware of grain's digital impact but seeing so many people support our first print endeavor was surreal and really put into perspective just how impactful the magazine is/was. navigating print production is hard enough but us doing it for the first time with a much smaller team + during peak COVID was not easy but Nevertheless We Persisted. also gil's cover still blows me away, i remember the first time we all saw it and flipped out."

Rita: "if i remember correctly, we ordered and sold 75 copies. while that may not seem like much, at the time, we truly were flying by the seat of our pants. it took us HOURS to put all of the orders together because we were doing everything by hand: stuffing envelopes, handwriting addresses, and penning personal notes. thank god we learned from that."

had



to

Best of 2020

Kayleigh: "this project was exciting because i knew it could be displayed in a store that i actually go to. not only that, but i also found the design process very interesting - we had a strong overall vision to adhere to, unlike past projects that were more of a mix of our designers' aesthetics."

Rita: "this was a super limited project in collaboration with bluestockings, a worker-owned bookstore in nyc. they have a really cool zine section that they were trying to revive, so we submitted! since we only needed a handful of copies, we decided to manually print and bind the zine by stealing utilizing our alma mater's resources. shoutout to the random professor that let us sit in on their class so we could print our silly zines in the corner. absolute legend."

Let's Talk About Sex



say!

Index x Glitch

Kayleigh: "although i only did limited spreads for glitch, they were so fun - the digital/tech aspect of the project let my design brain go wild. for example, i got to make something that actually looked like it was glitching, which felt so wrong but was so right for the zine."

Sophia: "i had heard about grain of salt on my first day at Fordham during orientation. i had the pleasure of having rita as an orientation leader, and after hearing about gos i quickly became obsessed. a magazine specifically dedicated to giving the patriarchy the middle finger could not be more up my alley, but as a developing english major i knew i wanted to be involved as both a dedicated reader and eager contributing writer. so, i decided to submit to glitch. it was so surreal to see my words with gos's stunning graphic design in a collection alongside other amazing pieces! i loved this project, and i really feel it touches on such personal ideas amongst young people entering their adult lives today, especially for young women whose lives have been so surveilled through a constant media storm which decides how they should look, how they should feel, and how they should live their lives. i shared this zine with my friends and family, and i was so ecstatic to be able to share something physical with the people in my life."

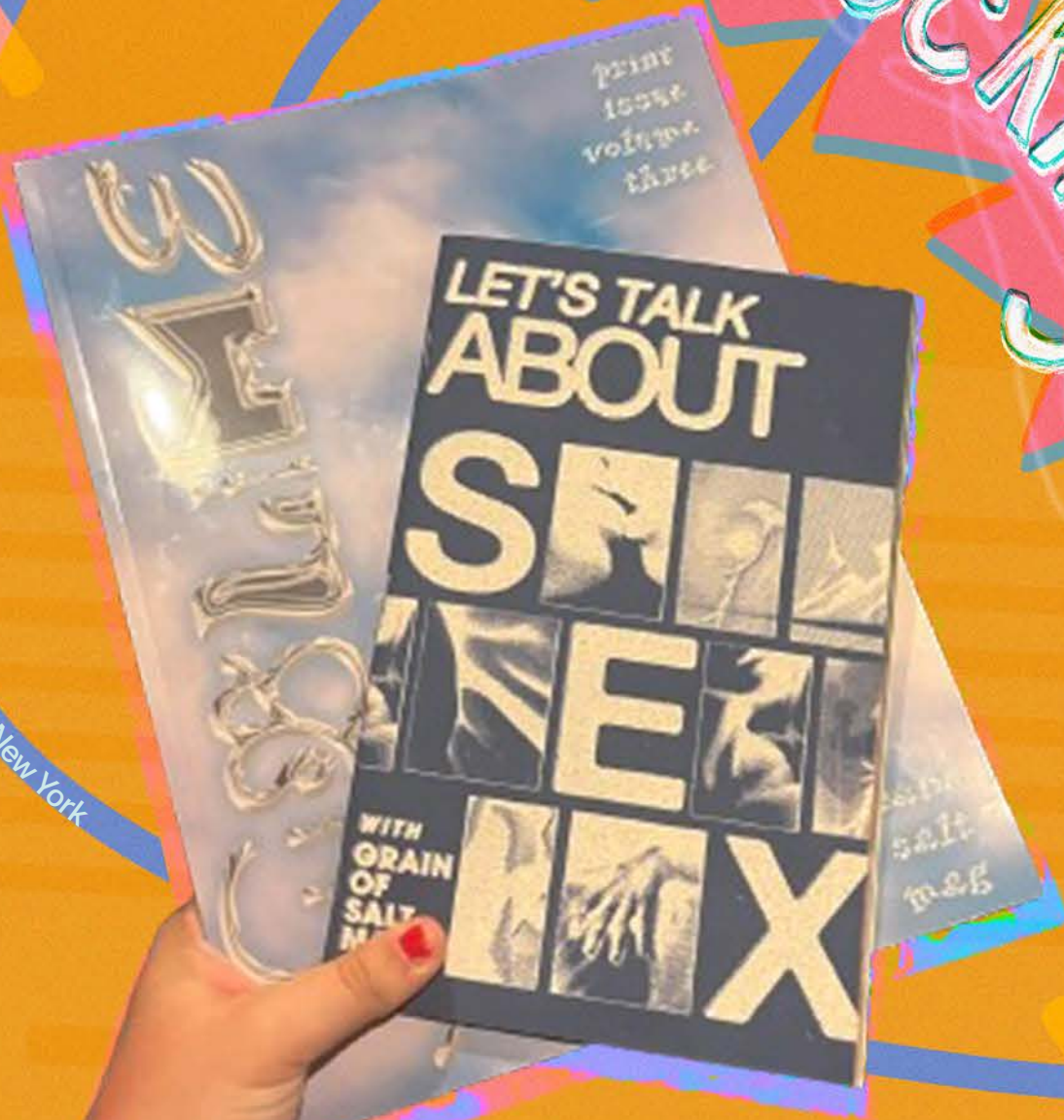
Brianna Levy: "i feel like grain of salt magazine went to college with me. that is to say, i feel like i went through some pretty formative years and experiences with it in the background. my first ever publication was in this magazine. it felt invigorating to have something published for the first time. printed in "Sublime," my poem "A Winter Night Near Bronxwood" was about curiosity, blackness, femininity, and their connection between space and time, country and generation. it was inspired by watching a mother and daughter walk down a street one night. i was hit with a pang of longing as i watched the two walk - seeing such a clear display of warm culture on a cold night made me long for knowing my parents, and by extension myself, as we were/would have been on our tropical island. i don't share my poetry with my parents often for many reasons, but i decided to share this one with my dad. what would a fully Jamaican bri be like, rather than a Jamaican-American one? what would her life look like? how would she philosophize her experiences? i don't think he got it. i think he thought i was complaining, or implying that it would've been better if he stayed and had us there. but i don't think he disliked it, either. and i appreciated that. and i appreciate you, grain of salt magazine, for helping me share my thoughts with myself and the world. i am no longer in college, and it seems like you're growing up too. i'll miss the both of us."

Brian: "what i loved about index was being able to capture the pop culture that i grew up with and combine it with my passion for design, and hopes for my creative career! getting to gain experience with spread design while having creative freedom was so fun. same goes for glitch, whether working on a spread of creative photos or an article that needed graphics, i felt my love for type, imagery, and textures come to life when the zine and all the spreads joined together! saltastic work all around!"

Rita: "i knew the grain gang was talented, but damn, index of the internet really reminded me how fucking cool we are. this was our first and only print project that was fully conceptualized, written, and produced by our internal team. it was a TON of work since we weren't working with submissions (our usual model), but holy shit was it fun. we really got to fuck around and create for the sake of creating. i shared it with my director at my big girl job for a major streaming platform, and he was so impressed by it. funnily enough, his favorite spread was the 9/11 to downfall of ellen pipeline."

90s + Bluestockings

Located at 116 Suffolk St. New York



I SPY GRAIN OF SALT ZINES ON A BOOKSHELF!!

Besides selling books and zines, Bluestockings serves as an activist center, community space, and feminist bookshop — offering support, unbiased research, and an inviting environment for all genders, cultures, sexualities, and identities. Along with supporting liberating social movements, Bluestockings Cooperative seeks to embody and grow the values of feminist ideals. Bluestockings Cooperative practices abolition feminism, solidarity, and transformational justice. Workers manage and operate everything. They use community wisdom and ideals to guide their collaborative endeavors.

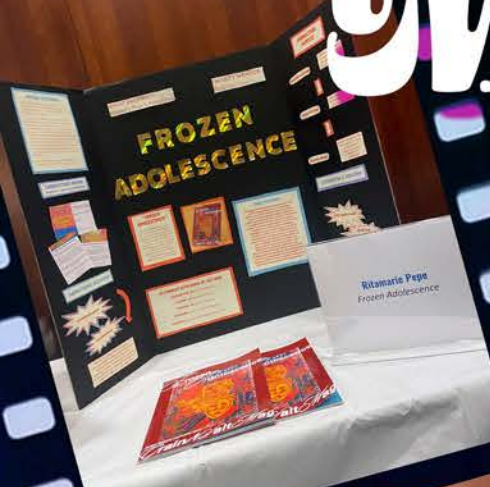
submit your art and writing to grain of salt, an online mag giving the male gaze the middle finger

grain of salt

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grain of salt

GRASS



Meeting IRL



packaging parties



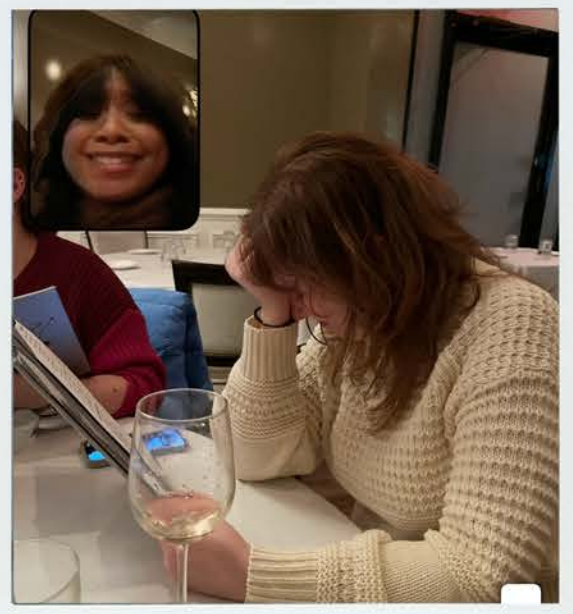
printing



London



"I would get stuck in Birmingham for you guys a million times over 🥰💕" -Maddie



Board

2023



"i honestly wish i could bottle the happiness i felt that night to carry around with me forever. I hadn't laughed that hard in ages." - Rita



Dinner



Juana!



Abi!



And they were roommates!

“For someone involved in this zine community, one would think I would be better with words. Grain of salt brought me community and light during the dreary times of social distancing. I never would have thought that joining would have created friendships that will transcend way beyond what I could have ever imagined. Thanks to gos I have gained friendships, my current room mates <3, and valuable perspective and knowledge. All thanks to a little LinkedIn message, gos left a major impact on my life.

The zine will be deeply missed but the community is 5ever.” - Sydney

“our apt is a TRIPLE gos household with me eri and sydney, although before we moved in I’d only worked with sydney remotely and had never met in person! Rita [was] kind enough to connect us cause we were in Dire Straits for a third roommate and I’m SO GLAD it worked out the way it did. We were the perfect match and many a fangirl roundtable has been held in our living room over our common interests and passions. I’m so happy I met sydney (assuming she feels the same way lol) and it’s honestly just so badass that we have an amazing network of people through the gos community for stuff like this. We’re all willing to help each other out, and having this amazing project in common is enough for me to know that I trust and respect everyone involved.” - Sheila

“You’re welcome” - Rita

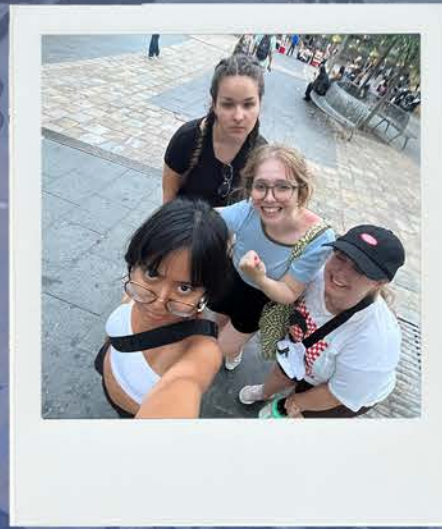


Sheila x Sydney x Erica roommates

Manhattan Walk



when roe v wade, the landmark decision that protected abortion rights, was overturned in june 2022, the grain of salt community was angry. in order to keep abortions accessible to low-income communities as the laws were upended, the eboard set a goal to raise \$200 dollars for the national network of abortion funds. However, with the tremendous support of the community, we ended raising over \$1800 total. in return, editor in chief rita set out to do something big to express gratitude for the community's fundraising efforts... and when team member emma green challenged us to walk the entirety of manhattan, she gladly accepted.



on july 17 2022, rita, faith, isa and maria began an over 10 hour walk from the top of manhattan to the bottom of manhattan. yummy eats and much needed fuel at BIPOC/women-owned business such sugar hill ice cream and i like it black coffee shop kept our tanks full as we made the near 13 mile trek. while not every stop could be made (honorary shoutout to silver moon bakery and yu and me books!) we eventually made it to the very bottom of manhattan. although incredibly bittersweet in context of such a horrific and debilitating governmental decision, looking back, the team couldn't be more proud of the funds we were able to raise during such a crucial moment, and will never forget the memories (and thousands of steps) made on this day.

"I want to personally shout out the guy from that coffee shop who refilled our water bottles even though he was closing shop. Thank you for taking pity on us. The warm sparkling water we got from the pleasing truck we stumbled upon was not cutting it." - rita



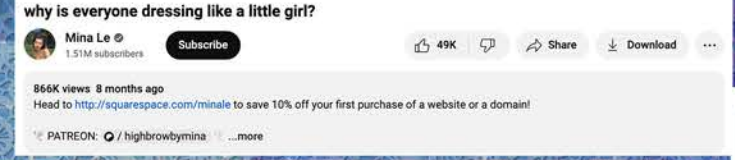
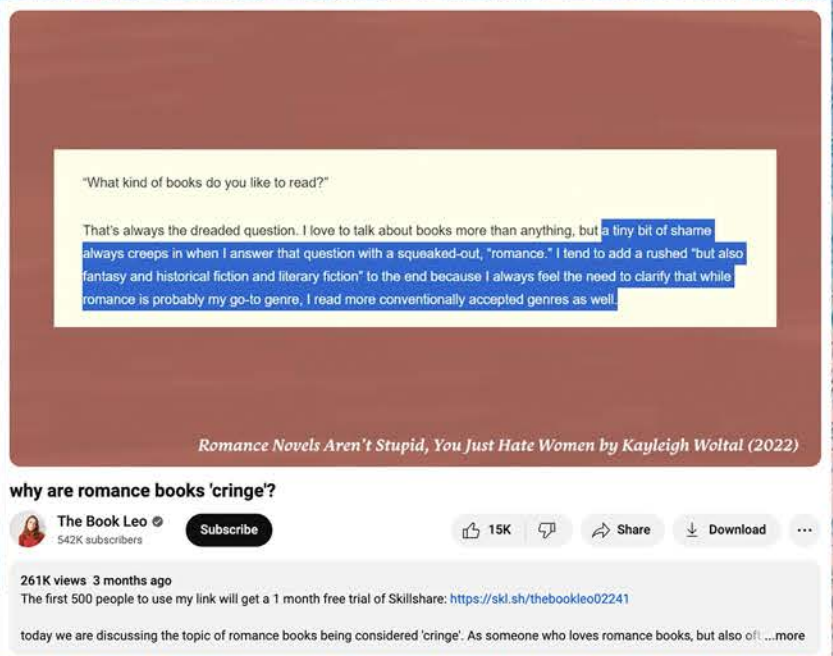
"in july 2022, our new york based team members wanted to gather for a fun experience — what better way than a mets baseball game! the beauty of this sport is the chance to spend quality time with friends, catch up and chat, eat and drink, all while enjoying the sport. to cap off the mets' win, citi field even put on a fireworks show at the end of the night, which was a beautiful moment to spend together. this opportunity for community-building was truly a memorable experience and a blast for all. LGM!" -Maria

"I think 99% of us did it for the hot dogs" -Rita



Our Youtube Era

"when i saw the message from brenda that my article was in that video i was in class and i just have to say thank god it was JUST BARELY my 10 minute break because i think i yelled a little. like involuntarily just went "AH!" it was so cool to see because not only was my article used which is something in itself but people in the comments were talking about my work which is sooooo wild to me. i had complete strangers defending my points and stuff which i just never thought would happen" -Kayleigh



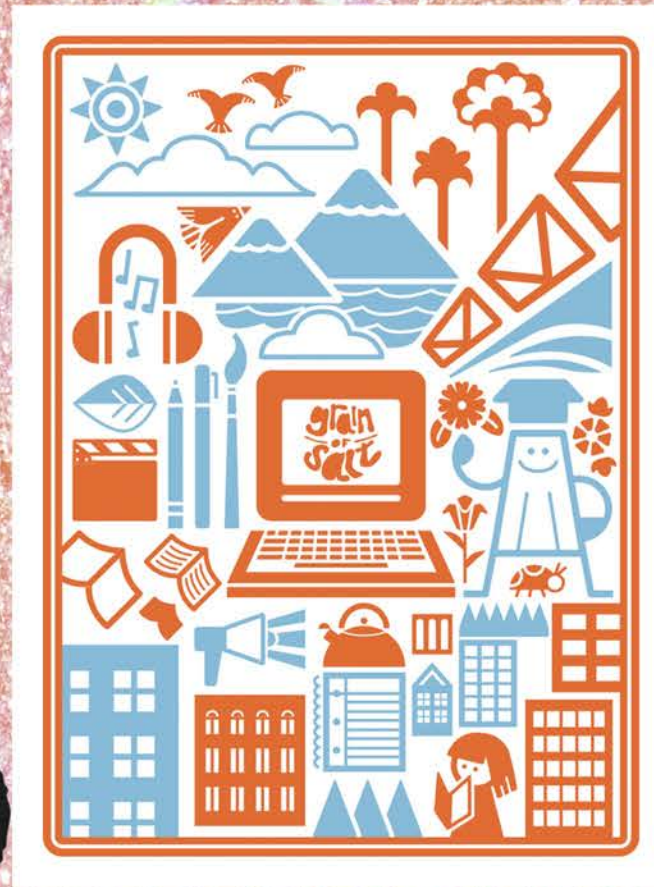
"my article being in that mina le video was like the highlight of my year that year!! i remember waking up to a text from my co-worker (of all people!) being like "hey is this you?" and i was just so excited and happy! i still feel inspired knowing that my work was received in that way. working at gos was just fantastic and i feel so grateful to have been a tiny part of it! i loved chit chatting in the zoom meetings and connecting with so many people from the other side of the world! <333" -Aurora

Comment, Like and Suscribe!



gos Merch!

by Lily



Check out Lily's portfolio in the qr below!



"I had a great time making this merch design fit the eclectic energy of Grain of Salt. I drew the design by hand to give it a rough, experimental feel. The final design features mascot Salty surrounded by a series of doodles representing different aspects of the magazine, like visual art, music journalism, political advocacy, and film."

LETTERS

from the grain gang ♡

honey simatupang

I'm currently neck deep in journal articles for the almost 10k words worth of essays I have to write for uni so I don't have the bandwidth to write much, but I just want to say that I am so eternally grateful to have been part of this incredible community!

I first found Grain of Salt during the pandemic, when I couldn't land an internship anywhere. I decided to contribute to online magazines as an alternative, Grain of Salt being one of them, but there were no openings at the time so I just submitted one illustration to the digital Valentine's Day issue. Fast forward two years later, I had graduated from my bachelor's degree in illustration and had found myself entrenched in a predicament: I realized during the research for my final project that I enjoyed writing more than I did illustrating! All throughout my time as an editorial illustrator for all these different online mags, I realized that I envied the authors for being able to publish their ideas for the world to see, and used my proximity to their words via my illustrations of them to feel fulfilled.

Since submitting to the Valentine's Day issue I had been following Grain of Salt's socials and always kept an eye out for a writing position, and I was finally able to join in early 2023 as a writer in the residency program. Grain of Salt was my first foray into editorial writing (that wasn't short-lived personal Wordpress blogs lol) and I am so immensely lucky to not only have gained that professional experience of working in a team—which significantly improved my pitching and writing skills—but to have met such wonderful people in the process.

To Rita, Faith and the E-board team: thank you so much for creating this space for thinkers and dreamers like us to convene and flourish! I am forever indebted to the platform that you've all built, and this magazine and community will have a special place in my heart forever.

Love love love,
Honey x

P.S. Keep in touch! When in London (or anywhere in Indonesia for that matter) give me a ring <3

melanie riehl

one hell of a ride! seeing grain of salt go from one, tiny idea to an online mag with a blossoming community has been one of my proudest experiences to date. to put such love out into the world through this mag and to receive some of that love back ... what a feeling!

grain of salt gifted me with endless inspiration, a renewed love of writing, and lifelong friends. and for that, i am forever grateful.

ella sylvie

grain of salt gave me the (generous) slap in the face i needed to actually start believing i had some semblance of creative ability and i will always be grateful for that. working on that first print zine is probably still my favourite experience with design. since those early days, the extent of my involvement has risen and fallen and risen again but i have enjoyed genuinely *everything* about being even a small part of this unbelievably talented group. one day i will tour you americans around edinburgh!!! one day! love you gos <3

emma wiseman

Grain of Salt was an incredible opportunity for me as a budding graphic designer during my college years—it marked my debut in the field! My first internship ever! I got to make spreads for the magazine + gained valuable professional experience about applying, interviewing, organizing, print media, and community. Since then I've worked as a graphic designer at creative agencies, and started my own publication. Thanks for taking a chance on me, gos, and kick starting my journey into the world of design.

tzipporah goins

Writing at gos magazine reinvigorated me with newfound confidence in my writing style and content. I've always been unsure about my writing voice, and gos gifted me a comfortable platform to describe my experiences as a woman of color without worry of those experiences being trivialized. I will forever be grateful to gos for amplifying my voice and letting me create a piece of work that I will be proud of FOREVER.

ali bernstein

i won't forget how grain of salt mag provided an artistic outlet for so many talented, expressive, and hardworking young people during a time when the world was filled with so much darkness. i am most appreciative of the community forged behind the scenes, as we were able to connect with each other and create together when we couldn't always in person (re: pandemic!). it was so great seeing people support and uplift each others' work and create friendships in addition to the cool content. i was inspired to actually take time to sit down and make art, be it writing, poetry, collaging, etc., when without gos, i may have not found a reason to do so on my own volition. everyone should be proud!

thanks gos, hags (lol)
- ali b

mallika chennupaty

Telling a story is like raising a plant. You need to give it the right care, attention, the proper amount of sunlight, the right amount of soil to help it grow. In the same way, the seed of an idea needs to be cultivated, revised, edited and grown into a story, an article, a podcast, a zine submission, any and all of the above. Grain of Salt was the first place where I felt safe and comfortable enough to share my seeds, the most random ideas in my brain. The print magazines became a place where the stories I thought that no one would pay attention to, no one would care about, actually came to life. The summer residency helped me find a place where I could actually see myself as a writer in reality, instead of just in a journal :).

And finally, I think the most important is Grain of Salt's community. Though I wasn't as vocal as a member in the slack channels, I learned so much about writing and storytelling just from reading everyone's writing and observing the community. Madeline English's essay in Frozen Adolescence called "Things Human Do That I Miss" was my first introduction to list essays, and is a piece of writing that still sticks with me to this day. The details in her writing, and her ability to truly pay attention to humans, to how we interact and how that's changed our lives, impacts the way that I view the world to this day. Sheila Kiernan's "A Bike Around My Home Town" in Summer Sublime helped me feel seen and less alone just yesterday when I was feeling nostalgic about college and childhood and growing up. I even wrote the quote "She will lose something. She will gain something." on a post-it and taped it to my wall. To maybe try to summarize my little rant, I've always turned to words and stories to expand my worldview and to express myself, to kind of get out of my own brain. Grain of Salt showed me how a community, untethered to a place and maybe even spread out across the world, can do that as well. So thank you for creating a place to share and uplift writing, and thank you for showing me that writing is done best together. This community and magazine has made a lasting impact on my life, and I'm forever grateful :).

Warmly,

Mallika

brian jean

it is with great appreciation that I acknowledge the tremendous creative forces that make up grain of salt. huge shoutouts to maria trizzino, who's support of the zine through social reposts started my initial interest in grain as well as kayleigh woltal for guiding me through my design residency!

from the realms of literature, social media, and other forms of creative expression, grain emerges as a small but formidable collaborating force! as a budding designer, it has been incredibly fulfilling to work on projects for my portfolio while also supporting a vibrant and progressive social community.

i am much more determined to pursue a career in publishing design after working for this zine. coordinating with you all to release our designs into the eyes of consumers has been an absolute delight. best of luck to you, grain gang!

melanie hucklebridge

Dearest Salty & Grain Gang-

You found me when I was going through a soul-tearing transformation in my life, discovering who I was and what I wanted to be and now you've kept helping me grow and kindly allowed me a place to rest my wings when I was hurting. We've been through loss, terror and change together and now I know that even though our time together is ending, the love will always be there. You brought me good friends and fantastic memories. From tiny Bangladeshi restaurants and hotel lobbies to the end of my academic era, you have been a pillar in so many of my defining moments! You have been here to teach, guide and grow the voices of so many under-represented people and that's such a big job for a small team, but you did it! We did it! I have loved every minute you've given me and the ones that we'll have when we meet again.

I love you all, we'll always be a grain away.

Mel <3

juana moya

It's not an understatement to say that I wouldn't know where or who I'd be without Grain of Salt. Everything that this community has built inspired me to follow my passions even when it seemed like the world was against me. Being able to share my ideas with a group that was wholeheartedly invested in my growth both as a thinker and an individual has left me feeling endlessly cared for and determined to always be striving for my next best idea. I am continuously grateful to have been a part of an environment that fully welcomed me exactly as I am. The Grain Gang gave me the confidence I needed to pursue my most ambitious projects. Thank god for the zoom rooms where I was able to laugh and gossip and learn with my fellow writers. Thank god for all the times we got to meet in person and finally share our thoughts with each other out loud over trivia or a coffee. This publication will always hold a piece of my foundation as a writer.

My first article ever published was about my dismay for the current state in which we view love and romantic relationships. And while I still agree with (most of) my sentiment, what's changed is that now, I've fully been able to learn and appreciate the love that comes from having a community behind you, endlessly willing to uplift your voice, learn from you, while also giving you room for your own growth. What we created across the span of four years is so special, and it was an honor and a privilege to be a part of it all. Whenever anyone asks where I got my start, I will always tell them to take it with a Grain Of Salt.

madeline english

Things About Grain of Salt That I Will Miss

1. When we would send each other book recommendations we thought the other would like.
2. Geeking out over zine spreads and hyping each other's work up.
3. Getting emails that start with the words "hey slayer."
4. The iconic instagram polls.
5. Salty (and his boyfriend, Pepper).
6. The notes on the Google docs that made you believe in yourself as an artist.
7. Getting to tell people you work for a literary magazine and show them your body of work.
8. The random tangents, hyper-fixations, and memes that would get passed around.
9. The feeling of being seen for possibly the first time.
10. Seeing each other through the creative process.
11. Giving the male gaze the middle finger as a group.
12. Raising money for causes important to us.
13. Curating playlists and forcing everyone to acknowledge country music as a genre.
14. The team.

To the artists of grain of salt, both past and present, thank you, thank you, thank you.

kennedy brooks

My freshman year of college, I was super conceptually obsessed with that Britney Spears song, "I'm not a girl, not yet a woman." Despite never actually taking the time to listen to the song, my obsession probably stems in part from an appreciation for the melodrama of Britney's statement. Throughout the next four years of college, I continued to not listen to the song and instead elected to quote its title to myself and others whenever I found myself plowing through the realities of adolescent angst. I am a big believer in the power of a phase, and almost every single phase that I went through during my time at University was underlied by the ambiguity of not being a girl or a woman but instead being some secret and highly venerated third thing.

When I first found Grain of Salt, I was a freshman navigating my first months at college and going through a very serious (and ultimately regrettable) Twee phase. My self expression in the form of argyle vests, and Peter Pan collars was no doubt an attempt to regain control of the stunning series of chaotic events that characterized the early days of my college experience, one She & Him song at a time. Because I had graduated from high school during the pandemic, I was struggling to toe the line between making friends and participating in activities while also feeling like I was protecting my own physical well-being (which was made even harder by the fact that going to college in the South meant that being COVID-safe was largely a battle fought by the individual without mandates from the governing body of the school). As a result of my seemingly self imposed isolation, I had largely retreated into a largely chronically online existence that allowed me to spend my days lurking in r/Beret without having to interact with too many other people. During my daily doom scroll, I came across an advertisement for the Residency program on GoS's Tik Tok account.

cntd

kennedy brooks cntd

I decided to apply, despite the fact that my isolation had manifested into a depression that made doing simple tasks incredibly hard. When I got the email stating that my submission had been accepted and that I would be joining the residency program, I was cautiously optimistic about what it might mean for me. Throughout the residency program, I got to work with an amazing cohort of other writers (shout out Abi, Juana, and Sarah—hell will freeze over before I unmutual you guys on Instagram) who were into the same niche internet things that I had always liked but had never found a place to discuss them. At just eighteen, I was the baby of the group, and at times I felt a bit intimidated by a group of such intelligent and freaking cool women of color, and I found myself getting a bit of a reprieve from the realities of my depression with every submission of an article or rose-bud-thorn that I completed. Through the residency program, I was able to stimulate an intellectual curiosity inside of myself that I did not even realize still existed, and though I did not realize it at the time, joining Grain of Salt was my first step towards taking my life back from depression.

After the residency program ended, I ditched the berets in favor of a pair of Loubitons, and the beginning of my Carrie Bradshaw era kicked into high gear. I started writing articles about sex and dating and the psychology of situationships (a subject near and dear to my heart), and even though some of the other faces on the team changed, the killer and inviting content that was being produced did not change even for a second. During this period of my life, I was still pretty chronically online, but in a TBS Loser-Hot Girl way (or at least that's what I was telling myself) that took up the space in between that Britney was trying to tell us about in the song. Even though this was probably not the healthiest era in my life, my monthly check-ins and biweekly article deadlines kept me from veering into the path of being too Carrie Bradshaw past the point of no return. I had never been in a space that allowed me to speak so openly about being a queer sex-positive feminist, and I could feel myself getting closer and closer to the woman that I might be one day every single time I filled out a Grain of Salt section code headline (L4 until the day I die, baby!).

I could probably pen at least seven different paragraphs on all of the other phases that I went through during my time as a Staff Writer, but for the purposes of making this a pithy (and not horribly embarrassing) read, I will resist the urge to do so. The important part of all of this is that throughout all of my different phases of being not a girl but also not yet a woman, Grain of Salt saw me through. So while I won't bore you with the aforementioned seven paragraphs, I can share that I have been with GoS through: three apartments, three exes, two changes of my academic major, the dissolution of two close friendships, three different therapists, and five relapses into being Twee (note to the audience: do NOT watch 500 Days of Summer if you are in a moment of weakness and know that you are the kind of person who is at risk of random acts of Zooey Deschanel). While my writing has always been a bit more on the journalistic side, the changes that I was experiencing as a girl, not yet a woman, were evident in the topicality of my writing and my voice as an author, and being a part of a team that does not just validate the radical nature of a phase but embraces it has made every bit of a difference for me as both a writer and a person.

Every year that passed while I was in school, I could feel my voice growing and changing and getting better and more sophisticated. The GoS community's reception of my work empowered me to begin taking action on the things that I was writing about with the magazine, and I started organizing within my own community. I changed my major to align with the passion that GoS helped me realize lived inside of me, and I spent two years of college in my Girl Boss phase. I was absolutely trucking, and I was incredibly excited to get to share all of my wins with my always supportive Grain gang. When my Girl Boss phase started to look suspiciously like a Burnout phase during my Senior year, the lessons that I have learned from personal conversations and the other members of the magazine helped me realize that it is okay to take a step back and prioritize your own health.

Throughout my journey at GoS, I have had the pleasure of working with two of the most righteously cool and endlessly interesting writers in the whole wide world. When they are not busy personifying the answer to the question what do you want to be when you grow up, Rita and Faith have also acted as two life-changing mentors who I felt comfortable opening up to (albeit kind of sarcastically) about my health problems. Because Rita and Faith are capital P Professionals, they allowed me to take a leave of absence during the time that I was away, which let me keep lurking in the Slack and stalking the website for new material. I was struggling with my own stuff, but other members of my community were going through the same things, and reading about their experiences made me feel a bit less alone in going through my own. Even though I got pretty busy with recovery and senior year stuff, a part of me always felt like something was missing when I was not writing. I realized that a part of my heart would always be in New York with the home base of the magazine, as well as with all of the people in the beautiful community of free expression and unashamed introspection that Rita and Faith have helped build for all of these years.

Obviously, it kind of sucked to get the message that GoS was shutting down right as I was getting to a place in my recovery journey that would allow me to start writing again, but there is something bittersweet about starting my journey with Grain of Salt and it ending right as I am about to graduate. I have reflected a lot on being chronically online, both in my writing and in my own introspection, and I think that there is something to be said about realizing that there is going to have to be a day where you walk away from the laptop (even if it hurts a little). To have somewhere to go that allows people to coalesce and celebrate as their authentic selves is nothing short of a miracle, and I believe that Grain of Salt magazine is that kind of miracle. As I contemplate graduation, the end of the magazine, and the rest of my life, I face the fact that I still feel as though I am not yet a girl or a woman. However, I am Grain of Salt, and so are all of you.



LETTERS from the E-BOARD

the final
farewell

i have been avoiding writing this for so long because i know i will be in shambles by the end of it. where do i even begin???? it's been such an incredible four years with some of my bestest friends and i am so sad to say goodbye, but also so thankful to have been a part of something so much bigger than what any of us could've imagined.

before grain of salt started, i felt trapped in every way — i was sent back home thousands of miles away from my university, i couldn't see my friends, go to classes, explore the city i had moved to, or truly be my own person. in all aspects, it was incredibly hard to go through the motions of the life i had before covid, all while trying to navigate my own identity and hopes for the future. but grain of salt provided me with a glimmer of hope — it made me feel like anything was possible despite being physically confined to the walls of my childhood bedroom.

gos was the first place that i felt i was a real, working graphic designer. i didn't have to define myself based on my experience, or listen to what The Voices™ in my head were telling me — i was a designer, point blank period. and as a baby designer with big dreams, finding a safe space to create is incredibly important for growth, but is also equally as difficult to find. grain of salt was where i built up my confidence and creativity. without it, i simply don't know where i would be.

i remember drawing up the logo and little salt shakers on my dinky ipad and presenting it to kayla and rita over zoom, sitting exactly where i am writing this goodbye letter. so much of my early adulthood is a collage of every single conversation, article, art piece and print issue i have had the pleasure of being involved in at grain of salt.

as this adventure comes to an end, one thing is for sure: i'll be taking Everything with a grain of salt forever. <3

<3,
Isa

i, and my crippling insecurity complex, never thought that i would be a part of something as fucking cool as grain of salt, let alone a founding member. I'd always loved to write, hell i even went to college for it, but i never felt confident in my abilities. so when i was asked to oversee editorial content for a whole ass online publication - naturally my first instinct was heywhywouldyoutrustmewiththatithinkyou'vegotthewrongguy. i was 19 then and i'm 23 now. although that nagging voice has not disappeared, as grain of salt has grown, so has my confidence and belief in myself alongside it.

in a way, saying goodbye to grain feels like saying goodbye to a version of me. a monumental chapter of my young adulthood was spent with this project, and i am endlessly grateful to have been brought into the fold on a random night in may nearly four years ago.

but that's not what's most important here, and not even close to the loss i'll feel the most. as we've been collecting letters and statements from community members across our time as a mag over the past few weeks, i've been so deeply moved by how much grain has fostered that same creativity and confidence in others. sure, it's one thing to feel these effects within yourself, but reading people's testimonies about how they were able to find and develop confidence in their own skill sets through this community made me very very weepy, to say the least.

when you've been a part of something like this for so long, it can become so easily intertwined into your day-to-day life that it just exists with you - almost like a subconscious. i became so accustomed to having this (not so) little community as a constant in my life that i rarely stopped to picture a future without grain in it. constant slack notifications and weekly meetings never once bothered me - they kept me tethered to something, connected to a project much bigger than myself. now that our metaphorical sun is setting, i can already feel the salty shaped hole in my heart poking and prodding at me.

and while i honestly still struggle to see myself as a leader, working with this team of amazing creatives has shown me that true leadership doesn't fit one particular mold. i have learned something from every single person i have interacted with through grain of salt - whether it's how to be a better writer, editor, leader or overall creative. opportunities like that are rare, and don't present themselves too often.

to be able to create freely and unabashedly alongside this entire team for four years has been without a doubt one of the most impactful experiences of my life. both professionally and personally, i do not know who i would be today without grain of salt. so while saying goodbye is incredibly difficult (and has yet to hit me fully, i fear the sight of a salt shaker might make me tear up for the next 3-5 business months), grain of salt will never truly be over. its impact lives in what it has inspired - and how lucky are we to have been a part of it.

faith

I wouldn't be where I am today without the edits I've received from Rita and Faith. Even before we met, when I submitted my application for the 2021 grain of salt residency, they gave me a very important edit: instead of being a copyediting resident, they thought I should be an article writing one. grain of salt was a place not just for creatives to produce their work and bolster their resumes, but a community that genuinely supported everyone who walked through the (virtual) door. Without support like that, I'm certain that many of the ideas expressed through writing, illustration, photography, and more published in grain of salt mag would not exist.

I didn't write as many articles as I would have liked during my time at grain of salt, but some of the ones I did are ones I am particularly proud of. And while scores of articles might've looked good lined up on my LinkedIn, what I enjoyed the most about the mag was speaking with fellow writers about their ideas, and having the privilege of editing and workshopping their pieces, first as a content editor, then as editorial director. There's a great amount of trust in passing your work off to someone else for feedback. I feel honored to have been trusted enough to give that feedback for the last two years, and I am grateful that I was a part of an editorial team where I trusted my colleagues with my own work.

Thank you to my fellow 2021 article writing residents Kennedy, Juana, and Abi for being an incredible first writer's room. Thank you to all of the eboard for keeping the lights on for four years and for maintaining a space for tons of creatives to, well, create. Again, I want to thank Rita and Faith, without whom I would be a much worse writer (or maybe not a writer at all!).

This is a goodbye, and the end of something significant in my life, but this should also be a type of celebration. We should celebrate all of the work that's been posted to the website and/or printed in physical issues; all the work done behind the scenes by our dedicated social team, graphic designers, copyeditors, website editors, pr team, photographers, and videographers; as well as all of the incredible work that is still to come from the creative people who made this community what it is.

All the very best,
Sarah Lamodi

how lucky am i to have something so special, that makes saying goodbye so hard!

when i reflect on my four years with grain of salt, i'm filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude. i joined the social media team in 2020, shortly after i changed my college major from chemistry to marketing. i was looking for a bit of experience to ensure it was the right field for me — and it did exactly that! gos allowed me to create, build confidence, get outside my comfort zone, become a face of the brand, lead residents and form meaningful relationships. my involvement led me to pursue my dream of working in sports, including my jobs with MSG Networks, MLB Network, and the MLB. i would not be here if it wasn't for grain of salt! outside of these accomplishments, i could not be more proud of everything gos has done, the community we've fostered and the impact we've had. cheers to you, grain of salt mag. i love you with all my heart!

Xoxo,

maria trizzino

I've been putting off writing this for some time now. A large reason is because life has been pretty hectic lately — which inherently proves why this decision is the best, but bittersweet, decision to make. But the little goblin in the cobwebbed corners of my brain knows that "busyness" is an excuse for the truth: I'm avoiding the blinking cursor that stares back at me every time I try to summarize four of the most meaningful years of my life on a Google Doc.

To be honest, I don't think I'll ever be able to find the right words or put them in the right order in a way that fully satisfies myself. But if there is anything I've learned as a writer over the years, it's that sometimes you just have to put (figurative) pen to paper and see what comes out. So here it goes:

- grain of salt mag was my light throughout so much darkness. Most famously, it helped me (and many others) find community and connection during quarantine. Most personally, it gave me purpose during the most painful friendship breakup I'll ever endure. I don't think I could've made it through either, and especially the latter, without grain of salt.

• Every time I use "community" and "grain of salt mag" in the same sentence, I feel like a really toxic recruiter writing about the "incredible company culture" for a new job opening at the worst agency known to mankind. But I swear, in this case, it is actually fucking true, and I have two examples to prove it. My polished, professional example is when we raised over \$1,000 for the National Network of Abortion Funds in less than 24 hours. Watching the donation notifications roll in from every corner of the grain of salt mag multiverse, from dedicated to creatives to casual readers, was incredibly mind blowing. But my personal, feel good, "holy shit I'm so glad I'm alive to live through this" moment is from Faith and I's trip to London last December. At the time, three of our staff writers were located in Britain, and all three unanimously asked to come visit us for a one night rendezvous when we were in town — and technically, two of them were nowhere near Londontown and had to travel multiple hours via train to make it. If there's a heaven, one version of paradise is loitering and giggling in the hotel lobby with Honey, Maddie, Mel and Faith because we were having too much of a good time to part ways at the end of the night.

- Speaking of staff writers: Faith, Juana, Abi, Kennedy, Sarah, Aurora, Emma, Mallika, Honey, Maddie and Mel, I feel so incredibly lucky to have worked with such poignant voices. Thank you for sharing your words with us.
- Over 100 people across the globe at one point or another carved time out of their complex lives to build grain of salt mag for the sake of community and creativity. Not a single dime went to a staff member, resident, creative, or anyone's personal bank account. People just kept showing up in the ways they could because they wanted to. And as someone who has been flogged by a ton of cynicism lately, I find that really fucking beautiful.
- I'm a writer, and I'm finally confident in claiming that title. It's funny how the thing you set out to do for others actually works for yourself. And on that note, for someone with 0 formal training, I fucking love editing and I'm semi-decent at it. I will miss tearing apart writers' first drafts on our journey to find the best version of their art.
- I wish I could tuck every single graphic designer who worked with us into bed at night, complete with a lullaby and a good night kiss. Your talent has left me breathless on multiple occasions, and you all deserve your flowers.
- To Faith, Isa, Maria, and Sarah: I love you. Thank you for putting up with me.
- If you have supported grain of salt mag in any way — whether it's something as simple as clicking an article link or as touching as ordering one of our print magazines — I fucking love you. Thank you.

With all the love in the world
(I meant it every time I typed it, and I mean it more than ever right now),

Rita

Thank

Wow!

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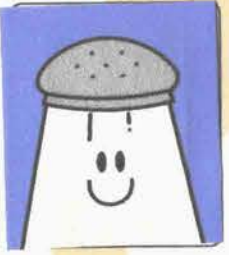
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MEMBER NO. 48395720506739

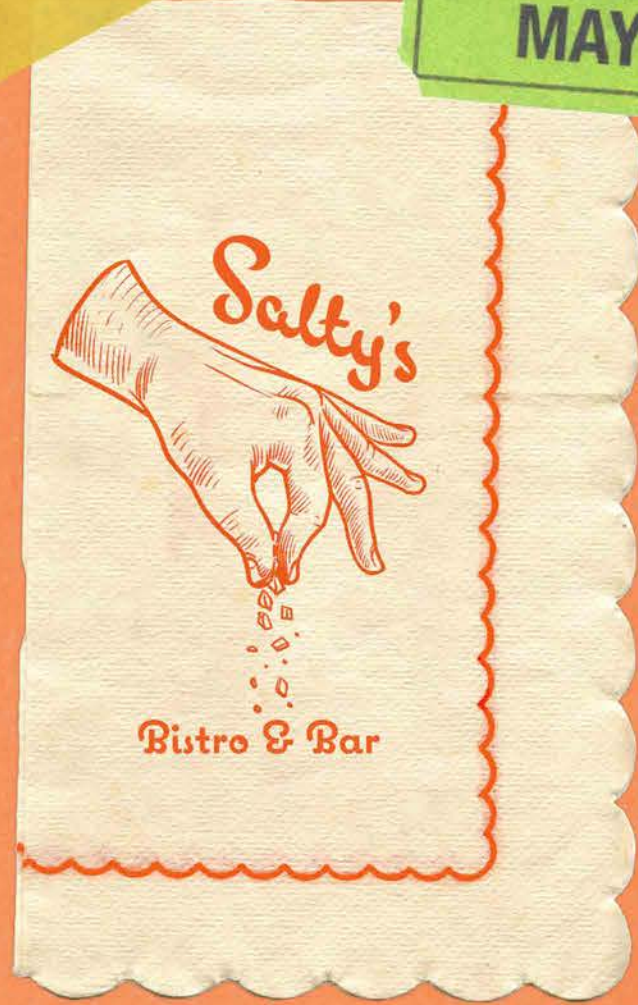
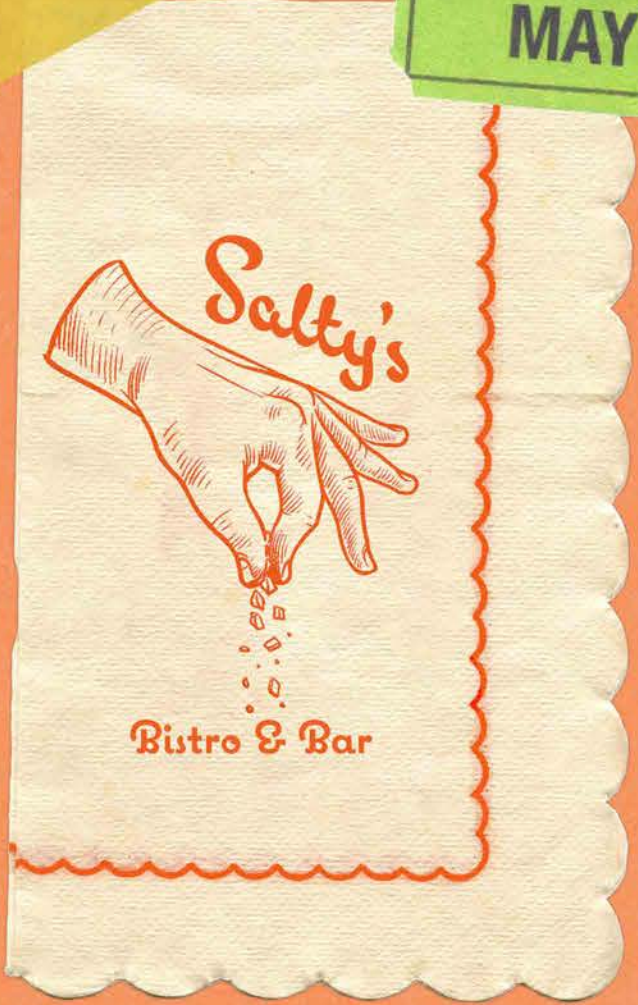
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DATE OF BIRTH 05 / 2020
MEMBER NO. 48395720506739

This certifies that the above-named member is in good standing with the Grain Gang and is loud, bold, and unashamed, for it's all taken with a grain of salt anyway and is entitled to all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.



950855

TABLE	NO. PERSONS	WAITER	AMOUNT OF CHECK

Thank You!

YOUR PATRONAGE IS APPRECIATED

TABLE	NO. PERSONS	WAITER	CHECK NO.
			950855
			best of 2020 11.20
			frozen adolescence 8.21
			sublime 11.22
			let's talk abt sex 6.23
			index x glitch 2.24
TAX			
STYLE XX			Thank You -- Call Again 😊

950855

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