



## I Want to Live Every Life *Art by Ryley Spilman '27*

Whenever I visit my grandpa's cottage on Lake Ontario, I bike the seven miles down the lake shore road. On the ride, I look at every house, at every tire swing, and at every dock, and I imagine what everyone's lives are like. I imagine that the person in the white house with pink shutters is an old lady who studied history and devoted her life to teaching. I imagine the dog barking behind the invisible fence is named Rocky. I imagine Rocky's best friend is a cat named Ruby. I imagine getting bits and pieces of everyone's lives as I bike by.

I have many dreams. I want to sail the coast of Maine and wear a caribiner in my belt loop. I want to live on the Irish coast and drink Earl Grey tea and wear sweaters. I want to write world-renowned stories, I want to study marine life and advocate for overfishing, I want to live off the grid and

cook my food on a campfire. I want to grow wings and fly. Literally. I wish.

I don't see the camera as a tool to collect experiences as much as I see it as a way to reflect the connection I feel with a particular scene. Though it may not be possible to live every life and I may not be able to understand everyone else's life, I can capture snippets of my imagination. I can capture emotion and I can connect with the scene. For someone who can't help but feel deeply and desire deeply, photos can be a pathway to continue fostering and exercising that. Imagination, dreams, yearning- those are the things that keep life vibrant. Connection, emotion, vulnerability- those are the things that amplify the human experience.

If I can observe, connect, and dream, and if I can record it and hold on to those feelings, then I am truly living.





**Image Credit:** Ryley Spilman





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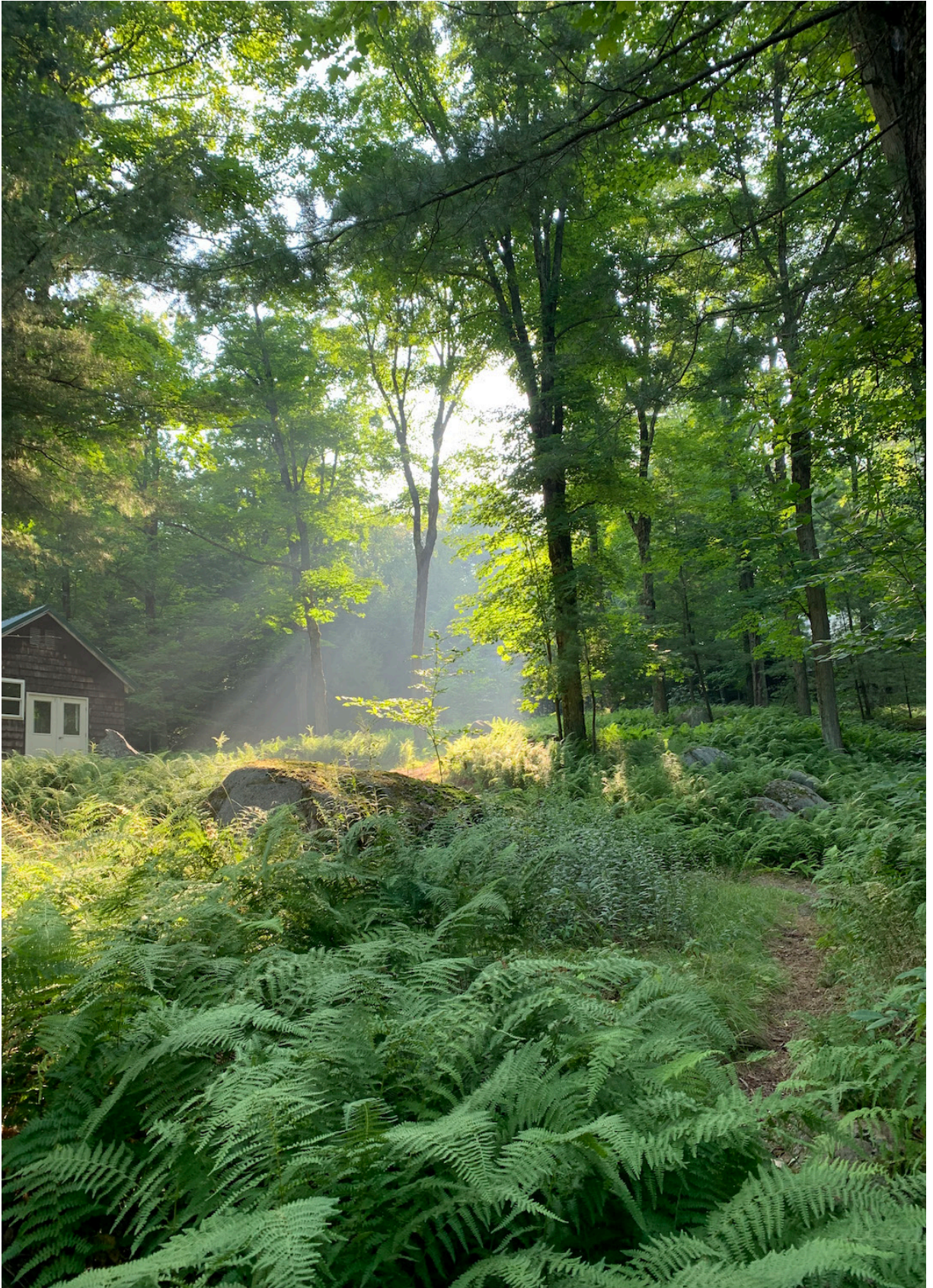


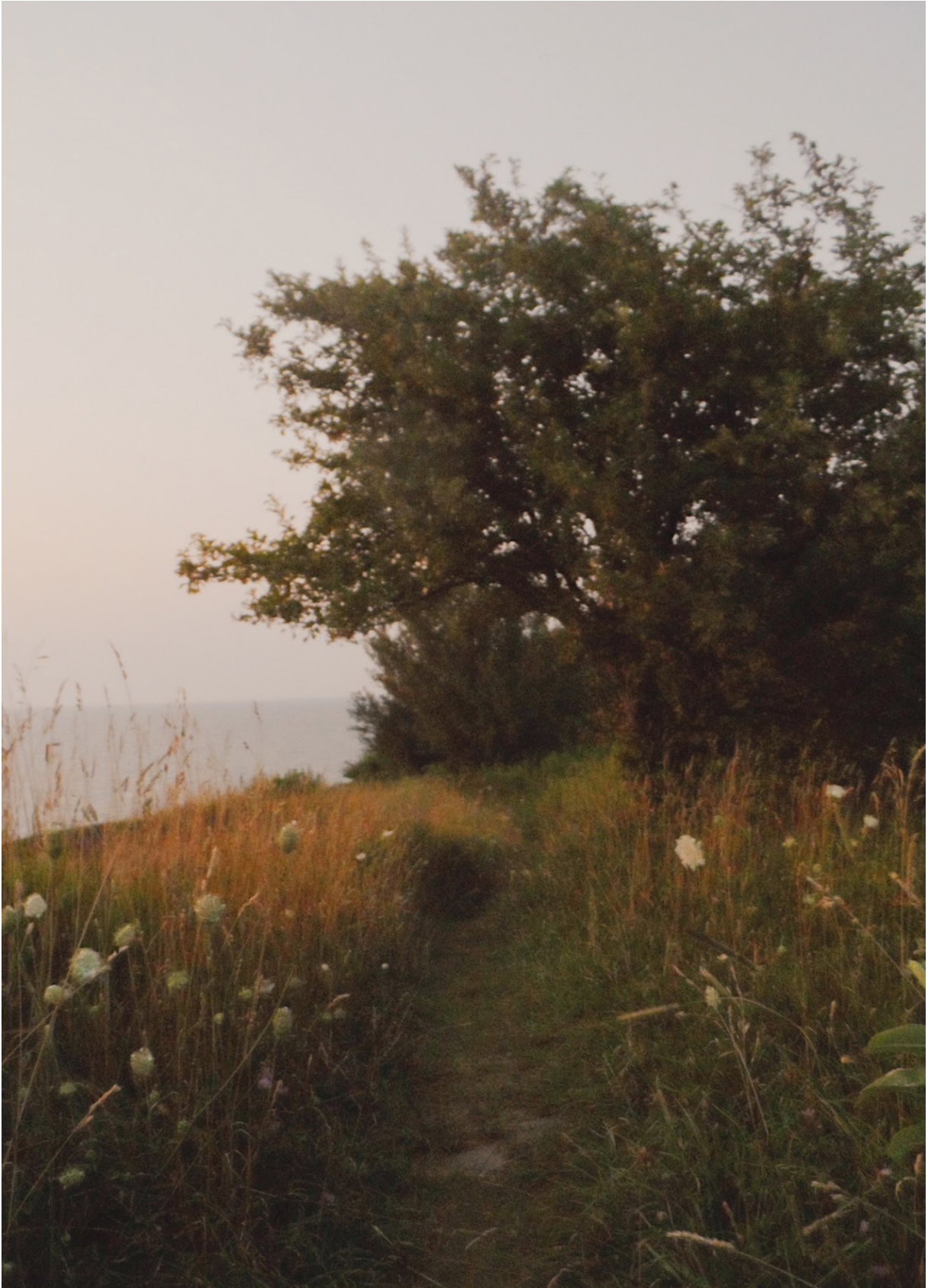
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