THE FEMALE GAZE
The female gaze is a perception created by women, contradicting the more common male gaze. Women perceive the world through eyes of beauty, style and color. They also see how a body of any shape is perfect, not because of its sexualization, but because of its existence.

The female gaze was created to oppose the sexualization of women. It was created to see the beauty and effort in everything. The female gaze is an ever-changing perception that varies woman to woman.

It was created in a time of inequality in the movie industry. Filmmaker and theorist, Laura Mulvey, introduced a perception in film that showed the uniquely different side of how women view the world.

Alexis Hampton, the previous Editor-in-Chief for the Reflector, when asked to explain the female gaze and what it means to her, responded with, "I think it's so funny that the female gaze has nothing to do with sexualizing males, like seeing a man in a suit is the female gaze; smelling their cologne is the female gaze, whereas the male gaze is completely about sexualization."

The female gaze is not limited to women. Men can alter their perception to a more feminine gaze as well if they are interested. Duncan Sligh, the Editor-in-Chief for the Inkwell, explained his perception of the female gaze.

"I love it when men make an effort, like a well-trimmed beard, good-fitting clothes," Sligh said. "I also love it when men take risks in their style and buck convention. For me, it's taking notes like 'it's working for him, I should try that too and see if it works on me.' On the other end of that, I totally judge men who don't care how they present themselves and have no problem just being gross."

The female gaze is present in everyone regardless of gender. Everyone has a feminine side. For some it may be less or more, but it is always present.

The gaze is a way of looking upon others, disregarding their sexual being. It's looking deeper into the person, the small details, the way they carry themselves, the way someone is uniquely them.

By, McKenzie Kerrigan