

Ginger

BY AUDREY KENNEDY
Graphic Designer

Rap collective and self-proclaimed boy band BROCKHAMPTON released their fifth studio album, “GINGER”, on Aug. 23. After a year-long hiatus following their last album, “iridescence”, they have returned with a slower, more somber tone than one might expect, considering their energetic past albums. “GINGER” is available on Apple Music, Spotify and Tidal.

The first track, “NO HALO”, beautifully introduces and sets the general feel for the rest of the album. “NO HALO” features emotional lyricism from each member, accompanied by early-2000s-esque production and vocals from guest Deb Never. Throughout “GINGER”, the group lyrically unites shared and personal experiences with themes such as depression, sexuality, betrayal and religion.

The seventh track on the album, “DEARLY DEPARTED”, is a slow, moving contrast to its adjacent tracks in which the group gets very personal about the loss of an ex-member, Ameer Vann, and points of stress in their life.

“VICTOR ROBERTS” is the final track on the album. It features spoken word by titular guest Victor Roberts, a friend of the group, and tells a personal story of betrayal and loss.

The first three revealed singles, “I BEEN BORN AGAIN”, “IF YOU PRAY RIGHT” and “BOY BYE” threw off listeners’ expectations for the album. Where the majority of “GINGER” takes on a more melancholy approach, the three initial releases are more similar to Brockhampton’s older songs in their vibrant, upbeat energy. Lyrically, the members of the group show honesty and vulnerability on “GINGER”, but there are points where the album feels less focused and certain song structures seem disorganised.

Overall, “GINGER” is a heartfelt, genuine display of all the group has been through over the past year. 

