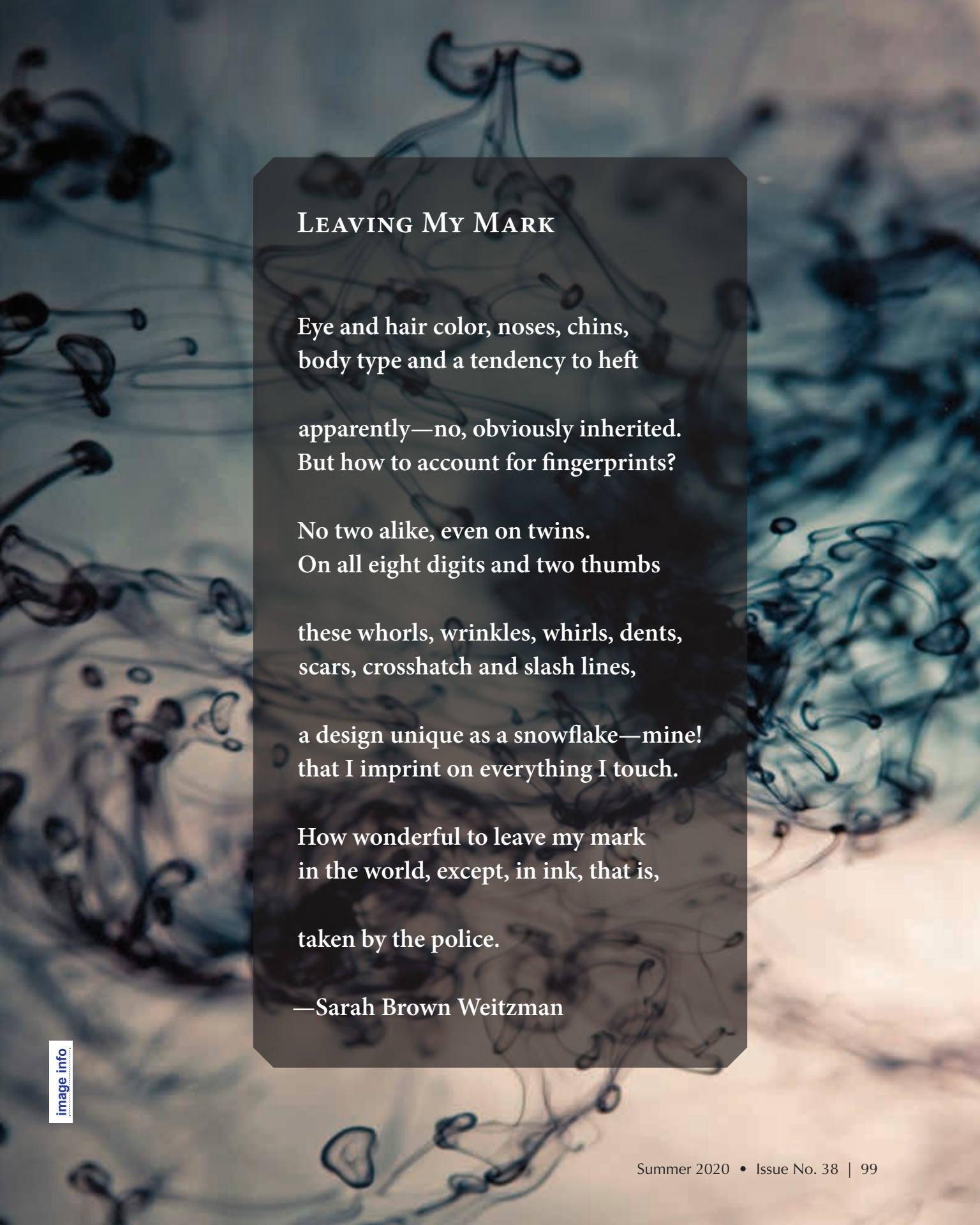




LEAVING MY MARK

Eye and hair color, noses, chins,
body type and a tendency to heft

apparently—no, obviously inherited.
But how to account for fingerprints?

No two alike, even on twins.
On all eight digits and two thumbs

these whorls, wrinkles, whirls, dents,
scars, crosshatch and slash lines,

a design unique as a snowflake—mine!
that I imprint on everything I touch.

How wonderful to leave my mark
in the world, except, in ink, that is,

taken by the police.

—Sarah Brown Weitzman