

# 2012/13 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

## Anonymous Honorable Mention



**NAOMI CHO**

Fine Art  
Freshman  
St. John's University



One of my art teachers said artists are the smartest people on earth. I couldn't help but smile, thinking to myself, "Well, then I'm the obvious exception." As a teenager of Asian descent, I've always felt pressured to be "smart." However, I always felt belittled and fell short. I am not in the 2100 SAT range, my grades need improvement. I became fixated on how people interact with each other, how we group people together, how we create and form social understandings as well as where I fit in. My works often reach out to those around me, my fellow classmates, and others affected by these systems of social status. These feelings would appear in my art, dealing with the idea of branding by grades, and the desire for perfection but not even understanding what that is.

It wasn't until I saw a video about Ai Wei Wei, the contemporary Chinese artist, that I understood what I wanted to do. His work gave a voice to the common person—to the student going to school, to the wife making dinner. They could all relate. I realized



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that art was so much more. It wasn't just something that hung on walls, soon to be forgotten. It was a living, breathing movement. I want to create work that provokes feelings and emotion; work with a purpose—to make a point, to say something.

I want to further my education in art, learning and mastering different types of mediums and learn to grow in a community of artists. College acceptance always came with a catch, and a harsh reality that I couldn't make it. I couldn't cover the tuition fee. It was daring to decide to take a step further, to major in fine arts. It was a chance, it was a gamble. One I didn't want to lose, but felt the opportunities slipping away.

I see myself as a creator. I want people to look at my work and be able to relate. I want to continue to grow as an artist, continuing to seek further visual responses to my feelings and thoughts.

While pursuing my artistic career, I also want to be a teacher. I want to impact youths. Through teaching, I can learn how to be more precise with my words and how to explain things clearly. I am intrigued with learning. Knowledge is power. With my art education, I plan to teach kids to be creative, to learn to express themselves visually. I can help my community by doing outreach, perhaps at a museum or at a community center. Kids need to be continue learning, processing their ideas and creativity. It is empowering for kids as they create and produce a work of art which they have put in their unique self in it.

