

2011/12 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Coyne Family Foundation Award



RHANHEE KIM

Graphic Design
Freshman
Art Center College of Design

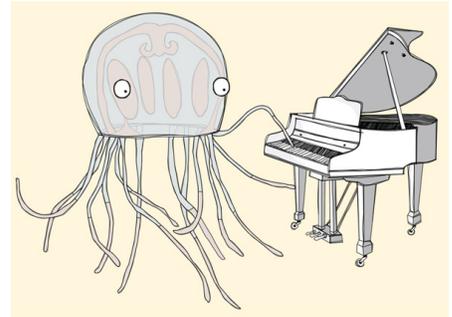


I am everywhere. I'm the woman next to you on the subway. I'm the boy running with his friends in the park. I'm the girl in front of you at the market. Throughout your city, I'm there – a child of immigrants. We are many and we are all different, but our stories start the same: two people sacrificing everything they have just to give their children a better life, education and opportunities.

Like many Korean-American kids, my parents own a small business. Dry Cleaners, liquor stores, deli's – the story is essentially the same. They each work 14 hours a day, their faces and bodies aged with exhaustion, trying to decide if electricity is more important than gas this month while struggling to make rent as they laugh at the thought of a break. It's a heartbreaking sight that I have seen for over 20 years, and it's what drives me to succeed so that I can one day help others who share my story.



For the past four years I have been trying to attend college. I have been accepted to three schools, but I've been unable to afford the expense. Although I did receive



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the professional association for design

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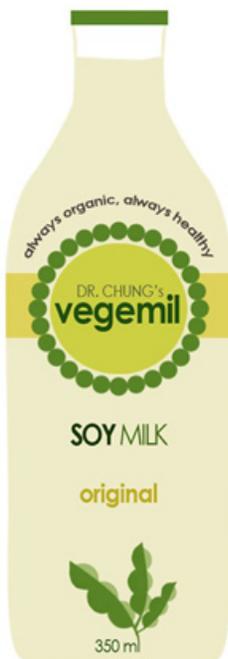
Graphic Design



some supplementary government aid, it was insufficient to cover tuition. And so months turned to years and I'd defer enrollment until I could no longer, and yet I'd still try, hope, wish. This application is a mark of my persistence - another try, another hope at a real shot at a future as an artist.

A few months ago I was accepted to Art Center College of Design - my dream school. Unfortunately my excitement quickly met the grim reality with which I've repeatedly been faced: how will I make tuition. If I do not attend this year, it will be the third time I have watched my dream dissolved by financial difficulty. It's the most desolate feeling for which I do not want any child to experience.

If you bestow this scholarship upon me, you will set me on the path to my life's goal: to succeed as an innovative and socially conscious designer with thought-provoking work, and to develop a program for low-income children who exhibit a strong creative vision, yet do not have the means to go forward - a place where professional artists and students can volunteer to teach kids how to draw, paint and design - luxuries I, and many, could not afford. Through donor support, bi-yearly art exhibitions/sales, community outreach, and an online store (featuring original art to be applied to bags, shirts, etc.), I know I can make this endeavor grow into a strong, nurturing program for these communities. It's my wish to foster their talent until they have the tools and drive to believe in their ability - maybe even produce a body of work that will earn them a coveted scholarship, and one day come back to share their talent and knowledge at the center that helped them.



I believe art has the power to bring life and meaning into the lives of the disheartened, broken, lonely, and hopeless - feelings many children of low-income families face every day. While poverty will always exist, it is my dream to lessen the impact it has and increase the creative hope that is hard to see when you're struggling. I want them to know that through their art, anything is possible.

