

2013/14 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Anonymous Award



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Fine Art
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I am a Polish immigrant. A woman. A young adult. An artist. These are all ways I define myself and am defined by my community. These labels serve to group us in different sub-genres of people but they simultaneously isolate us from others. In my artwork I aim to strip myself of all the labels that are used to define me in any other way than what I believe truly matters—a human. Through my constant exploration of my own humanity, I aim to gain a better understanding of human nature and call attention to the link between all people despite their ethnicity, gender, age and background. My artwork assumes that we are more than the sum of our experiences.

Ostracized from the savage social hierarchy that is elementary school, I spent the majority of my childhood observing my environment. My immigration from Poland occurred around the vital moment when children stop playing with Barbie dolls and trucks and begin to acquire a vague idea of sex and the usage of curse words. I struggled to grasp a basic understanding of the uses of this unfamiliar language. The isolating effects of this barrier reached far beyond those of the environmental and cultural differences. And so I took refuge in art.



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Making art freed me from a constant obsession with perfection because art, in essence, is a celebration of imperfection and humanity. My art progressed from an expression of my frustration associated with the bindings placed upon myself and upon others, to an attempt at blurring these bindings temporarily. Instead of focusing on the negatives, I wanted my art to spur social awareness and change.

In my Clothing Swap piece I wanted to draw a parallel between people of all ages, sexes and races, using their most intimate possessions—their clothes. I created a continuous change of clothing using myself as a catalyst for each change. The images portray this exchange, and because the first and the last outfit is the same, it becomes unclear which outfit belongs to whom. The continuous exchange had another function: subjects from all different demographics had to wear each other's clothes. The clothes were redefined as belonging to this diverse community.



I try to keep my art-making process as intuitive as possible. Instead of trying to understand and define human nature, I choose to allow the work itself to make connections between myself and others. My most recent paintings I completed while completely blindfolded, in order to allow them to simply show the documentation of raw energy. I let go of my control in order to attempt to encompass all of the complexities of human nature. My art is a documentation of careful accidents through which I try to draw parallels between myself and others.

