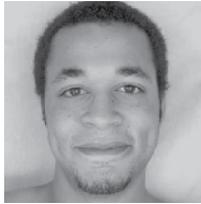
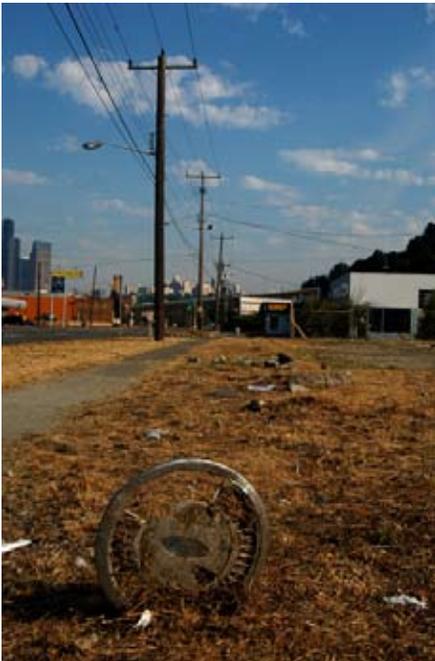


2009/10 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Lippincott Award/ Mohawk Fine Paper Award



ABARA IJOMAH
Advertising
Freshman
Art Institute of Portland



My name is Abara Ijomah. In the Nigerian dialect of Ibo, my name means “binding strength,” in reference to the cords of a drum. It struck me as more than just a coincidence, when I realized my life’s ambition parallels the meaning of my name. I want to, and will, be a force that links people together in a way that brings about social fairness and environmental respect.

Growing up in a physically and mentally abusive household left me with scars that for so many years I tried to ignore. When I was 14 my father was deported for his crimes against our family. I hoped that out of sight would lead to out of mind, or at least peace of mind. In time it became obvious that I’d have to confront him. As fate would have it the same month I drafted a letter to send to him, he passed away. With so much left unsaid I had to find a way to make peace with my past. I needed to learn how to love and believe in myself. I found my peace of mind and heart in photography.



ABARA IJOMAH

Advertising



Through photography, I have had many wonderful experiences, met interesting people and discovered strengths within myself. As I develop a stronger purpose for my art, the true thesis of my efforts and aspirations become clear to me; I want to be a catalyst of social and environmental awareness in my community. There are in this world so many talented individuals like myself, that if given the right assistance and exposure can bring about real positive change in the world. The educational path I have chosen will put me in the position to cultivate a market place based on ethics and sustainability.

Photography is an integral part of who I am, I want to apply my artistic eye and creative mind to other fields of study. I have enrolled in a program that fits in complete symmetry with my goals. It's a Business degree constructed to include two minors. I have selected Industrial Design and Sustainable Design. My desire is to bring to the table the full range of skills from the design and development of environmentally responsible products all the way through socially responsible financing, and marketing. It is vital that as an artist seeking change, I make myself knowledgeable in how to navigate the tumultuous landscape of the business world.

I have tapped into a deep internal well of meaning and motivation. I know what I want in life, and I know what I need to do to achieve it. My mother has my three younger siblings to take care, one of whom is in college, and mounds of debt my father left her. The entire financial burden rests on my shoulders. I believe that where there is a will, there is a way. I have the will. I'm asking for your help with the way.



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