2014/15 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships
The Rebecca Marco Honorable Mention

LUIS CASTANEDA
Illustration
Freshman
Rhode Island School of Design

I’m an artist who’s influenced by the good and the bad in this world. I have a passion for creating anything out of nothing, a passion for trying to change the way people think, act and live.

I grew up in a small town in Colorado thinking that the world was a beautiful, perfect place. When I was seven, I moved to Mexico where, slowly but surely, the definition of perfect started to shift right before my eyes. I started to learn about poachers, diseases and man-made disasters, and suddenly I couldn’t go a day without wondering how there can be thousands of people and animals in desperate need of help and how so many people can just sit back and watch. I knew then that I needed to try and change the world.

Winning this scholarship will have a great impact on my future. It will get me one step closer to learning different artistic mediums and be able to use anything in front of me as a canvas for my imagination. Inspiration and ideas come to me from all around the world, and for years I have made those ideas my life. I think of them, dream of them; I live on my ideas. My brain, muscles, nerves and every part of my body are full of my ideas, and I know that one day my ideas will not only change my life, but the lives of thousands.
It wasn’t until a few years ago that I came up with the idea of changing the world with art. With the help of artists from all around the globe we can make a positive impact on our world and communities.

One way we can have a positive impact is by having charitable art shows with a specific theme, like clean water, poachers, slash and burn, poverty, etc. Each art show can showcase either one specific artist or a collaboration of many different artists to raise awareness and money for charities around the world.

Another great way to have an impact is simply by spreading a message. I plan to work with artists from around the world who have a passion for change just as much as I do. Every few months we’ll host a competition where anybody from around the world can submit a simple, passionate message. We will then choose the best message and find new and creative ways to share it all over the world. The goal here is to get people thinking and hopefully start a global change.

I strongly believe that all it takes to change the world is a few people who are willing to take risks. If we’re not prepared to be wrong, how can we ever come up with anything original?