

2006/2007 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Coyne Family Foundation Award



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Photography

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When I was younger, I used to frequently get asked the question, “What are you?” I would answer that I was American. I knew why they asked, because I did not look the same as them. I would examine my features in the mirror, my small eyes and my golden hued skin and wish for blonde hair and freckles. These memories faded as I grew up and were replaced. It struck me in the face when I was expected to be good at math. There exists a social notion known as the stereotype, the engrained misconception that an individual possesses certain qualities based upon their looks. This racial baggage is detrimental to perception of self and self worth. Through photography I seek to visually address these issues. My images stimulate reflection for the viewer by also serve as a form of catharsis for me because they are authentic to my own experiences. I have had excellent teachers who have guided me to develop my own visual “voice”. If I could educate students just as I have been taught, it would be truly rewarding. I plan to become an art educator who is also active in her own work.

