

2014/15 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

The Rebecca Marco Award



MYLES THOMPSON

Graphic Design
Sophomore
Kansas City Art Institute



I am an ambitious creative thinker from Brooklyn, New York, currently attending the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI). I enjoy graphic design because I truly believe it's a catalyst for change in the world and the minds of the people that inhabit it. Growing up in New York City, I was surrounded by the colorful abundance of culture and entrepreneurship. Looking at the city today, I admire and take to heart the amount of people who move here to create something of themselves and ultimately give back to the community.

In 2005, I moved with my family to Arizona, where I developed a passion for skateboarding. Skateboarding became an artistic articulation of anything I could put my mind to. I created skate videos, took photographs, even painted old broken skateboards and sold them at events to express my curiosity in art through something I loved. Moreover, skateboarding intrigued me because it allowed me to push myself outside of my boundaries. It inspired me to never give up even when I felt defeated, and showed me that there are endless possibilities in anything that you strive for. These are all elements I integrate into my creative practices.



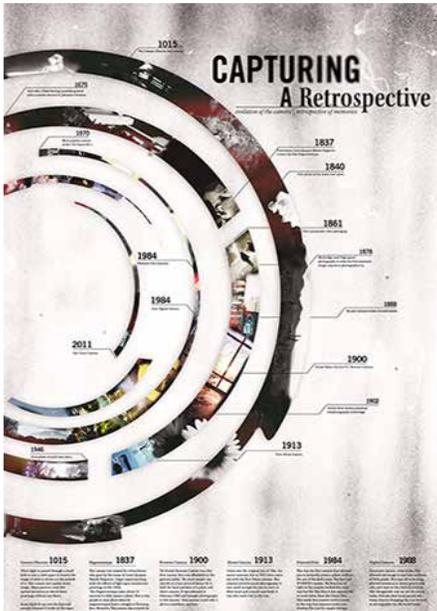
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MYLES THOMPSON

Graphic Design



While attending the Arizona Conservatory for Arts and Academics (ACAA), I was invited to become a member of the National Honors Society. This was an enlightening experience for me, as it established a relationship and understanding of what giving back to the community truly meant. We started on our campus and gradually expanded to the surrounding communities. This involved becoming a mentor to the youth on the campus and adopting school roads, which we maintained throughout the years. As we expanded, we reached out to places like care homes and soup kitchens. Years after attending ACAA I had the opportunity to return and speak about attending a college that involved an arts-based curriculum. Currently at KCAI, I'm part of the Black Artist Culture and Community, where we strive to educate our campus about African American art and culture.

I'm most interested in leaving an impact on an individual or a community through my art. I do this because I feel I create the best work when its function is to impact someone directly. For example, two KCAI colleagues and I set out to raise awareness of the youth affected by the recent shutdowns of schools in the metropolitan area through environmental typography. We constructed the word "mend" out of foam core, moss and synthetic flowers to symbolize the growing minds of the youth and rejuvenation in the school system. Through social media, this project was recognized by the Kansas City Public School System.

I'm currently in the process of running a skateboarding clothing company with artistic ties called Metaphy Lifestyle Co. Metaphy is all about pushing boundaries, never giving up and finding life's endless possibilities. Through my design work in Metaphy, I amplify the same ideologies I found within my skateboarding experiences.

