

Artwork for Equity (A4E)

Creative Reaction Lab
2021-22 Impact Report

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OVERVIEW >>

Creative Reaction Lab's *Artwork for Equity* Advocacy Campaign was launched in 2017 in recognition of the United Nation's *International Day of Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. In support of our work for racial and health equity, *Artwork for Equity* will select young Black and Latinx designers and artists (26 and under, from all over North America) to produce original images in the form of posters promoting inclusion, equity, liberation, and justice for all races. This program was led by CRXLAB's Program and Content + Design departments.

The Creative Reaction Lab (CRXLAB) team wants to give youth artists and designers an opportunity to showcase their talents and demonstrate the power of art, creativity, and civic engagement. If needed, Creative Reaction Lab will offer technical digital design assistance to help bring an artist/designer's idea to life as a poster and postcard. Note that a number of the selected artwork spots were reserved for current and past CRXLAB youth participants.

VISION + PROGRAM OBJECTIVES >>

Artwork for Equity (A4E) mobilizes young Black and Latinx designers and artists to produce original images in the form of posters promoting inclusion, equity, liberation, and justice for all races.

Building Creative Confidence

Encourage youth to come up with ideas and explore how to visually convey content around the topic of voter suppression. If needed, selected youth participants received technical design assistance from Creative Reaction Lab to bring their vision to life.

Collective Mobilization

Center youth in the creative process, so that they will be decision makers in using art as a form of activism. The final artwork of the youth participants are printed onto postcards that can be used to demand government officials to provide equitable voting opportunities as well as encourage their friends and family to take part in the civic life of their respective communities.

Competency Building

Improve the cultural and racially historical competency, personal humility, and civic leadership (knowledge and opportunities) of participants. Resources for further education are provided for both participants and other curious individuals.

Power Shifting + Inclusive Co-Creation

Promote youth as creative makers and civic leaders in ways that amplify youth voices and experiences concerning the civic life of one's community.

Submissions for the program were accepted via survey, email, or mail. If needed, Creative Reaction Lab offered technical digital design assistance to help bring an artist/designer's idea to life as a poster and postcard. Note that a number of the selected artwork spots were reserved for current and past CRXLAB youth participants. Artists officially began their programming August 2021 for an introductory meeting where they were able to meet and interact with all Program Staff, learn about Creative Reaction Lab Equity Centered Community Framework, and work collaboratively to reflect and assess the needs of artwork that reflect the current climate of their shared communities.

PROGRAM PERKS + COMPENSATION >>

- Each youth artist accepted into the program go through Workshops and
- Webinar for training purposes
- If necessary, participants received technical digital design assistance from CRXLAB staff to support them in bringing their idea to life.
- Program participants met for three, 2.5 hour sessions.

Each selected artist received:

- A \$500 stipend
- Select Creative Reaction Lab merchandise, including a free poster of their selected artwork
- An invitation to join Creative Reaction Lab's youth network for further personal and professional development opportunities
- Selected artwork will be displayed via a virtual exhibit hosted by CRXLAB and Adobe
- Artists' posters are printed by CRXLAB, promoted, and sold on our online shop

CRITERIA >>

- **Criteria 1:** Youth Participants must be 26 years old and younger
- **Criteria 2:** Participants must identify as Black and/Latinx
- **Criteria 3:** Each applicant could submit up to 5 original ideas

STRONG IDEAS ADDRESSED THESE ELEMENTS >>

- **Consciousness:** raises consciousness of historical and/or contemporary forms of education inequities and/or disparities impacting Black and Latinx communities in the United States
- **Celebration:** celebrates youth-led acts of resistance to education inequities in the United States
- **Mobilization:** Informs, educates, and mobilizes youth to be racially and ethnically conscious and informed leaders for civic engagement

HOW TO APPLY>>

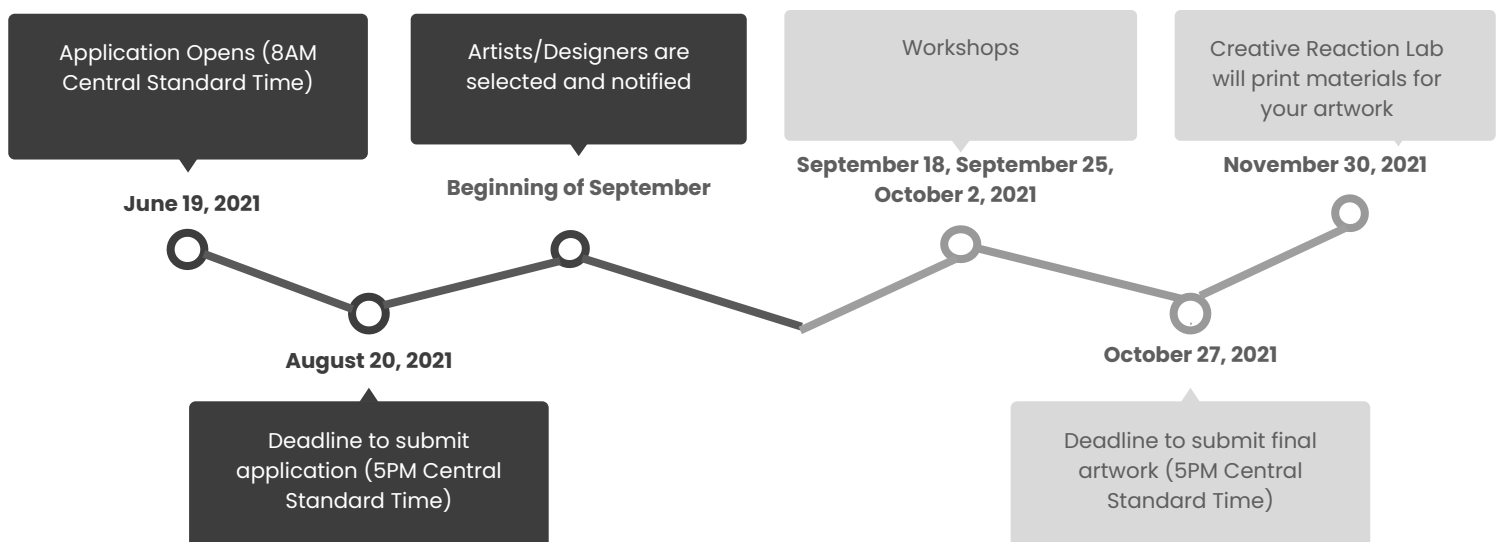
3 ways for artists to submit their application

- **Option 1:** Artists could submit their applications via survey monkey online application
- **Option 2:** Complete a PDF copy of the application and email to artforequity@creativereactionlab.com with the subject line written as "Artwork for Equity 2021 - Art Proposal,[first & last name]"
- **Option 3:** Mail-in a physical copy of the application with necessary supplemental materials to: 3547 Olive Street Suite Mezzanine St. Louis, MO 63103

SUBMISSIONS INCLUDED...

- Attachment of a sketch, design, or art piece for each idea artists wished to submit. They could submit up to five separate ideas for the campaign. ([Examples of sketches for reference.](#))
 - If artists completed the SurveyMonkey form or emailed their application, then they digitally sent attachments.
 - If a mail in application, artists physically attached paper copies of their sketch.
- Each idea was accompanied by a brief description that explains how it responds to the theme of Miseducated [Maximum of 200 words as a written response or a maximum length of a 2-minute video].
- Artists contact and demographic information.
- Responses to short answer questions about equity, creativity, and civic engagement.

APPLICATION DATES AND DEADLINES



ARTWORK DISTRIBUTION>>

Artists and designers have the opportunity to obtain technical digital design assistance to help develop their ideas, bring them to life, and create final versions of their artwork. Final versions of the selected artwork will be published in the form of posters and postcards as well as showcased in a virtual exhibit. The limited edition posters will be available for public purchase through our website and advocacy postcards will be nationally distributed. Furthermore selected artists and designers were immersed in 3-month arts, activism, and community engagement program that further built artist and designers competency of Equity-Centered Community Design (ECCD) and how art can be leveraged to make transformative change.

RIGHTS + RESPONSIBILITIES >>

Contributing artists/designers retain the copyright for their original artworks, but grant their free, perpetual use by Creative Reaction Lab for promotional, educational, commercial, and fundraising activities online, in print, and in other forms. In consideration of the collective advocacy nature of this project, it is understood that the artist/designer is granting Creative Reaction Lab a perpetual license to exhibit, promote, and repurpose their selected image(s) on creativereactionlab.com and in other promotional materials. Artwork will always be accompanied with due credit to the contributing artist/designer.

A4E ARTWORK SCORING RUBRIC>>

- **Consciousness** : Artwork raises exceeding consciousness of historical and/or contemporary forms of educational inequity impacting Black and Latinx communities in the United states. Demonstrates research and use a unique approach to present a focused relationship between educational inequity and the Black and Latinx communities
- **Celebration**: Artwork celebrates historical and/or current resistance to educational inequity. Uses a range of forms of education inequity and generally acknowledged historical significance
- **Mobilization** : Artwork informs, educates, and mobilizes youth to be informed leaders for civic engagement. Excellent use of visual arts to analyze and represent educational inequity
- **Intentional & Impactful** : Applicant centers community voice and demonstrates the potential of their artwork as a form of social, and has clear reasoning for their decision-making.
- **Personal Expression**: Artwork is unique and presents the content in an innovative way. Demonstrates coherent, focused, and individual investigative strategies to visual qualities.

2021-22' THEME: "MISEDUCATED" >>

In 2021, submissions raised consciousness around historical and/or contemporary forms of limited access to educational resources and opportunities that impact Black and Latinx communities, while also highlighting resistance movements and achievements. In 2021 we had 9 artists submit their work for the MisEducated theme.

- "Intolerant" Policies
- School to confinement pipeline
- Lack of racial diversity in staff/administration

DEMOGRAPHICS>>

- **Race/Ethnic Identity**
 - 5 Artists identify as Black
 - 2 Artists identified as Hispanic/ Latinx
 - 1 Artist identified as White
 - 2 Artists identified as African American
 - 2 Artists identified as Multiracial/Mixed
- **Age range**
 - Ages up to 26
- **Gender Pronoun**
 - (3) He/Him
 - (5) She/Her
 - (3) They/Them
 - (1) Sprout/Sprout self
 - (1) Elle/Ella
- **Current geographic proximity**
 - (1) Artists are from New York
 - (2) Artists are from California
 - (1) Artist is from Pennsylvania
 - (1) Artist is from Ohio
 - (1) Artist is from Hawaii
 - (2) Artists from Missouri
 - (1) Artist from Illinois
- **Ability Status**
 - (7) Not living with a disability
 - (2) Prefer not to disclose
 - (1) Person living with rare version of neuropathy

PROGRAM COSTS>>

FY22 Artwork for Equity Budget

Personnel/Adm costs	\$13,760.00
Program Expenses (including supplies, posters, shipping,, etc)	\$14,713.73
Tech	\$9,901.00
Marketing	\$9,800.00
Total	\$48,174.73

THE ARTISTS >>

The 2021-22 Artwork for Equity cohort began by bringing 9 young artists together to promote racial and equity in education through their design campaigns. Artists create original unique pieces to be promoted throughout the Creative Reaction Lab network and online shop.



Aarianna Bess (She/Her) is an aspiring artist who lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. She has a passion for art and believes it is a God-given talent she is blessed to have. During the summer of 2021, she worked on a mural that really made an impact on the community surrounding it. She hopes to continue great projects that inspire and touch people in the near future.

Title: What About Us

Description: I call this sketch "What About Us" because I wanted to depict how POC are left out when it comes to education. During segregation, the schooling Black children received hardly gave them an opportunity. The roof would leak. The floors had stains. There were little to no books. And even the teachers were miseducated. Meanwhile, white children were given the resources and environment they needed to learn in. I wanted to shine a light on this through my illustration.



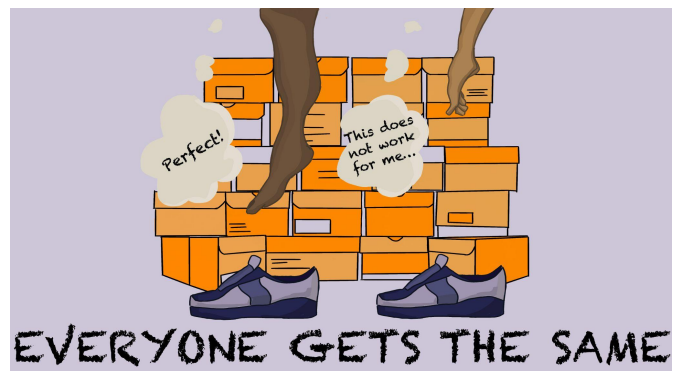
Title: Deceit

Description: I call this sketch "Deceit" because it shows how POC have been victims of miseducation for years. At first, Black people were not even allowed to be educated, and when we finally were, there were limits and restrictions put on what we could learn. During segregation, Black children were not allowed to be taught the Declaration of Independence because it clearly says all men should be treated equally. They did not want us to recognize what we really deserved as people. The government made the illusion that we were being treated equally and getting our education, but really they were holding us back without us even being aware. I wanted to represent this using the teeth.



Title: If The Shoe Fits

Description: I call this illustration "If The Shoe Fits." I wanted to show how sometimes the same thing doesn't work for everybody in school. I've often felt like this in school as a young Black woman. There were times I believed I wasn't getting the best out of my education because I was not being looked at as an individual. I wanted the smaller foot trying to fit into the chunky shoe to represent this.





Currently a junior at Del Oro High School, **Nathan Pham (He/Him)** is a generative artist and creative programmer attempting to capture political tension and social issues through visual mediums. Complex yet modern, Nathan's artwork and designs seek to achieve a fine balance between structure and randomized chaos. Nathan has created over 150 open-source code projects, several earning awards for their unique societal solutions, maintainable architecture, and accessible design. In 2018, he participated in the Farmer's Bureau Decal contest, winning 1st for a hand-drawn representation of California's agricultural commodities. Throughout 2020 he led a series of free website and app development workshops with TeenTechSF to help educate a youth audience in technology and design. He has also received several other awards from Amazon (engineering and design), Future Farmers of America (leadership and speaking skills), and Certificate of Merit (state recognition for flute).

Title: Structural Racism

Description: It is important to recognize our shameful past so that we may move forward and address racism today. Unfortunately, our school system refuses to teach the other side of history on how people of color have been systemically rejected from society. Clearly, we have been misguided and miseducated. How can we, as youth, expect to fight for reparations and social justice if we do not even know our own roots? I title my piece "Structural Racism," a tribute to raise awareness about our racist and inequitable institutions.



Paola Santiago (They/Them/Elle, She/Her/Ella) is a visual artist from Los Angeles, California who predominantly works in poetry and photography mediums. She is currently a second-year student pursuing a degree in Computer Science and Human-Computer Interaction at Washington University in St. Louis. As a Latine, queer and nonbinary artist, their art explores questions and dilemmas of intersectionality and the nuances of understanding one's complex identity, especially when navigating predominantly white and wealthy spaces. Their work has been published in Colour Magazine (2020) and Armour Magazine (2021), two campus publications; you can access her portfolio through her website.



Title: Recuerdame

Description: Miseducation is often the byproduct of erasure. "Recuerdame" speaks to how we forget to listen, especially to those Black and Brown voices that are frequently discounted or discredited under a White capitalist society. It tells of how easily we can forget the indigenous people who were here before us, of the children who are separated from their parents at borders and do not know when they will meet again, of Black and Brown femme and Queer folks for whom the threat of violence is a persistent article of life. We ignore the voices of Native Americans and water protectors, who work tirelessly to defend and protect stolen land from the increasingly detrimental effects of pollution and climate change. "Recuerdame," titled in Spanish, is to also acknowledge the rapid assimilation into English and discouragement of otherness, which claims diversity while simultaneously pushing basic American Whiteness down our throats until we choke. American education, at least in a systemic sense, was always meant to miseducate, twist and obscure our histories.

By: Paola Santiago



Title: Un Dia Sin Nosotras

Description: #UnDiaSinNosotras, a day without us. It's a feminist movement that has been ongoingly interacted with throughout Latin America, but Un Dia Sin Nosotras particularly relates to the experience of Mexican women and femicide. It was spurred by two murders-- Ingrid Escamilla (25) was gruesomely murdered and mutilated by her husband and Fátima Cecilia Aldrighett (7) was abducted, with her body found in a plastic bag next to a construction site. Their deaths were only two among many in what has been a violently misogynistic and machismo environment in Mexico, fueled by a government and leadership that refuse to properly investigate and offer repercussions for the deaths of not only our country's women and girls, but our LGBTQ+ community, particularly transgender women. There was a public strike on March 9th, 2020, during which women stayed home throughout the day and did not go to work, the store or outside. This relates to miseducation in that femicide and violence against women and femmes stems from a society that refuses to educate or hold accountable abusers, particularly in the case of toxic masculinity or machismo culture in Latin America.

Andre Thomas(He/Him) is a visual artist who leans into abstract imagery to create engaging pieces. Despite starting from a young age and attending many programs in the Philadelphia area, he has no formal education in the field, for which he is very passionate about.



Title: Lost Ones

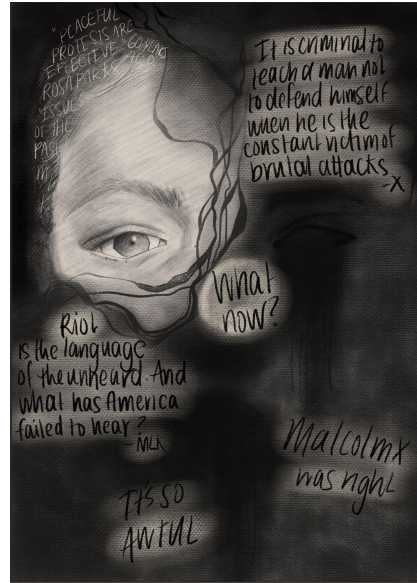
Description: I've never been one for portraying direct thoughts through my visual arts. It gets messy or I never finish, and this piece is the latter. When I heard the theme of miseducation, I created this piece thinking about how fractured and often fleeting my thoughts around social issues can be. At base level, I want to be active and change the world around me but I have no idea how to move everyone and everything forward due to the conflicting information I was raised with. I get split a million ways in my mind, which is supposed to be represented through my head and face being separated and surrounded by abstract visuals. I'm often unsure what my place is in any movement, if I even have one, and the world as a whole and revert back to passivity because I'd rather not screw anything up.



Clover Davis (Sprout/Spoutself, They/Them) is a visual artist currently devoted to creating pieces of art that decolonize the white supremacist gaze art is viewed through. Zyair has participated in a college course offered by The School of the Artist Institute, which encouraged them to start questioning the artist's thought process in the first place. Now, they are actively producing a portfolio that actively challenges their own views on perfection and beauty in stylized art.

Title: My Clouded Mind

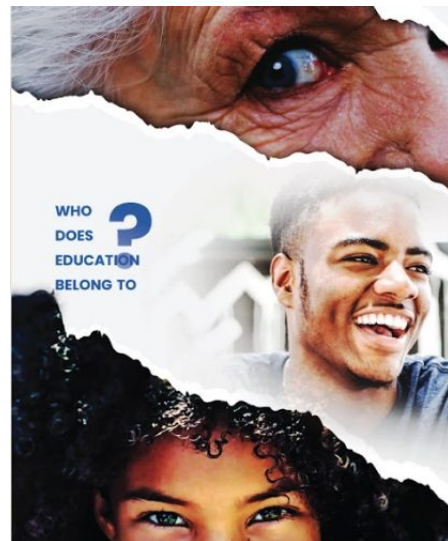
Description: This piece is about how the American public education system waters down the country's violent history towards African Americans. The divide in this piece shows the optimism of how far the country has advanced and the horrors of the raw truth.



Halee Jane Pratcher (They/Them,She/Her) is a photographer and graphic design student at The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Their work showcases the importance of representation of identity and vulnerability to invoke empathy. They currently photograph for The Daily Illini, the student-run newspaper, and the Fine and Applied arts marketing and communications team.

Title: Who Does Education Belong To?

Description: This piece asks the question "who does education belong to?" in order to make the viewer see education as a human right rather than the privilege that currently exists within our society.





Liam Reboseno (He/Him) is an upcoming software engineer who has had experience with visual design and artwork made with programming languages. In his senior year of high school, he participated in Code Nation's Creative Coding Studio, in which he, along with many other participants, created artwork advocating for equity and social justice. When deciding on a college, Liam didn't want to burden his family with student loans because he believes everyone deserves the financial freedom to pursue their dreams. This is when he decided to attend the Marcy Lab School, an alternative to college that offers low-income students tech opportunities. Liam looks forward to making a positive change with his artwork within his community and hopes to inspire others to take a stand for their communities.

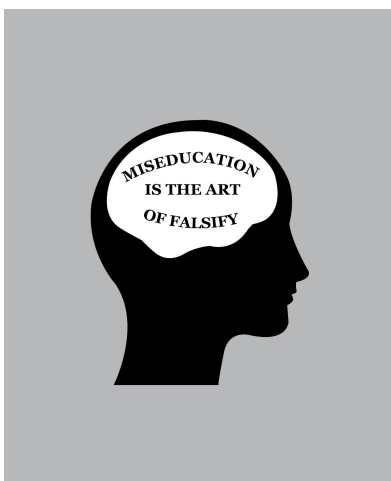
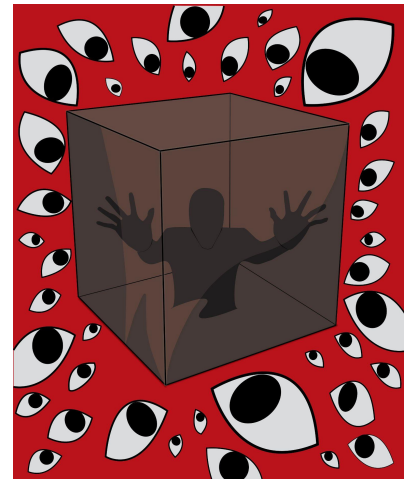


Title: Chance

Description: Education isn't an opportunity we all get. Education can come in many different forms and ways but for many children, they can't get the proper education they deserve. One of the few contributing factors to this is poverty. More than 72 million children around the world remain unschooled and girls make up more than 54% of that statistic. We must push toward education for all and to be accessible for all around the world. We must give these kids the education they rightfully deserve because every child is worthy of a chance for a proper education.

Description: This sketch depicts the way in which the miseducation of others burdens minority groups. The stereotypes and what people choose to negatively say and spread "taints" us as individuals. It isn't fair that the miseducation of others affects us so much that we are grouped up and seen as just one thing that isn't wanted. It categorizes us and traps us in a box, and we are labeled as dangerous thieves and criminals. We are falsely represented. The work we do isn't respected. We make up this country, and when we are treated like nothing but mere garbage tossed aside, whose to believe?

Title: Tainted



Title: Miseducated

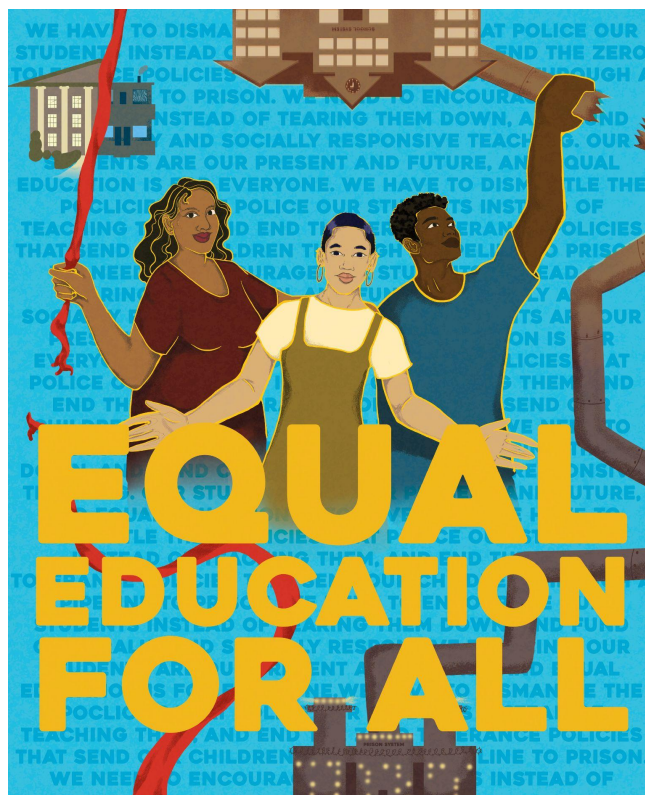
Description: There is miseducation everywhere. At work, at school, at homes, in families. It grows. Miseducation comes in different forms, managing to deceive and misinform those it comes across. Miseducation is what corrupts the human mind into absorbing falsity.

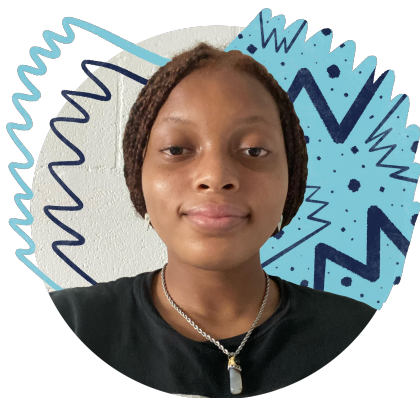


My name is **Marissa Camp (She/Her)** and I was born and raised in Ferguson, Missouri. I am a recent graduate from Webster University where I received a BA in studio art with a certificate in illustration. In University I received my first taste of professional practice working for the university as a graphic designer, where I used illustrations as my main strength. In early 2021 I participated in the “Varsity Art XXV” exhibition held by Art Saint Louis representing Webster University. I also participated in the Webster Art Departments “Take Out” BA and BFA exhibition. I work conceptually, mixing mediums to fit my subjects. My work is often focused on the political, social, and emotional climates that I am enveloped in. I also build work focused on my family and ancestry to try and mold our history together. By my community’s history, and the history of our race, I am attempting to celebrate the narrative that our ancestors and our family have created. I am interested in making work that discusses relationships between the natural environment and the world governed by humanity. I am interested in environmental studies and the intersections between environmental justice and racial justice with special consideration to its effects in urban areas. I am also interested in sustainability and using art and design to create industries that consider their relationships with the earth.

Title: Education For All

Description: This piece responds to the idea of miseducated by highlighting some of the political and social policies that marginalize minority communities. The figures in the piece are students, figuratively breaking and cutting the structures that harm our communities. One student is breaking the “pipeline” that pushes young minority students through failing educational institutions to prisons. Another student cuts the “redline” that allows funding and resources to be prioritized to white and wealthy families. While the calling phrase of the poster is “equal education for all” the text in the background calls for a promotion of gender equality and inclusion of LGBTQIA communities within minority discussion. It also calls for dismantling harmful zero tolerance policies that are blind the real needs of the students in our schools. Investing in our children is investing in our communities. It is investing in our future.

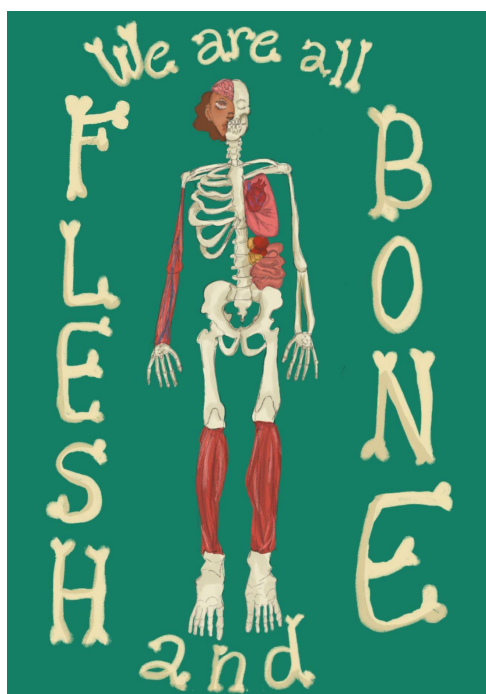




Safiyyah James (She/Her) is currently a high school student who enjoys drawing and creating things in her free time. She is mainly self-taught and enjoys working with different mediums like (Pencils, Digital, Clay, Photography and more). She is always looking to find inspiration in the media and the world around her and is always excited to learn more about different mediums and techniques. Safiyyah is constantly inspired by video games and different character designs. She hopes to design a game one day or be able to watch the process of creating one. She enjoys seeing the characters be put together and brought to life with their own unique traits and personalities. She is always fascinated by artwork, movies and media with fictional creatures like orcs and elves. She hopes to be able to create works in different styles that inspire others to create their own worlds through whatever medium they wish.

Title: Flesh & Bone

Description: This piece shows how despite our physical appearance we are all made up of the same basic things, "Flesh and Bone." I think we spend so much time trying to spot the differences in one another and how one of us is better than the other so that we don't notice how we all have the same makeup. We don't take the time to realize how incredible it is that we even exist. Instead people often look past that and find a way to hate and tear one another apart.



2022 THEME: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS MICRO-CAMPAIGN >>

Roe vs. Wade: "Human/Women's Rights

Roe vs. Wade (1973), was a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in which **the Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction.** One of the main goals of this campaign is to raise consciousness around the historical decision of the Roe vs Wade case of 1973 and the current climate of the possibility of it being overturned.

With their experience at Creative Reaction Lab, artists are aware that we believe that true power belongs to the people. This is why we work diligently to promote shifting these powers back where they belong. Creative Reaction Lab began this micro-campaign requisitioning previous Artwork for Equity artists to create a piece conveying their outlook on the matter of women rights and the effects of this decision.

The Creative Reaction Lab (CRXLAB) team gave 14 young artists (many of whom had previously participated in CRXLAB's programs) and designers a \$250.00 stipend to showcase pieces. Creative Reaction Lab then brought each artists/designer's idea to life as a postcard. The postcards were to distributed to advocacy rights organizations. Artists had one week to submit their pieces.

DEMOGRAPHICS>>

- **Race/Ethnic Identity**
 - Artists described themselves as
 - Black, Latinx, Haitian, African American
- **Age range**
 - Up to age 26
- **Gender Pronoun**
 - (3) He/Him
 - (11) She/Her
 - (1) They/Them
- **Current geographic proximity**
 - This information was not asked of our participants; however some folx did describe these details in their biographies.

THE ARTISTS >>

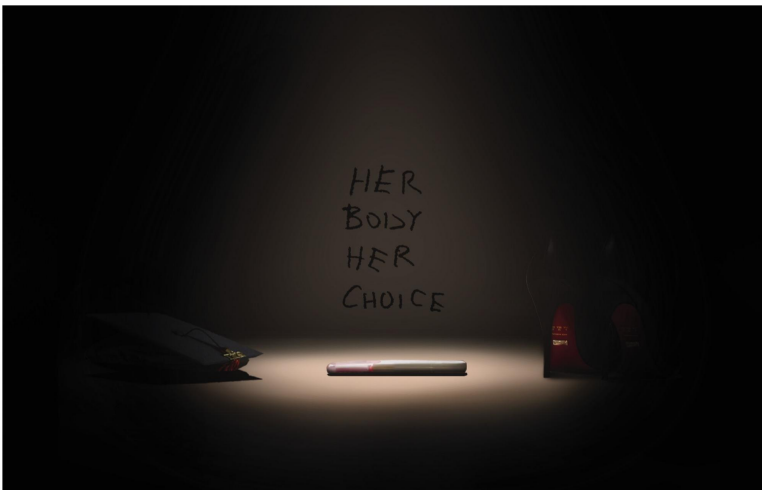
The 2022 Artwork for Equity Micro-Campaign began by bringing 14 young artists (previous CRXLAB participants) together to promote reproductive rights through their design campaigns. Artists create original unique pieces to be promoted throughout the Creative Reaction Lab network and online shop. In late spring of this year, Artwork 4 Equity created a space for artists to articulate their stance on the overturning of Roe vs Wade decision. Artists were to create a piece and detail what inspired them to create the piece based on the current state Human Rights infringement. All current A4E artists were invited to create their piece and submit. Artists were paid a \$250 stipend for their work.

Artist Name: Destiny Kirumira (She/Her)

Artist BIO: Destiny Kirumira is a Black visual artist and current architecture student. Born in Germany to parents from Uganda, Destiny moved to Canada when she was nine. Later on, she received a BA in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Alberta (U of A) in 2018. Destiny has been in the business of reconciling what may seem like competing narratives and only now feels her multicultural upbringing has shaped how she understands the world around her. Since then, she has continued her studies at the University of Calgary with a Master of Architecture. Through her designs and paintings, she attempts to reconstruct and reconcile the roots of racism in both fields and does so rigorously. She has produced work for non-profit organizations doing work to bring an end to human trafficking and continues to attempt to create work that challenges norms that harm human life. Ultimately, her art poses questions surrounding race, gender, and politics to enlighten people who have chosen to turn a blind eye to the world's most grotesque injustices.



Title of artwork: “It is just not up to anyone else”



Inspiration:

“It is just not up to anyone else” attempts to highlight the issue of the Supreme Court outlining the possible overturning of Roe vs. Wade. The piece aims to frame the possible overturning of this decision as an infringement on women’s rights, a feeble attempt to control women and women’s bodies. Placing the other two objects, the graduation cap and heels, next to the pregnancy test in the middle is meant to address the complexity of circumstances surrounding abortions. Additionally, I added these other objects as a reminder that these decisions are not made easily or without thought and that we should support women who choose to get abortions. Ultimately, women should have the right to decide what is best for their bodies—no one else.



Artist Name: Mell Sanroman (She/Her)

Artist BIO: Mell Sanroman is an artist striving to create beautiful multimedia content that inspires, educates and motivates. Through the power of storytelling and unique art techniques, signature pieces have been prepared for communities of all kinds to enjoy. Illustration, oil paintings and digital art are some of the few but well known techniques preferred to create content covering different perspectives, stories and abstract feelings in her art. Her goal is to continue to interact with others and create expressive art that'll positively impact people around the world.



Title of Artwork: "When?"

Inspiration: When I think of the pro-life vs. pro choice debate, I think about the long and tiring fight a woman has had to have basic rights. It's the 21st century, yet we're still so adamant in controlling a woman's body as if we've backtracked. So I thought it'd be appropriate to use an art style that's just as old as these outdated ideas but still seen in this modern day. I thought: pop art. Andy Warhol's first pop art paintings were made in 1961, only 12 years before the Roe V. Wade court case. Pop art is used in ads for its bright and eye-catching colors. So eye catching it's the only thing we can focus on. I wanted a man's anger, disgust, and or indifference to "pop out", since evidently it's these emotions that seem to dictate today's laws. Of course, a woman may be pro choice, yet I doubt many women realize how much of an imbalance it would create if Roe V. Wade is overturned. Their emotions and opinion on this doesn't have the power to cause results the way a man does, but it does give men the support they need to create inequality between them. I thought I'd depict this by not drawing in their eyes and therefore not giving them as much value or emphasis as the men and their colorful feelings.

While the voices of pro-lifers stand bright and very much modern, a woman and a girl sit in an old brown and blue color as if to indicate they're outdated. I did this because in a sense I think women are constantly left in the past. We're stuck in a cycle of reliving more and more trauma caused by misogyny and inequality that's very prevalent in our society. A girl shouldn't be seen as a potential mother, but as a girl with just as many aspirations as a boy. A girl will grow to be a woman with potential not because she has a uterus, but because she's a person and has the right to participate in opportunities the same as a man. What makes a woman a woman doesn't fully rely on when she starts her menstruation cycle, hence why the woman across from the child holds the same cat plushy as the child. Girls are forced to grow up for the sake of these outdated stereotypes and some won't know their full potential because of these limits. Overall, I wanted the clear overlapping between the past and present to shine in this piece. Despite the year, age, or society we live in, women have and still are suffering due to inequality and ignorance. It seems like all we can do is wonder when we will finally be heard. When will we finally be treated as a person? When?



Artist Name: Arianna Bess (She/Her)

Artist BIO: Arianna Bess is an African American young woman who likes to make art that relates and connects to people.



Title of Artwork: "They Hold Us Back"

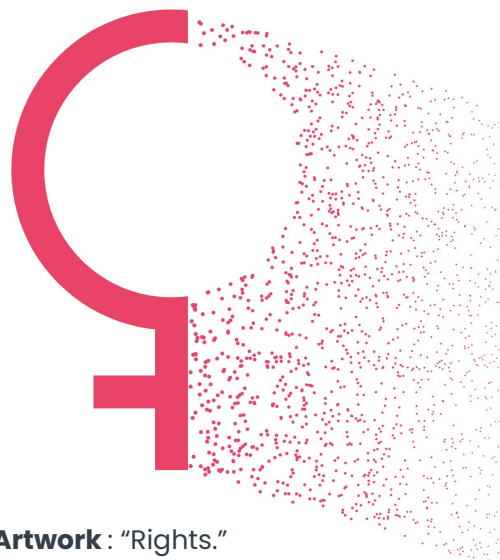
Inspiration:

I noticed that people in power are predominantly white men. Meanwhile women are advocating for one another and fighting for their rights. Women do not feel heard. I wanted to show how this is only pulling and holding us back and will only eventually cause harm. I used purple to represent femininity and women's rights.



Artist Name: Nathan, Pham (He/Him)

Artist BIO: Nathan Pham (He/Him) is a generative artist and creative programmer attempting to capture political tension and social issues through visual mediums.



Title of Artwork : "Rights."

Inspiration:

Roe v. Wade effectively gave women the constitutional and fundamental freedom to have an abortion, but the landmark decision has been continuously plagued with controversy and opposition. Most recently, high court leaks suggest Roe v. Wade will be overturned, representing a regression in the fight for women's rights. My artwork attempts to showcase this backwards progress, portraying a partially dissolving traditional female symbol. I struggled to find an appropriate color palette that would also be high contrast and print friendly, so please recolor the image with a new background and primary color to better fit the campaign if needed.



Artist Name: Halee Jane Pratcher
(They/The/ She/ Her)

Artist BIO: Utilizing photography and graphic design Halee Jane creates work that deeply rooted in empathy. Guiding viewers to to let them self feel emotions that they themselves me not have experience allowing them to reach into the mind of someone else or Halee Jane themselves.



Title of Artwork: "Protect women"

Inspiration:

Inspired by Frances Jetter's " Republican platform against choice", I utilize line art in combination with collage. Like Jetter, I use the elephant to describe the control conservative switch to have on reproductive rights. I use the type to highlight who will be affected most by the overturning of Roe v. Wade, marginalized groups: Brown, Black and poor women.



Artist Name: Sara Bermudez
(She/Her)

Artist BIO: Sara Bermudez is a student-artist from Brown University majoring in Gender & Sexuality Studies. Her artwork focuses on the female form and identity politics. She is the creator of TheBodyBySara, an art collective that reimagines the body through fashion, photography, and original artwork. The criminalization of abortion and reproductive care for women, nonbinary, and trans people is harmful in its contribution to existing racial and class disparities. Availability of an essential package of sexual and reproductive health interventions should be a fundamental right for all.



Title of Artwork:"Protect Roe. Protect Our Bodies."

Inspiration:It is always a critical time to address the assaults on reproductive freedoms. State laws could restrict abortion in many states in the US, and other reproductive healthcare offerings can be lost, if Roe v Wade is overturned. This is a crucial and threatening time in history for female bodies, nonbinary bodies, and trans bodies. We must recognize the attacks on abortion access as a part of a broader movement to restrict the rights of marginalized communities, especially women of color.

No image of this artist was received.

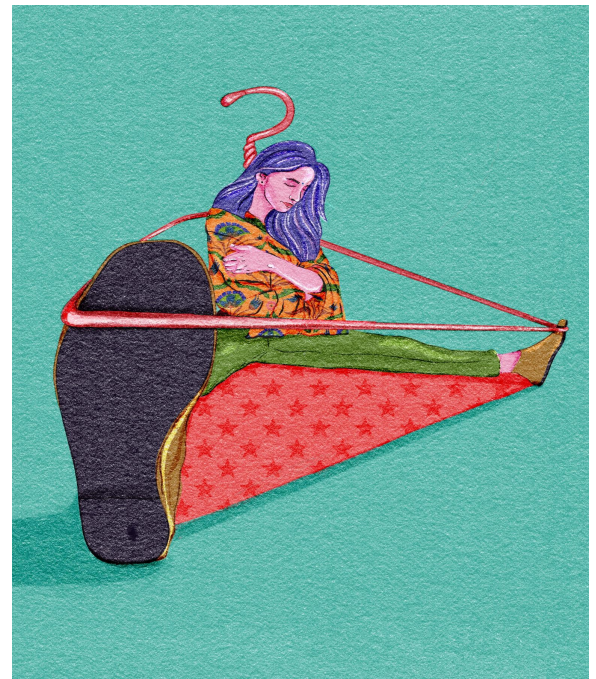
Artist Name: Gowri Balasubramaniam

Artist BIO: Gowri is an illustrator and researcher pursuing a Ph.D. in information sciences. Gowri has a background in textile design and design research. Her research focuses on the ethics of conducting research using digital and social media with youth, with a particular emphasis on power dynamics between the researcher and the community.



Artist Name: Richard Ilfrain (He/Him/His)

Artist BIO: My name is Richard Ilfrain, also known by DoseofRich on Instagram. I'm a multimedia illustrator/concept artist having art from various disciplines from pen, and Copic, but mostly digital artwork. I was born in December 1995, and raised in Queens, New York by a Haitian Immigrant mother with an older brother as well. I've loved drawing ever since I was a kid, as I was first inspired by my older brother's works at a young age. At age 19 in 2015 was when I first made Doseofrich, as it was a website initially. In 2016, I made an Instagram account for it which is the main brand I use to this day. I remade my site in 2020, with it being more emphasized on digital art. I have gained many accolades for my time as an artist. I will be featured on the official Adobe website in 2020 for making thought provoking art for Color for Change to spread awareness for voter suppression. Another is being part of Conception Arts, a global arts collective where artists of different disciplines can sell their work. Having inspiration from culture, movies, and anime, I aim to express myself in a plethora of ways with my main purpose being to embrace differences, deliver the power of expression through art, and to provide unity and representation in the world. I often draws characters in different cultures, drawing black, Asian, Latino, and even Muslim characters in his own distinct style with influence from Anime, Disney, and American Comics. I even draw characters from pop culture, such as game characters like Link from Legend of Zelda or Kratos from God of War. With my love of showing different sides of humanity through the power of expression I am a strong force not just in the art world, but in a planet where people need to awaken to see their greatest potentials. I hope my art will bring people a little bit closer to that ideal.



Title of Artwork: "Not Our Future"

Inspiration: I discovered research predicting how many more people will die if Roe v. Wade is overturned due to the increased mortality risk associated with continuing a pregnancy. According to the study, a nationwide ban on abortion would increase pregnancy-related deaths by 21% within two years, with minorities faring the worst. The hanger represents an albatross around a woman's neck as the consequences we face become more severe.



Title of Artwork: WRHR "Women's rights is humans rights"

Inspiration: I got inspiration from the great artist Sarah Epperston on Instagram, who makes socially conscious, psychedelic-like pop art for logos. It's amazing!



No image of this artist was received.

Artist Name: Irene Hoffman (She/Her)

Artist BIO: Irene is an award-winning creative director/graphic designer creating meaningful brands and communications from her Santa Barbara, California studio. She has lived in the USA, the United Kingdom and Slovenia, and this experience of other cultures inspires her work which is described as clean, idea-driven and engaging.

Title of Artwork: "It is not..."(images to the right)

Inspiration:"Women's human rights include the rights to equality, to dignity, autonomy, information and bodily integrity and respect for private life and the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, without discrimination; as well as the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. The right of a woman or girl to make autonomous decisions about her own body and reproductive functions is at the very core of her fundamental right to equality and privacy, concerning intimate matters of physical and psychological integrity." UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

It is **n** your or the government's place to legislate what someone can and can't do with their body.



Title of Artwork: "Finalizing Our Future" (image below)



No image of this artist was received.

Artist Name: Monnero Guervil (He, Him, His)

Artist BIO: MRG is a multimedia artist and educator in New York City. He is particularly interested in art that explores social issues, Caribbean culture, religion and projects with strangers.



Inspiration:What inspired me to create this artwork is remembering how far we have come with women's rights but how much more work we have to do in order for them to really have creative control of their futures.

No image of this artist was received.

Artist Name: Patrice Payne
(She/Her/Hers)

Artist BIO: Patrice Payne is a visual artist and an educator, who is passionate about creating meaningful content that evokes visibility and cultural awareness.

In her artistic practice, she addresses correlating themes of empowerment, social justice, and ideas on Afrofuturism. These themes have evolved over time in her practice due to her experiences, growth, as well as changes within her environment.

Additionally, the female figure is often a central focus in her work. The subjects of nature and the female form coexist in her work and become prevalent themes of exploration as they represent aspects of her own personal journey in respect to notions of blossoming, awakening, or coming into one's identity.

Title of Artwork: "In the Boughs of Women's Rights"



Inspiration: "In the Boughs of Women's Rights" reflects on the ideology of see, hear, and speak no evil. In this case, the women of color are not condoning the behavior of the Supreme Court but instead they can neither see, hear, or speak up for their choices due to restraints that are issued by men in power, who do not understand their circumstances or experiences. This is represented by the silhouetted males who have their backs turned behind the female figures as well as the one who is pointing towards the uterus. Additionally, the uterus is a symbol of the women's bodies and the flowers that bloom around it are examples of the decisions they choose to make on their own reproductive rights.



Title of Artwork: Bloom (in-season or not)

Inspiration: The argument centering around Roe v. Wade is, essentially, regulation of people, historically women but also taking mind to be inclusive of diverse-identifying individuals who play a critical role in the debate. "Bloom (in-season or not)" is about the expectations leveraged upon women as an extension of the state (i.e., the idea that government laws behave definitively upon our lives despite how they may be morally unjust). Whether or not abortion is legal (and, thereby, encourage safer access), organizers, activists and everyday people will find ways to enable access to healthcare for those seeking abortions and support networks for them throughout the process. Together, not individually, we bloom in the midst of a clamor that seeks to disrupt us from goals of justice.



Artist Name: Paola Santiago (She/Her)

Artist BIO : Paola is an undergraduate student currently studying at Washington University in St. Louis. She is a Latinx nonbinary writer and artist whose work delves into the intersection of Latinidad and queerness.



No image of this artist was received.

Artist Name: Tamika Heard (She/Her)

Artist BIO: Tamika Heard is a textile artist who develops content that inspires reflection, social awareness, and moral depth. Tamika has pursued independent studies and community participation since completing her BA in Art Studies. Her most recent service was in Durham, North Carolina, where she was the Creative Director for a sewing camp for two years. The youth had a safe place to learn sewing and develop other social skills while also expressing their creativity and design flair. Tamika has organized numerous shows across the states that entertain social intelligence. She is currently using her Artist Managerial talents to assist artists of color in securing space in areas exclusive to them.



Title of Artwork:
Our bodies!
Our health!
Our safety!
Our nourishment!
Our education!
Our land!
Our voice!
Our future!

Inspiration:The possible overturning of the Roe vs Wade case was an eye-opener to how much government control is present when it comes to the essentials of humans and their natural rights. Our health is our wealth, and both come in many forms. This poster is a representation of our declaration as humans taking back our natural rights to govern our own lives. Standing in unison with the pregnant women who decided to do the same!

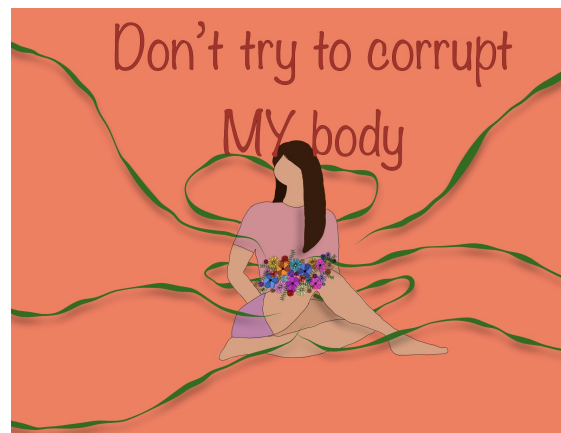


No image of this artist was received.

Artist Name: Jennifer Amador-Gonzalez (She/Her/Hers)

Artist BIO: Jennifer Amador-Gonzalez is a full-time college student at the University of Texas at Austin under the College of Natural Sciences. She is a former 2018-2019 intern for The Career of Readiness and Empowerment of Women (C.R.E.W.) where she was introduced to projects and ideas that dealt with local and social issues in her community. Although not an experienced artist, she wishes to share her views and awareness of social issues faced as a Hispanic Latina.

Title of Work: "My Garden"



Inspiration: When creating this piece I was thinking about the fact of how a women's body has always been tried to be messed with or controlled. I wanted to show that women are the owners of their attributes despite outside malicious forces trying to change them.

IMPACT STATEMENTS>>>

My experience in the Creative Reaction Lab was truly one of a kind. Not only was I given the opportunity to showcase my art but to spread awareness from my art. It was really fun getting to use new software I wasn't experienced with and seeing other people's art.. From my participation in the Creative Reaction Lab I will say that it has given me a different perspective on not only other's artwork but even my own. It inspires me to create more artwork when facing social issues going on in the world.- **Liam Reboseno**

It was a very new experience for me and I'm glad that they have that for people like me who are young and people of color. It shows that they really want to see what we think about things. I will say that the process was really long, but it was worth it in the end, and I'm so grateful that they paid us as well. Because of the CRXLAB my school actually interviewed me and put me in the newsletter, and I think that's a really good opportunity. And like I said, that was my first time doing digital art, so I'm really glad that I got that experience. - **Aarianna Bess**

My biggest takeaway was that I could use my art as activism, just in general. Previously, I thought I could do that once I was solidified and had an income, but there's actually a market for it and it's appreciated. It was really nice to know I could make a career out of activism. Because of CRXLAB's program, I started using art as an expression of my emotions, rather than a tool of realism. So, my art has since become more abstract, but feels more real. - **Zyaire Davis**

"Art is a shared language amongst people and it can help us to be able to feel and show how inequities play out in marginalized communities that often aren't represented and rather neglected. - **Mhlengi Famakinwa, A4E artist, 2021**

It was fun. I liked the live Zooms that we did. I was a big fan of meeting everyone hearing their stories. I think it should have happened 1-2 more times to get a feel. The one issue was around December, communications fell off really hard. sSo sometimes I just feel like i'm not getting updated. I heard it was due to a number of staff catching COVID..but even past that point, like March, I feel like I still didn't even know what was going on. Maybe even into April. As of now, I'm doing something that's like last steps...they wanted to do an Instagram Live. I just got an email today about the other person not being able to be contacted. But the last time I emailed them was two weeks ago. So mostly that, just constant communication. There were periods of time I genuinely didn't know if this was cancelled. ...I loved the opportunity, I'm thankful. - **Andre Thomas**

One of my biggest takeaways was how many different ways the prompt could have been interpreted and it was really cool to see what people did with their art. I have taken what I have learned from this program and used it to think more in-depth about the prompts that I am given and what different ways they can be answered. - **Safiyah James**

IMPACT STATEMENTS >>>

“The impact of art can cross barriers such as language background and individual experience. It unites and penetrates in ways that sometimes words cannot. It is also the very core expression of humanity and we must further protect it” - **Destiny Kirumira, A4E artist, 2021**

“CRXLAB is an organization that is well organized. As an artist, I get the sense that Creative Reaction Lab cares as much about your contributors as you do your other audiences. Since working with Creative Reaction Lab, I have created activism graphics and made them available to my local community. In 2017, a stranger from Santa Barbara phoned to ask me if she could use the Love is Love/Love Wins graphic she had spotted on my website for her Women’s March placard. I agreed, of course, and emailed her the artwork. Santa Barbara was organizing a Women’s March, too, but I decided to attend the one in LA with a friend. Halfway through the LA Women’s March, we stopped on the sidelines for a few minutes to take in the people and their placards and I spotted my graphic!!! I ran up to the lady and asked her where she got the graphic. She smiled and said: “Are you Irene?” I was the person who called you last week...” I had no idea she was attending the March in LA. And, I’m not sure what the actual odds of running into her were, but I do know 750,000 people marched towards the Town Hall using five different routes. It was amazing serendipity and one of the happiest moments of my life as a Designer for Justice”. - **Irene Hoffman**

“Art is an extremely important medium to make great work to address inequalities in communities. I am a growing artist myself, going by the name of Doseofrich on Instagram. I am doing a series called women of color, a series where I draw women from different countries and even from underrepresented countries as well. Art can be a huge push forward to bring awareness to an issue and a powerful tool to inspire others to make a better world. -**Richard Ilfraim, A4E artist, 2021**

PROGRAM PARTNERS >>>

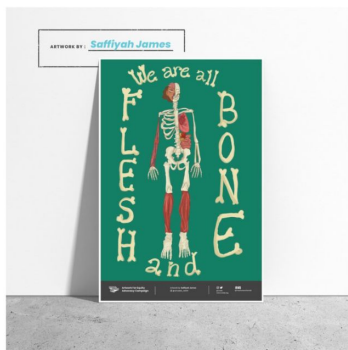
students
r_build



CONCLUSION >>

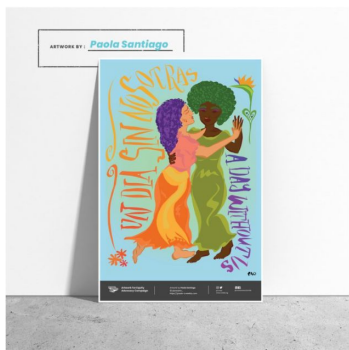
Artwork For Equity (A4E) 2021-22 aimed to support and equip youth artists and designers with the necessary training and skill that allow them to leverage their artistic talents as a form of activism to create transformative change. Beginning with 9 artists from all over North America, these youth artists used Equity-Centered Community Design to generate an idea for a creative approach to issues of educational inequity in North America while also working to build humility, integrate history and healing practices, and address power dynamics.

Over the course of 3 months, Artists worked with our Creative Reaction Lab staff that helped support them in bringing their artwork to life. At the conclusion of the Miseducated A4E campaign, the artists were able to sell their artwork on Creative Reaction Lab's website, as well, have their artwork displayed throughout our Networks platforms.




"Flesh & Bone" by Saffiyah James SALE

\$14.00 ~~\$19.99~~



"Un Dia Sin Nosotros" by Paola Santiago SALE

\$14.00 ~~\$19.99~~



"Tainted" by Liam Reboseno SALE

\$21.00 ~~\$29.99~~

For Creative Reaction Lab's 2022 Reproductive Rights micro-campaign, 13 youth artists from all over North America were selected to design postcards that would be used as a form of activism. All pieces were formatted to a 5.5" x 8.5" postcard and sent to multiple Human Rights organizations across the nation. Artists were also given 5 copies of their postcard sent through mail. The post cards were used to write letters to community leaders and officials demanding them to fight against racial and health inequities.

Do you need postcards to write to your elected officials? Order now!



Art created by Artwork for Equity (A4E) Fellows: Patrice Payne, Gowri Balasubramaniam, Jennifer Amador Gonzalez

ABOUT CREATIVE REACTION LAB

Our Foundational Belief: As are all systems within our society, systems of oppression, inequality, and inequity are by design; therefore, they can and must be redesigned.

The Challenge: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by 2050, Black and Latinx communities will make up almost 40% of the United States population, many of whom are currently youth. Yet, these communities face disproportionate racial and health inequities that limit social, economic, and cultural growth. While Black and Latinx youth want to improve well-being for themselves and their families, friends, communities, and culture, they currently feel unheard, unsupported, or excluded from opportunities to amplify their power and work toward liberation.

Our Theory of Change

At Creative Reaction Lab, we acknowledge that youth historically have been undervalued as architects of change and culture. We believe that if we equip Black and Latinx youth with:

1. training and tools to build consciousness* around context, history, and power surrounding race and ethnicity in the United States;
2. a community for cultural healing, safety, and collective mobilization; and
3. access to traditional power through institutions, funding, and resources;

then they will have the capacity to design interventions that will dismantle existing racial and health inequities; thus co-creating a society that embraces the humanity, rights, and power of Black and Latinx people.

**We define consciousness as deep awareness of one's own thoughts + of the society in which one lives, allowing for critical analysis of the prevailing narratives one sees + experiences.*

Creative Reaction Lab's mission is to educate, train, and challenge Black and Latinx youth to become leaders designing healthy and racially equitable communities. We're challenging the belief that only adults with titles (e.g. mayors, CEOs, etc.) have the power and right to challenge racial and health inequities. However, we are conscious that it's not just the work of the people that have been historically underinvested to dismantle oppressive systems. Therefore, we are rallying an intergenerational movement of Redesigners for Justice.

Learn more about Creative Reaction Lab at www.crqlab.org.