

Entry No: 9

Jade Duffas

Age: 17



This art contest has been a special experience for me as a teen living in this country. My artwork is an expressive and controversial piece of the perspective of America's policing system and effect on culture through the eyes of a person of color. It is a clear representation of the thoughts, feelings and emotions that constantly circulate our minds when thinking of the word "police" and how it has effected people of color over the years.

For my artwork to be placed in a contest, is something that has truly been an experience for me. I have learned so much about who I am in terms of the specific things that motivate me, my art techniques and where I see myself in the future. I especially learned something in particular about the way we as a democracy are empowered through public demonstration and how policing in this country has cultivated that aspect. I've come to realize that we as citizens of the country rely on the idea of hope to improve the issues and animosities of this country, especially when it comes to

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policing. Regardless of the terrifying and struggling pasts of this country regarding our government and law enforcement. We have something to cling onto, a motive, a means of survival, something that keeps us away from our past, as we are fearful we may repeat it again. Yet at times, by looking back we can avoid past mistakes and see how as citizens of this country. We have survived the most terrorizing events, but that link of hope and the ability to understand our past is one of our many superpowers as a people. This is what I wanted to show through my artwork, that piece of hope that unites us as citizens no matter the animosity of the police and no matter how large the power from our democracy.