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ED 3140

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## ***Parable of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***



### **Artistic Statement:**

“A person is imprisoned behind a transparent wall, unable to break free. Two men direct people to move along. There is nothing to see but an ‘other’ struggling along. One person sees that the person is in need but has no idea how to help. Eventually, he decides it is not ‘his circus or his monkeys’ and decide to move on. Two other people see what they have in common with this ‘other’ person, and they begin to weep. They otherwise, however, do nothing. One person, however, manages to effortlessly reach through the transparent wall, and offers assistance to the person in need.”

This sculpture builds off the ideas of Nick Wilde in Disney’s *Zootopia*. “You come to Zootopia to be whatever you want, only to realize you can’t. You can only be what you are.” There may be minority

people who overcome whatever obstacles they can (poverty, abandonment, and different ability), but there will always be the unbreakable prison that is imposed on a minority individual by society. Until someone in the majority has the courage to reach out and help minorities in need, that transparent wall remains unbreakable.

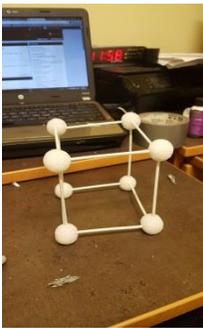
### **Inspiration:**

I was quite unsure what to come up with for a project until about two weeks before this assignment was due. I chose the unbreakable prison metaphor after we started the “White Privilege” (I would say “Majority Privilege”) unit. There are certain limits placed on minorities that those in the majority do not notice as they do not have to experience many of these things. I was unsure which minority to use, so I decided to use one stick person to represent as many minority people as possible.

### **Process:**



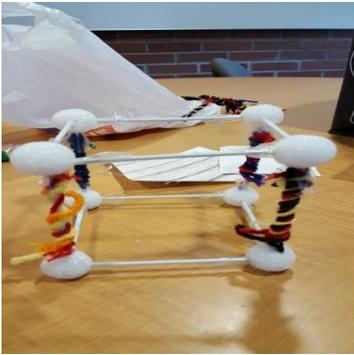
I initially decided for this sculpture solely to be a “coat hanger” sculpture. Realizing I wanted to make boxes, I decided to cut up the coat hangers and use them as box frames.



I bought foam balls to hold both my inner and outer boxes together. (notice how both the coat hanger wiring and the foam balls are white)



The larger outer box proved to be exceedingly frustrating to get to stay up, but double-sided scotch tape (at the suggestion of my mother) on the ends of the hangers proved useful in keeping the structure sound.



I used glue and different colored yarn to decorate the pillars of the inner box. These colors, to me, represent as many different minorities as possible. On the left, the rainbow colors are shown to show the LGBT community. On the right, the Red, Violet, and Blue yarn encompasses Females, Males, and everybody in between (biologically). The Black, Brown, Yellow, and Red yarn represent all non-white skin colors.



Abandonment, Poverty, Ability, and Fear. These 4 faces of the inner box (created on sketch paper with pencils) exhibit real problems minorities face on a day to day basis. Those in the LGBT community can be abandoned by those they love the most should those people not agree with who they are. Poverty and differing abilities also make it difficult for a minority person to live their day to day lives. Finally, “fear of other” (in this case, I chose to depict one of the worst case scenarios) can prevent anybody from going out of their comfort zone and achieving greater things.



I finally had to put someone into the inner box, about to emerge from their solvable obstacles. I interwove two black pipe-cleaners with one red, one brown, and one yellow strand of yarn to represent all minority colors. I additionally gave this person rainbow hair (made of more yarn) to represent the LGBT community. This person is genderless.



I double wrapped the outer layer box in saran wrap one way before putting the inner box into it. I then sealed the minority person and their inner box within the outer seal of institutional and societal discrimination.



I used white pipe cleaners to represent the world and people of White/Majority Privilege. Existing around this invisible barrier in society, the privileged are those that do not encounter the same external, unsolvable obstacles somebody within the metaphorical barrier would encounter. One individual on the majority side pokes his hands through the invisible barrier, beyond fear, to offer the minority individual assistance. Whether the individual chooses to accept or not is up to them.



**Representational items:**

- Yarn of many colors.
- Black and white pipe-cleaners.
- White coat hanger wire.
- White foam balls.
- Saran Wrap.
- Pictures of different struggles to overcome.

**Design Elements:**

**Color:** I used white for the outside of the sculpture as a representation of the white washed society and white/majority privilege. The inner box shows many colors colors, representing minorities of all races, orientations, and genders.

**Texture:** I used the saran wrap to create a lens which people on the outside see “others.” It is also used as a barrier toward the minorities and a lens on how they may view the outside world. I also used this as a glass-like ceiling in reference to discrimination toward women in the workplace.

**Shape:** I chose the style of “Box within a box” to showcase one major point. Though there are obstacles minority people are able to (and often do) overcome on their own, there are so many more obstacles society (knowingly or not) imposes on minorities (especially people of color). Though there are obstacles which can be solved without help, until someone with privilege is willing to share that privilege with “others” and see them not as “others” but as human beings, there is only a certain amount of progress possible.

**I shall be publically posting this on Facebook. Link is**

**[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=597049087128923&id=100004715118010&pnref=story](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=597049087128923&id=100004715118010&pnref=story)**