



ARAS PIONEER TEENS SUMMER PROGRAM 2014

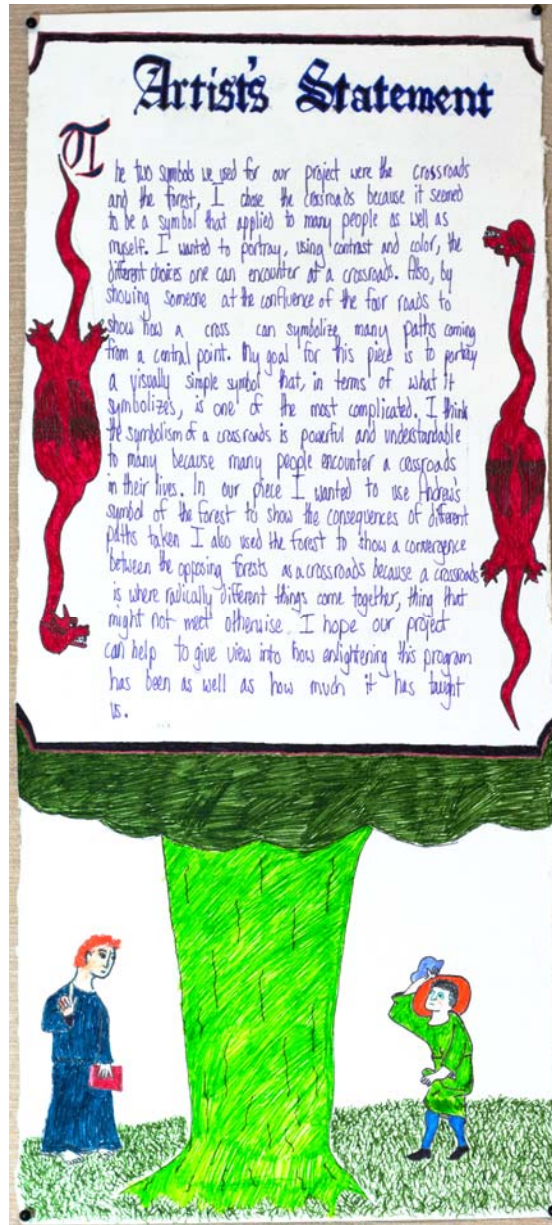
Artists' Individual Statements and Collaborative Artwork

Collaborative Artwork of Mandrake and Phoenix

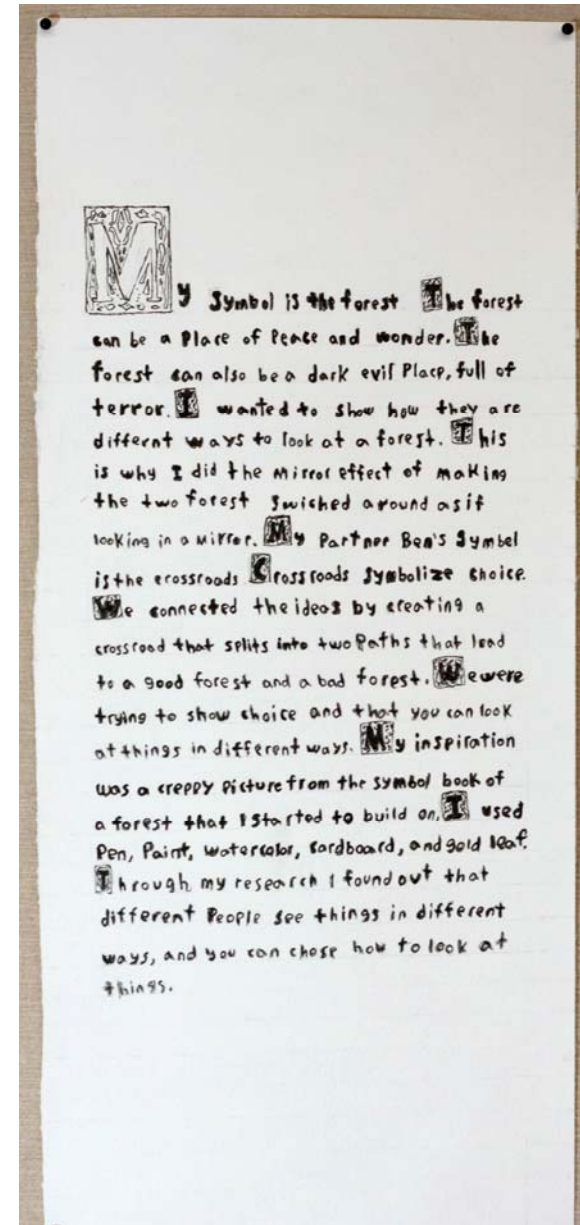


Crossroads and Forest

Artist Statement of Crossroad



Artist Statement of Forest

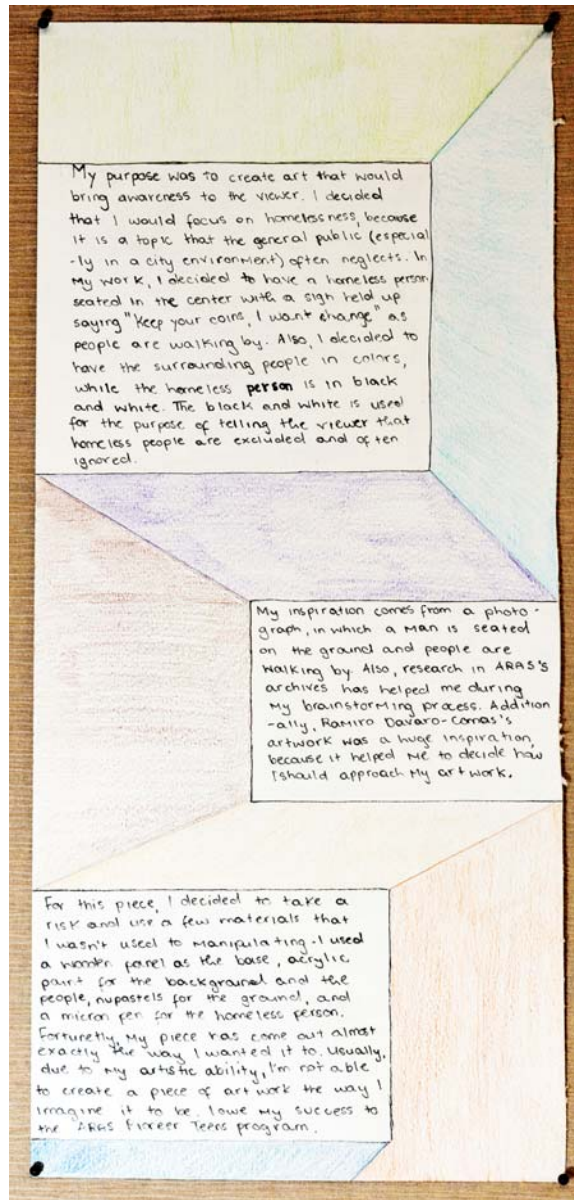


Collaborative Artwork of Crossroads and Forest

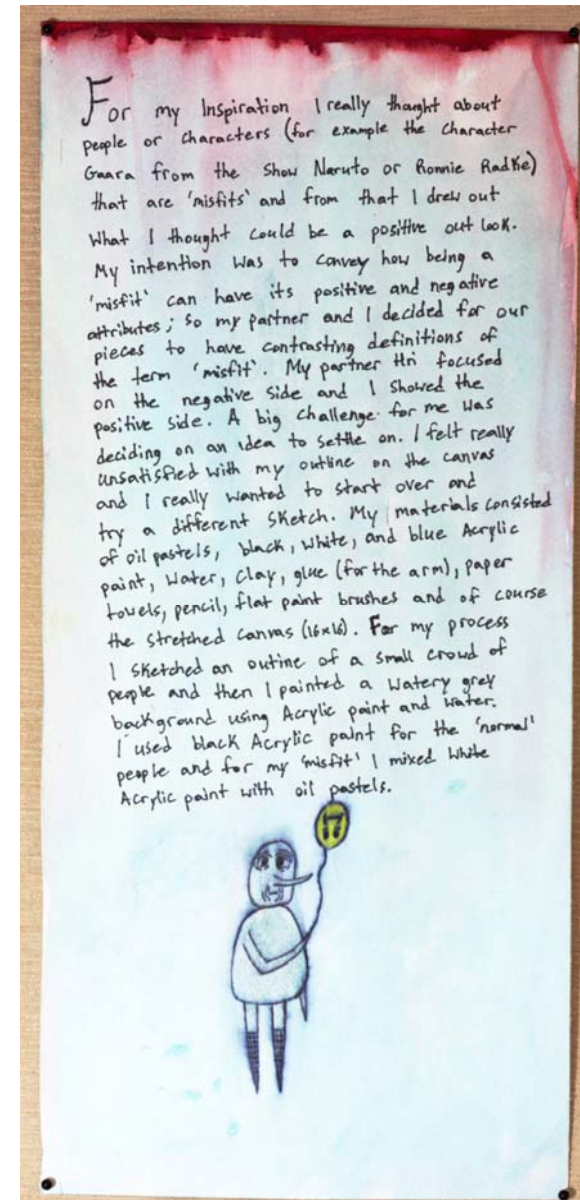


Homelessness and Misfits

Artist Statement of Homelessness



Artist Statement of Misfits

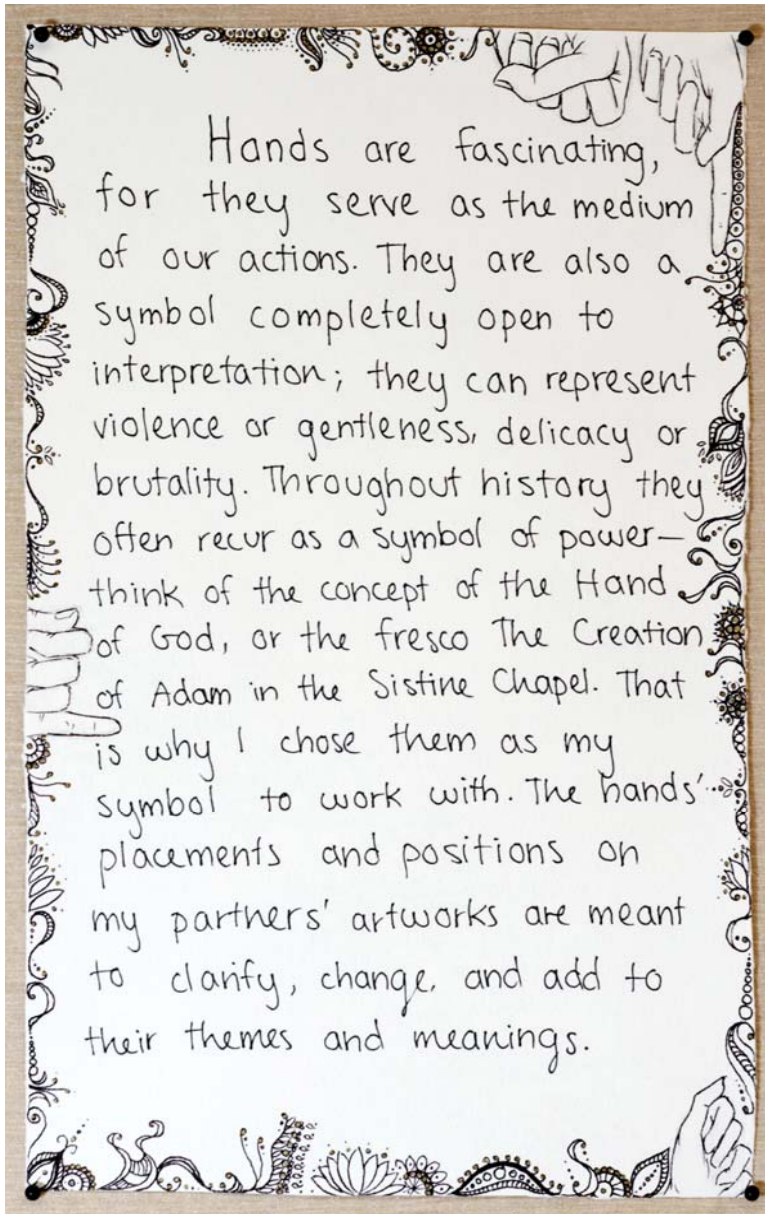


Collaborative Artwork of Homelessness and Misfits

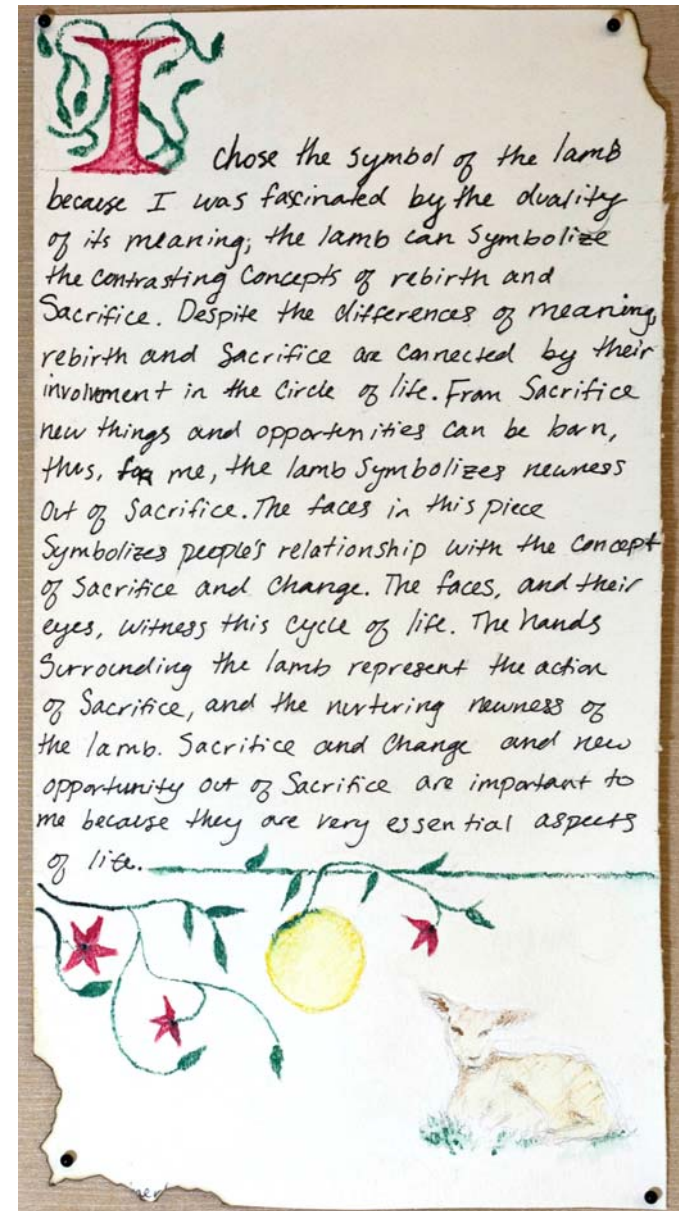


Hands and Lamb

Artist Statement of Hands



Artist Statement of Lamb



Collaborative Artwork of Hands and Lamb



ARAS Pioneer Teens Summer Program 2014
Artists' Statements

Name	Artist Statement
Chloe	<p>Hands are fascinating, for they serve as the medium for our actions. They are also a symbol completely open to interpretation; they can represent violence of gentleness, delicacy or brutality. Throughout history they often recur as a symbol of power--think of the concept of the Hand of God, or the fresco the Creation of Adam on the Sistine Chapel. That is why I chose them as my symbol to work with. The hands' placements and positions on my partners' artworks are meant to clarify, change, and add to their themes and meanings.</p>
Maya	<p>To me the eye is an explosion. It is such a complex and delicate body part, Which I think has the ability to look deeper into a person than just the surface. For this reason i chose to depict the eye as the galaxy, so much is to be explored and everywhere you look it is different. I want this piece to be open for interpretation viewed as if viewing the unknown. Look at this with your eyes but let your imagination do all the work. As I collaborated with my peers so much new inspiration was felt towards this piece. For the symbol, Lamb, I painted drips/tears of blood to represent sacrifice. For the symbol hands. We overlaid them onto the piece, hands give people the ability to complete actions and they're so versatile. Eyes are unique for everyone. Beauty and emotion is shown through eyes. Reaching new ideas and the ability to "view" the world, and unknown.</p>
Ben	<p>The two symbols we used for our project were the crossroads and the forest, I chose the crossroads because it seemed to be a symbol that applied to many people as well as myself. I wanted to portray, using contrast and color, the different choices one can encounter at a crossroads. Also by showing someone at the confluence of the four roads to show how a cross can symbolize many paths coming from a central point. My goal for this piece is to portray a visually simple symbol that, in terms of what it symbolizes, is one of the most complicated. I think the symbolism of a crossroads is powerful and understandable to many because many people encounter a crossroads in their lives. In our piece I wanted to use Andrew's symbol of the forest to show the consequences of different pathways taken. I also used the forest to show a convergence between the opposing forests as a crossroads because a crossroads is where radically different things come together, things that might not meet otherwise. I hope our project can help to give view into how enlightening this program has been as well as how much it has taught us.</p>
Klare	<p>For my inspiration I really thought about people or characters (for example Gaara from the show Naruto or Ronnie Radke) that are 'misfits' and from that I drew out what I thought could be a positive outlook. My intention was to convey how being a 'misfit' can have its positive and negative attributes; so my partner and I decided for our pieces to have contrasting definitions of the definition 'misfit'. My partner Hri focused on the negative side and I showed the positive side. A big challenge for me was deciding on an idea to settle on. I felt really unsatisfied with my outline on the canvas and I really wanted to start over and try a different sketch. My materials consisted of oil pastels, black/white/blue Acrylic paint, water, molding clay, glue (for the arm), paper towels, pencil, flat paint brushes, and of course the stretched canvas (16x16). For my process I sketched an outline of a small crowd of people and then I painted a watery grey background using Acrylic paint. I used black Acrylic paint for the 'normal' people and for my 'misfit' I mixed white Acrylic paint with the oil pastels.</p>

Shivani	<p>My symbol is the Phoenix. When we first began our research, I only knew that the Phoenix saved Harry Potter's life and was a bird born from its ashes. The information I learned at the Archives taught me about its origins in Egypt, its importance in China, and how it was adopted by the Catholic Church in the Middle Ages. The Phoenix became more than a mythical bird; it represents regeneration and the cycle of creation and destruction. In this way, it became more personal for me because I am named after the Hindu God Shiva who also stands for this constant cycle in nature. It also bears many parallels to my partner's symbol: the Mandrake. For our final project, we chose to make sculptures coming out of dirt and ashes on a base that goes from healthy to dying to extend our theme of creation and destruction.</p>
Hri	<p>My purpose was to create art that would bring awareness to the viewer. I decided that I would focus on homelessness, because it is a topic that the general public (especially in a city environment) often neglects. In my work, I decided to have the homeless person seated in the center with a sign held up saying "keep your coins, I want change" as people are walking by. Also, I decided to have the surrounding people in color, while the homeless person is in black and white. The black and white is used for the purpose of telling the viewer that homeless people are often excluded and often ignored.</p> <p>My inspiration comes from a photograph, in which a man is seated on the ground and people are walking by. Also, research in ARAS's archives has helped me during my brainstorming process. Additionally, Ramiro Davaro-Comas's artwork has been a huge inspiration, because it helped me to decide how to approach my artwork.</p> <p>For this piece, I decided to take a risk and use materials that I wasn't used to manipulating. I used a wooden panel as the base, acrylic paint for the background and the people, pastels for the ground, and a micron pen for the homeless person. Fortunately, my piece came out almost exactly how I wanted it to. Usually, due to my artistic ability, I'm not able to create a piece of artwork the way I imagine it to be. I owe my success to ARAS Pioneer Teens program.</p>
Andrew	<p>My symbol is the forest. The forest can be a place of peace and wonder. The forest can also be a scary, dark, evil place full of terror. I wanted to show the different ways you could look at a forest. This is why I did the mirror effect of making the forest switched around as if you were looking in a mirror. My partner Ben's symbol is a crossroad. Crossroads symbolize choice. We connected the ideas by creating a crossroad that splits into two paths that lead to a good forest and a bad forest. We were trying to show choice and that you can look at things in different ways. My inspiration was a creepy picture from the symbol book of a forest that I started to build on. I used pen, paint, watercolor cardboard, and gold leaf. Through my research I found out that different people see things in different ways, and you can choose how to look at things.</p>
Amir	<p>The Mandrake is a mythical plant that may either stun or kill you, depending on its age. I have a connection to it because it represents balance, a theme that can really apply to me. I'm always joking around, but I'm serious if you need help. Granted, the Mandrake's balance is a bit more drastic, but I still feel it applies. It shows that even in the strangest places, you have to have a balance. I was inspired to make my sculpture piece by the theme of natural beasts, of which a Mandrake is one. The only challenge was to actually sculpt the Mandrake. I felt that sculpting a piece the same size as my partner's sculpture would be a little hard to do. My partner was sculpting a Phoenix, which went well with the Mandrake. Both were capable of healing as well as destruction.</p>
Odette	<p>I chose the symbol of the lamb because I was fascinated by the duality of its meaning; the lamb can symbolize the contrasting concepts of rebirth and sacrifice. Despite the differences of meaning, rebirth and sacrifice are connected by their involvement in the circle of life. From sacrifice new things and opportunities can be born, thus, for me, the lamb symbolizes newness out of sacrifice. The faces in this piece symbolize people's relationship with the concept of sacrifice and change. The faces, and their eyes, witness, this cycle of life. The hands surrounding the lamb represent the action of sacrifice, and the nurturing newness of the lamb. Sacrifice and change and new opportunities out of sacrifice are important to me because they are very essential aspects of life.</p>