

A Fish

2021 Artist Statement: *Traveling Solo*

One of my friends mentioned off-handedly that 1/3 women experienced sexual assault and that there were 3 of us in the room so once one of us had experienced it the others would be safe from such an attack, speaking from a purely statistical standpoint. I was dumbfounded. The fact that women must even engage in this detrimental thought process is appalling. I went down a rabbit hole that night looking at a myriad of statistics about sexual assault and harassment experienced by women. I decided to use my creative voice in this project to make a statement about the abuses faced by women and feminine presenting individuals. I plan most projects by taking out a sketchbook, scribbling some boxes, and doodling some thumbnails of shots, and this one was no different. I referenced my favorite book, "The Arrival" by Shaun Tan and its use of single snapshots placed in chronological order to tell a cohesive story. This work also has a serious subject that is addressed whimsically and I took inspiration from that though mine is more direct.

An improvement on this project would have been to use a different shooting location. I wanted the most distant shot to be reflective of Julie Andrews in the beginning of *The Sound of Music*, and I think the piece would benefit if the piece were not so front heavy in its layout of a story. My piece demonstrates the design principle of emphasis by most shots being either close-ups of very specific or shots farther away with trailing lines that lead your eye to the focal point. The element space is evident in my use of depth of field in the close-up shots. By using the aperture to focus on what is closest to the lens so that its surroundings may resign to the background. Lastly, my piece utilizes color to set the tone and keep the viewer engaged with the story. The first half of images have a warm tone that invokes a feeling of security. The central image (Suitcase Drop) has a very even coloration. The final images are cool and even washed out, unsettling the audience and letting them know something has changed and it is wrong.

As my story went in the first paragraph, the idea was drawn from a conversation amongst friends, but is also drawn from personal experience as a feminine presenting individual. The story I present is not foreign, whether the individual has experienced something similar or has heard one from a family member or close friend. I think back to *Christina's World* by Andrew Wyeth and its sense of anonymity and hopelessness. I want the piece to force the viewer to think about what is wrong with this abuse and how what they do on the daily perpetuates this or actively seeks change by informing those around you of their transgressions and holding them responsible for poor behavior. No one should be scared to walk at night or wear what they want.