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**Graduate:** Graduate

**Co Applicants:**

**Faculty Sponsor Name:** Cynthia Clabough

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**Faculty Sponsor Department:** Art

**Title of Proposal:** Piecework: stitching together the pieces of a fragmented childhood

**Abstract:** This project is a visual exploration based on the long-term effects of abuse and how the mind is affected in relation to social and family relationships after realization and reflection have occurred. The project will treat in text and illustrations all aspects of abuse including mistreatment, neglect, and harassment as well as the more physical aspects of molestation, sexual abuse and sexual assault. This piece is being exhibited in they Tyler Art Gallery as my graduate thesis exhibition in March and April of 2007.

**Narrative:** In completing this project, I aim to raise the general public's awareness of the number of cases of abuse that go unreported or unrecognized due to a lack of physical indication and medical intervention. Secondly, I want others to see that abuse is a serious problem within our society that has long-lasting detrimental effects on victims, especially in the ways victims interact with others in both personal and social relationships. Thirdly, the project will help the victims of various forms of abuse understand that they are not alone in their experiences and that they are in no way at fault for the abuse they endured in any form.

In this project, I plan to explore the long-term effects on each individual victim's life including feelings of abandonment, terror, neglect, isolation, manipulation, aggression, self-destruction and alienation. Studies have shown that abuse victims who do not realize they are in an abusive environment have higher rates of psychiatric illnesses, depression and anxiety and can go for years without proper care (Goldman: 9). It has also been shown that a victim who is more dependent on the abuser, such as a parent or caretaker, is more likely to sympathize with the abuser and to exhibit a wider and more serious range of psychological and social problems (Garbarino: 12). Because children develop a sense of trust in early relationships with caretakers before they can trust themselves, victims tend to have an inability to trust in both themselves and others. They are also less likely to be able to comfort themselves and see the world as a safe place. Along with increased rates of the previ

This project is a way for me to both explore and learn more about the effects of abuse and to deal with my own problems associated with these forms of abuse. I hope to use this process as a way to reach out to others, connecting abuse victims and reducing the feelings of social alienation that persists a victim's life. Once a survivor has come to realize that the person or people they considered to be looking out for their best interests were, in fact, harming them, it can be difficult to come forward and try to connect to others because they internalize, feeling shame as they accept responsibility. I would hope, too, that those viewing the final exhibition can come to feel more comfortable in dealing with their own problems, learn more about abusive relationships, and for the abuser to recognize their acts as abuse thereby ending the chronic cycle of abuse.

The exhibition of this project will include traditional hand crafted materials, computer generated imagery and written content donated from anonymous abuse victims. The exhibition will be installed in the Tyler Art Gallery as part of my master's thesis exhibition and will include fourteen posters created using black and white imagery of happy families, couples, and individuals from the 1950s and 1960s juxtaposed with a word (abuse, neglect, sexual harassment, etc.) and a question of recognition posed to the viewer. The descriptive word, or words, will be the only element in color, but similar in value to the background thereby blending into the rest of the poster. I also plan to provide the dictionary definition of the various words in order to enforce the contradiction and provide a

point of reference to the viewer. As part of my methodology, I will contact abuse shelters and counseling centers asking for anonymous donations of written accounts of abuse and realization to act as the and further marginalize the experiences of the victim.

I plan to create the previously mentioned pieces as a thesis exhibition that will open on March 30, 2007 in the Tyler Art Gallery. By the mid-January, I plan to create fourteen posters and to collect the writings that I will use. From there I will use the writings as inspiration to create illustrations consisting of both hand-made and computer generated imagery to be completed by the end of February. The pieces will be finalized in early to mid-March to be hung in the gallery.

This project will be finalized and presented in the Tyler Art Gallery from March 30th-April 25th in the Master of Arts Thesis Exhibition. It will additionally be presented at Quest at SUNY Oswego in the spring of 2007.

Equipment Purchase:  
Equipment amount:  
Equipment Rental:  
Equipment Rental amount:  
Photocopying:  
Photocopying amount:  
Postage:  
Postage amount:  
Professional Assistance:  
Professional Assistance amount:  
Publication Costs:  
Publication Costs amount:  
Software Purchase:  
Software Purchase amount:  
Supplies: Framing Supplies- Plexiglass, Frames, Mounting Board  
Supplies amount: 997.37  
Telephone:  
Telephone amount:  
Travel:  
Travel amount:  
Misc Costs:  
Miscellaneous Costs Amount:  
Miscellaneous Costs 2:  
Miscellaneous Cost 2 Amount:  
Total Funds Requested:  
Total Funds Requested amount: 997.37

**Budget Justification:** All supplies are to be used in the creation and execution of this project.

Plexiglass \$593.47 (14@ 16"X23") (12@ 24"X36")

Frames \$346.50

Mount Board \$57.40

Total = \$997.37

**Additional Funds** no

**Final Report** no

**Submit Final Report** na

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