

Napa Valley Museum Yountville 2020 Student Art Show Artist Statements

Evanescence by Zoé Murphy

My whole life, the question of “Who am I?” has resounded in my mind. According to science, I am 50% Chinese, 16% French, and 34% Irish and Scottish, but culturally, it is more complicated. At home, it is all about France. From the food we eat to the language we use, our house is a French bubble. At school, it is a different story. School is all-American. There is school-spirit, lively rallies, and a robust Californian accent. So, throughout my life, I would alternate between pronouncing myself French and proud of it to trying my absolute best to assimilate to the American culture, which often felt entirely foreign. Between the French and American cultural tug-a-war, my Chinese side began to fade away. Though ethnically I am very Chinese, I never “owned up to it,” and in turn, my understanding of a prominent part of myself never developed and began to disappear. The constant fight to decide what I am has led me to a sort of “middle” where I am not truly any of these cultures. In France, I will remain American. In China, I will stay with the French girl. In America, I am a question mark. So, the theme of “Not From Around Here” resonated with me. Though I have come to appreciate my multicultural view of the world, I will always have a part of me that knows the feeling of being an outsider.

Recently, my art has been focused on my understanding of my cultures, their origins, and their impacts on my life. My art is a vivid portrayal of my struggles in finding my identity and a way for me to appreciate the mix of cultures make me unique.

Rising Tide by William Katz

The phrase not from around here, emphasizes the fear we as humans have of the unknown. This fear we have of displacement, of being from somewhere else. There has never been a point in recent history where displacement on a mass scale has threatened humanity, like the certainty of global warming looming over our heads. My artwork uses the design process to devise an alternative transportation method to help coastal cities cope during the effects of the rising tides, rather than have to be displaced. The piece is laid out first to show my brainstorming, concept sketches and a render, then placing my final design in an environment.

The Journey, Valeria Heredia

When I see the phrase "Not From Around Here" I think of objects and people who come from different backgrounds and stand out from their surroundings. "Not from around here" means diversity in the community and I portrayed this by drawing a young female who comes from a different land. Cultural diversity is a key component to improving our society and it can be seen in numerous cities and towns such as Saint Helena. Saint Helena attracts a wide variety of ethnicities because growth is encouraged as well as the promotion of small businesses. I also included monarch butterflies to my art piece because they are small creatures that are rare to find due to their slow extinction. Monarch butterflies are not something that you commonly see everyday and that is why there is a reserve in Mexico that protects these insects. Monarch butterflies go through four generations to reach California in order to share their beauty. I am the first generation in my family to experience these new opportunities and I am here to share my beauty and creativity.

All Eyes on Me by Raimy Gamsby

To me, "Not From Around Here" means being different, and feeling out of place. When you enter an environment that is filled with people that are significantly different you feel out of place. My art is used to represent the feeling of discomfort that comes from being in a minority or being different. In my art I tried to represent women in male-dominated professions. Throughout the world there are still many jobs that women don't primarily work in. Not only that, despite the wage gap slowly closing in recent years, women still earn up to 30% less than men in many professions. I want others to see in my piece the discomfort

and that feeling of being out of place. By looking at my art I hope to bring to others some of the same feeling that these women around the world feel every day. With the eyes all surrounding the center pair I hoped to show that feeling of suffocation and discomfort.

Saint Lenin by Pella Anderson

To me, "Not From Around Here" brings the concept of displacement to mind and I interpreted it as something that can occur to you at any time in any place. The Soviet Union may not be the first thing that you imagine when you hear the words 'not from around here', but I want my audience to imagine their entire way of life being subverted. I want the viewer to imagine not being able to voice their true opinions or practice the religion of their choice in their own society, becoming displaced in their own home. My art is not meant to be taken literally and it's not intended as a historical or political statement. Rather, I want this piece to represent change, idealism, and the dark sides of both.

Wine Country Zebra by Olivia de Maigret

Many animals that are either born or raised in captivity have to adapt to certain living conditions that are genetically not a part of their lifestyle. Discovering the mysticallity of displacement through animals who are far from home can parallel to how humans feel as well. When the physical image and the environment don't parallel, it can leave someone confused or not having a sense of belonging. This Zebra is clearly nowhere near home, but has made one for itself, even though it may see odd to a common person like myself. The idea of an African species surrounded by an environment that doesn't align with its appearance can strike confusion not only among people, but the animal as well.

Two Sided Mirror by Morgan Taylor Scher

"Not From Around Here" means you feel displaced, you don't belong, or you aren't who you want to be. I want my art to invoke emotion and even resonate with the viewers about being flawed above the surface, but broken underneath. We all struggle with feeling that we belong. It could be with friends, family, school, or just life in general. The struggle is real for everyone at different points in their life because we all have felt the weight of being displaced. "Two Sided Mirror" is actually a portrait of the same girl, but she doesn't look the same. The bright portrait is the face she shows to the world. She knows she's missing pieces, but she doesn't want others to know. She stays silent because she wants to fit in, and belong somewhere. The dark portrait is always hidden on the other side of her mirror. The mirror is shattered because she feels broken. She's stuck because she wants to be alone, because in the dark no one can see what she sees. Everyone has a two sided mirror, within themselves. We strive to belong, because we want to be accepted and feel familiar.

Persona by Meagan McConnehey

I want to portray the idea of the way people act differently in various different social situations. Everyone acts differently around parents compared to friends or strangers. Not from around here, to me, means stranger. I used my art piece to express my feeling as a stranger to myself when I am not around my family. I, just as everyone else, acts very differently around people I don't know or am not close with, and this art piece greatly helped me express that, as I am usually a very shy person.

The Prayer by Lexi Sario

To me, "Not From Around Here" means that something (could be a person, place, thing, or a concept) that does not belong in a certain environment or area. By that, to belong somewhere depends on how the community sees if that thing fits in their personal opinion. As examples, a person relating to "Not From

Around Here” could refer to an immigrant, a place relating to the term could be an industrialized factory in the midst of nature, a thing could just be an object sticking out of the rest, and a concept could be a progressive movement against traditionality. The phrase is subjective, but most people follow what society deems as foreign or “weird”. The term simply is a synonym of “foreign” in my eyes. I want others to understand that even in religion there could be foreign or taboo thoughts on how people can interpret subjects in the field; that not all beliefs in a higher being may end up what you want it to be. I also want to affirm that there is a connection between physicality and spirituality.

Audiogram by Leilani Cropper

The term "Not From Around Here" can mean many things, such as outer space, someone from another country, or even something that you may not see in your everyday life. In this particular case, however, it means to feel out of place, or that you don't belong. My piece reflects my childhood experiences of not feeling I belong because I wore hearing aids. It shows as a child who grows up wearing hearing aids may feel insecure about wearing them because of how society views them. The box on the side represents the testing room, where doctors test hearing; it feels isolating and very strange “not from around here

The World Will Live Beyond You by Kevyn O’Neill

"Not From Around Here" to me, can be expressed in an emotional response, we cannot always understand the circumstances of others. When I first look at the prompt, I think of how we can judge others, how we see something we don't understand and are afraid. When instead, we could be excited, angry, fearful, joyful, sad. With my art I want to provoke awareness around climate change. I want the focus of climate change placed on governments and corporations who are causing the real damage and have more control, rather than the common person. The feeling of something being out of place and the contrast of an object with its surroundings is a visual hook and can have a big effect on a piece. My creations are designed to evoke emotions from those who wish to take it in and nothing can bring forth emotion quite like seeing something new.

Cold by Julia Maushardt

I transferred schools my junior year from a tiny private school in Petaluma to Marin Catholic in Kentfield. Despite being within a few miles of each other, the culture shock was incredible. I felt, at first, like I wasn't a true Marin student. I didn't know my way around, nor did I understand some of the jargon. I had never even eaten at Sol Food! Needless to say, I felt out of place my first year. It often felt as though I was suspended, floating, while those around me swam around easily. I felt like I was never saying the right thing.

I try not to base my art on things I see, but rather things I imagine. With cameras now tucked easily into everyone's pockets, I often feel as though my artwork resembles everyone else's. By carefully selecting and setting up my shot, in addition to sometimes adding extra elements in post-editing, I hope to make photos that speak from my own thoughts and emotions. One day, I hope to learn more advanced editing skills so that I can escape the boundaries of my own abilities, creating whole other worlds for everyone else to enjoy and be inspired.

Noir Angel by Jenna Yandle

The theme of “Not From Around Here” personally means a chance to show and celebrate the soul of a human being in a way that is different than just a simple interaction of meeting someone. We move through interactions every day and for one day, to make one person feel beautiful and showcased in a way that is different and inspiring is what my art is all about. I want to specialize in portrait photography to be able to make someone feel beautiful in their own skin and to make others who view my art feel emotion. “Not From Around Here” brings together all kinds of differences from people, to pictures, to mediums of art in a way that exhibits the beautiful complexity of humans, activities, and our lives. This

there is a chance to show unique talent. I want others to understand that my art is my pure creativity, but it is also a story, a feeling. I want to express wonder, beauty, and aesthetics that just make a human feel good or intrigued. I thrive on the ability to peak another's interest with a camera, light, and my own vision. The idea of this shoot, "Noir Angel," is that this beautiful model is such an angelic soul who is put out of her place in such a dark environment. Photography wise, this creates contrast between black and white, but theme wise, this photograph exhibits someone who should not be there, who wants to get out, who is holding such bright potential and spirit as she is looking up and reaching out of this place where she is not from. However, she still shows confidence in who she is, no matter what darkness is in her path. She holds her head up and is striving for a brighter future.

To Lift the Lamp of Liberty by Jade Hawkinson

Not from around here means to feel excluded and alone in an unfamiliar place. When one leaves their home by force or not, they lose their sense of belonging and long for acceptance. In my piece the man symbolizes anyone arriving to a new place, an example being an immigrant. I want people to see the deeper meaning to my art, and understand the underlying symbolism and what it represents as a whole. I want them to not only understand, but appreciate what I've portrayed in my art. I don't want my art to foster external validation, I make it for the sake of making it. I used the theme "not from around here" to depict what I believe to be the definition and how one does not have to feel excluded due to the sense of not belonging, because everyone belongs somewhere—that somewhere is wherever they want to be. My piece reflects the theme by representing freedom and inclusion for all who feel as if they don't belong. A famous quote recognized by all Americans comes from the sonnet *The New Colossus* which states, *Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of teeming shore, Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!* The man represents freedom the masses, those who feel out of place, being accepted by the statue. He is granted freedom to stay who he is despite being in an unfamiliar place, where one may feel as if they do not belong. Lady liberty carries an everlit torch, which symbolizes enlightenment as she embraces those tempest-tost individuals and lights the way to freedom. The man mirrors the statue, as he follows this path to a new, unfamiliar location, in hopes of finding his place in this new world

Galaxy of Colors by Jesus Garcia

"Not From Around Here" here means to me other places on earth and in our galaxy. I want others to see my art skills, and imagination through my artwork. My artwork has a variety of colorful objects and images that can be found in our Galaxy. I was thinking about our planet and galaxy when I created my art piece. I like creating art with a lot of colors and it's fun to draw. I feel happy when I'm creating art

Self Separate from the Senses by Isabel Rogerson

I am not a Napa native, and the differences between this town and my own have been a huge thing to adapt to in the recent weeks. This piece is meant to study who I am apart from the outside world, what I take from it, and how external influences affect me. I chose to represent this by painting my facial features in an unnatural composition to create a theme of unbalance and remove the senses from the self. The background is an abstract depiction of "external influences" and is meant to create a sense of overstimulation.

The Originals by Isabella Cavallero

The statement "Not From Around Here" reflects the meaning of finding a sense of belonging even when obstacles stand in the way. This could be in the community which you live, with the people you surround yourself with, or society's views in general. It can also reflect the idea that individuals might not be fully

accepted by their greater communities. One of the communities that experiences a high level of rejection, or the feeling of not being accepted, is the biker community. The tough exterior that many bikers may have, paired with powerful, noisy bikes, often make part of this community seem unapproachable. Much needed opportunities for connections are lost, which perpetuates the myth that all bikers are bad. It follows the idea that one person can potentially ruin the reputation of a whole group of people. The unfortunate thing about this is that most bikers are amongst the kindest people you will ever meet. In my lifetime I have witnessed how generous the biker community has been on many occasions, including volunteering during times of fire relief, holding fundraisers for charities, and group rides for fallen members. They would give complete strangers the shirt off their back and often support their community, despite being judged for their lifestyle. What I want people to understand about my artwork is that it is important to embrace all walks of life and attempt to understand that some may want to live their lives differently than others. Without the individuality in the community, we wouldn't be able to create the world in which we live.

Enclosed by the Technology Driven Society by Esmeralda Tenorio

To describe my perspective of what I think about this theme. "Not From Around Here" I think about technology vs the world. Perhaps we are all using technology in certain times that is similar in a way, I know in my way I would use it to put aside what bothers me and watch something that would make me laugh and forget all the downer stuff life throws at us. Avoiding the destruction in life and mound over them with our own little world we actualized in the technology, is addictively tempting, and this is what I'd wish to disclaim in my method of Art.

Before dialoguing in details I included in my material as well as why I chose them I would like to make it clear that most of these things are to a greater extent my outlook in using technology and if we were to look at someone else's perspective in using technology things would be in all probability slightly different. I hope this piece can be looked as a method art where someone else can visualize and introspect the world they create with technology and how we characterize ourselves on the Internet that is entirely different in real life.

American Oriental by Emma Tada

To me, "Not From Around Here" means to not belong or be native. Upon first hearing of this project's prompt, I almost immediately knew that I would like to focus on a racial theme. I only found it fitting because of my past, present, and future. It will always be a part of who I am, but I'm not always comfortable with aspects of my own—even if one of those aspects is my racial identity. My piece exemplifies a Japanese train with passengers; I colored them all red to symbolize their ethnicity (red dot on Japan's flag). I chose a red Japanese charm to be the center-point of the scene; it's called Omamori and is said to provide luck or protection.

Life, After by Clayton Salling

"Not From Around Here" to me is somewhere far from home, unfamiliar and unsafe. A place I don't know, something new, something different. A place where I can get lost, not find my way. A place unusual, alien to me. A place whose culture is not understood, their language not understood. Somewhere that is exciting and new, yet off putting. A place that makes me uncomfortable, and intrigued. A place that can be a physical state or a mental state.

In my piece, it shows the transition from life to death. With only a faint memory of what was and how it came to an end, and vivid representation of what is now, life after death. The figure in the triangle is experiencing his new life, he can recall his old life in the country, he can recall his death, but that is no longer of importance in this life.

Beach Monkey by Chase DeBow

To me not from around here is a feeling of displacement. Not belonging in the place you are and being a kind of outsider. Not feeling at home and wishing you were somewhere else. As I grew up my family would always go on camping trips to the beach. Every chance we would get we were off. To Bodega Bay, Pismo Beach, Carpinteria, San Diego, anywhere with an ocean we could get to we could go. I always felt at home there, next to the fire, underneath the stars, and the ocean waves crashing into my ears. Whenever we were home I craved the sounds, the smells, and the feelings of the beach. I always felt like I belonged there more than I did here, the place I felt at home with, the place that I felt a connection and belonging to. I always wished I lived on the coast instead of the valley. So although I am from around here, my heart does not belong here.

Disrupted Family by Charmaine Griffin

In my personal view, "Not From Around Here" means feeling awkward and out of place where people normally should feel welcomed and comfortable. Like immigration, in a whole new country you feel completely isolated and unfamiliar because society labels them as such. Also through connections within families like first generations children. They lose the family that their parents before them have left behind. This causes rifts in connections, leading a person to feel displaced within their families and or lost in culture. Because of language barriers and culture differences within my extended family, I feel uncomfortable and timid at gatherings. It also impacts my relationship with my grandmother, she does not speak English very well and I cannot speak Spanish well either. This very much hurts my personal connection with her. I want others to see a disconnection through the art, understanding that this happens through thousands of families, maybe even the viewers own. This work reflects the theme through displacement within one's family, and the loss of culture and language, making multiple or a singular person isolated. The painting represents the theme of displacement because I am not in the painting, so the link between my family, particularly my grandmother, becomes more and more weak.

Absent by Cecily Greenberg

To me "Not From Around Here" means when one is physically displaced, or just in a new place in their life, with new people, new experiences. I chose to use layers of paper and a collage technique to portray the different layers of one's identity. Moreover the delicate paper shows the fragility of us human beings and how little things can affect us deeply.

Our Lady by Artemesio Romero y Carver

I am not from around here, and thus the phrase "Not From Around Here" naturally reminds me of my own sense of cultural isolation. I am a member of the Chicano peoples that refer to themselves as Norteno, meaning from the mountains of Northern New Mexico. I have recently found myself in Napa California, which to me feels like a place far removed from all that I have known.

Here the sky is a similar blue, but the horizon is never fully visible and the ground is always green with grass. I must also recognize that I am in a truly different cultural landscape, one without the red chile I know or even some of the words I casually use.

That is not to say that I have ever fit perfectly into Norteno culture. My father is white and that has always put me at a distance from those who I might consider my people. The term used to describe kids like me, half white and half brown, is "coyote". I am also a queer person, and as such have always known that my sexuality puts me at an innate opposition to the Catholicism of my people.

I must also be clear that Norteno culture is not always a culture I have wanted to belong too. Its modern incarnation is often defined by the poverty my people find themselves trapped in. Drug abuse, specifically of alcohol and heroin are also incredibly prevalent, at least within my family, as are other symptoms of internalized racism and economic oppression.

Through my art, especially in the painting *Our Lady*, I have sought to create a frame by which I can understand my culture, my people, and by extension myself. As I now attend school in Napa, in a world I am new to, it has only been in the process of art-making that I begin to forget that I'm not from around here.

Ultraviolet by Annabelle Saldivar

The "Not From Around Here" theme of the 2020 Annual Student Curated Art Exhibit genuinely made my brain churn more than I anticipated. At first, it seemed like a pretty straightforward task. That is until I started thinking about where exactly in this puzzle of a world my piece fits. It's a question that I know we all eventually ask ourselves, so it made it easy for me to simply push it to the back of my mind and hope that my future self would be able to answer it. That is until I started thinking about where exactly in this puzzle of a world my piece fits. It's a question that I know we all eventually ask ourselves, so it made it easy for me to simply push it to the back of my mind and hope that my future self would be able to answer it. That was until I began to think about the prompt and how I related to it. The idea behind my piece was based around black lights and their revealing qualities. They expose things that you normally wouldn't notice with the naked eye alone. I feel as if I put on another persona when I'm around people and the only way to grasp the real and authentic version of myself is by earning my trust. I think this is something I started to do once I entered middle school and realized that I wasn't the same person I was in elementary. That trust and bond in a way is the blacklight that enables one to see what's hidden behind the curtains.

DYI Documentation by Amadi Williams

To me, "Not From Around Here" means finding yourself in a situation where you are unable to relate to the people around you. Feeling outside of the community you find yourself in is deeply isolating, especially painful when you've become accustomed to being surrounded by people you have connections with and love for. That's the feeling I've had since I arrived in Napa. Stepping outside of my home in New York has been a shock for me. I am away from my place in the life I've built for myself, my friends, my work in the local art scene. I miss the people and the places that I know, which have greatly influenced my art. My practice for the past couple years has been focused on documentation----portraiture, photography, images of the people and the interactions I see. My art is what I see, and I like looking at people in the part of the world I feel comfortable and known in. I am not in that part of the world anymore, but I have memories of it and connection to it through the impressions and observations I've documented in art. One of my closest friends in Napa calls a very different region home. Things that are commonplace in my normal life are entirely foreign to them. I had to explain what bodegas are. The shock of being away from home is intensified by how alone I am in my experiences, but having documentation of moments that inspired me eases the ache of feeling so isolated. Making art of other people makes me feel less alone. I think that for me the sense of being not from around here truly hits close to home. In terms of my identity I don't really know where my roots are. As a black person in America I feel that I am always questioning where and who I truly am. I also think that I feel the sense of not being around here is because I am from New York City and moving to the slower lifestyle has been interesting. I feel like when walking around Napa I can see the way that other teens and adults look at me especially since there is a rather low population black people within the Napa community. I think that my outfits and personality definitely stand out even within the limits of New York City.

Country She Belongs by Akhila Donthi

"Not from around here" means being different from the crowd you're in and not fitting in. I want others to understand that my art resembles me and my life, and how I sometimes feel like I'm "not from around here". My artwork is of a girl looking between two flags, she is part of both countries and both cultures, but she feels like she does not belong to either one, being a part of two very different groups can make you feel like you don't completely fit into either.

Man Made Natural Disaster by Justice Faustina

To me, not from around here means something that is out of place physically, spiritually, or emotionally. Not from around here does not have to only be about people it can also be about objects or creatures. When you look around at the world you may see many things that don't seem out of place but in fact are. Many times people may seem to fit in but underneath they are struggling with feeling out of place themselves. Not from around here also applies in nature with things like invasive species or the intrusion of humans into the natural world. When we pay attention to things closer we can see more clearly things that are out of place. Everyone and everything has their own story and not everyone's story is clear and upfront. It is important to keep in consideration the fact that everyone's and everything's personal story is different.