

SAAM Art Contest Submissions

Name: Hallie Schmeling **1st Place**

Description: Sexual assault awareness can seem like a bunch of stories and statistics - something far off in the distance - until it hits a little closer to home. This piece is told from two different perspectives: that of a victim and that of someone who as never been a victim. Sexual assault is life-changing, and it's hard enough to heal from it without the ankle weights of victim blame and self blame. I find myself asking, "when will things change?"

Submission:

WHEN

I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ME
YOU HEAR ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME
STORIES. STATISTICS
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ME

MY CHEST IS PAINFULLY TIGHT
MY STOMACH IS EATING ME FROM THE INSIDE OUT
MY SHOULDERS FEEL HEAVY
MY BODY QUAKES
MY HEART THUDS IN MY EARS
I HAVE NO TEARS LEFT
I HAVE NO ME LEFT
I FEEL LIKE A SHELL OF MYSELF
HOLLOW
EMPTY
NUMB

WAS IT WHAT I WORE
I ASK
DID I FLIRT TOO MUCH
I ASK
SHOULD I HAVE BEEN OUT THAT LATE
I ASK
DID I FLIRT TOO MUCH
I ASK
SHOULD I HAVE BEEN OUT THAT LATE
I ASK
SHOULD I HAVE DRANK THAT MUCH
I ASK
DID I DESERVE IT
I ASK

...

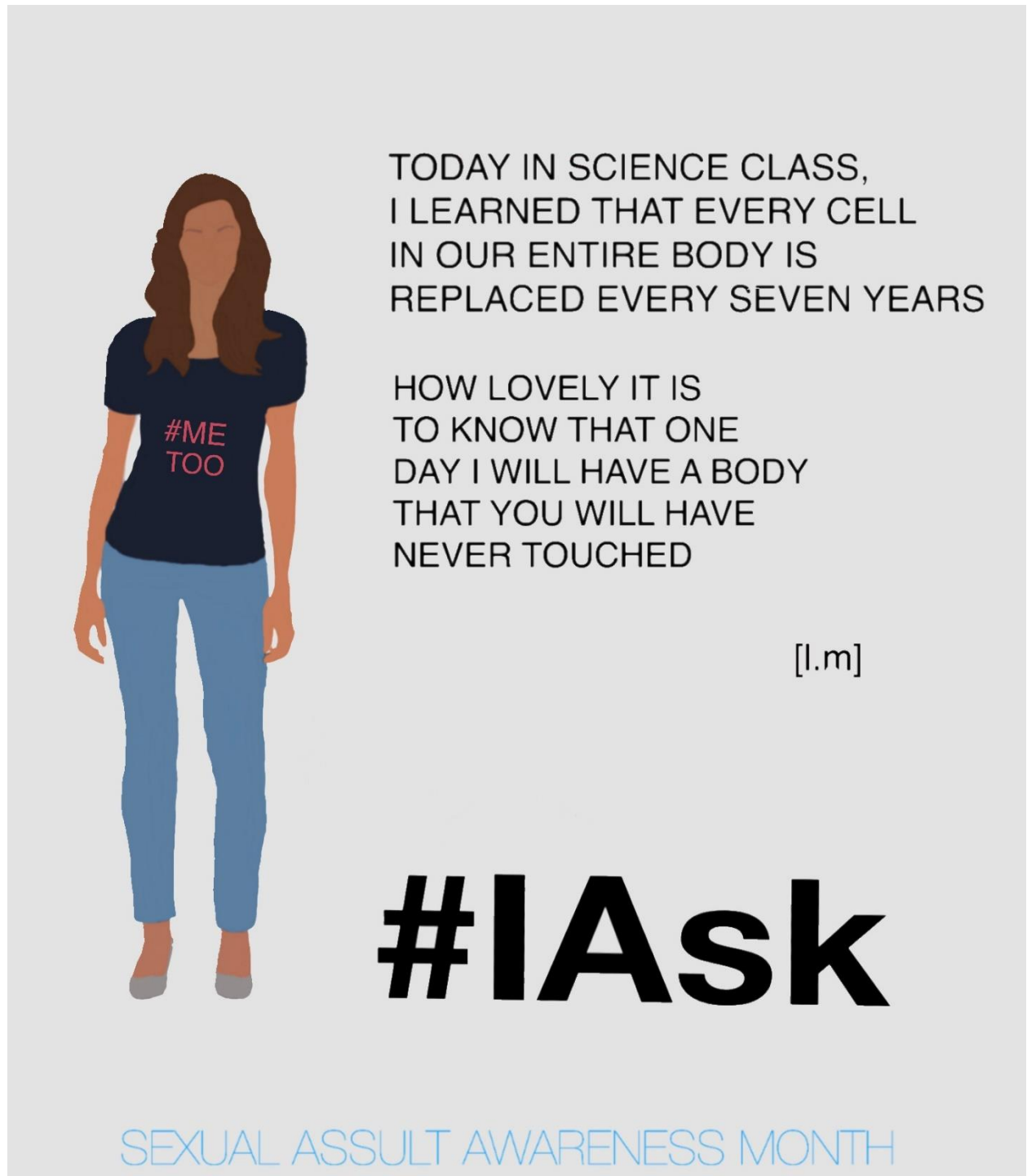
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE
I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE
I DO KNOW ONE THING THOUGH
IT SHOULDN'T HAPPEN
WHEN WILL THINGS CHANGE
I ASK
WHEN WILL THINGS CHANGE

SAAM Art Contest Submissions

Name: Maria Flynn **2nd Place**

Description: The trauma, emotional and physical, that someone feels after being assaulted stays with them forever. I used this quote because while you still may feel everything that happened to you, every day you are distancing yourself on a cellular level from the person or people that hurt you. You are literally shedding all of you that they once held and you return to yourself fully.

Submission:

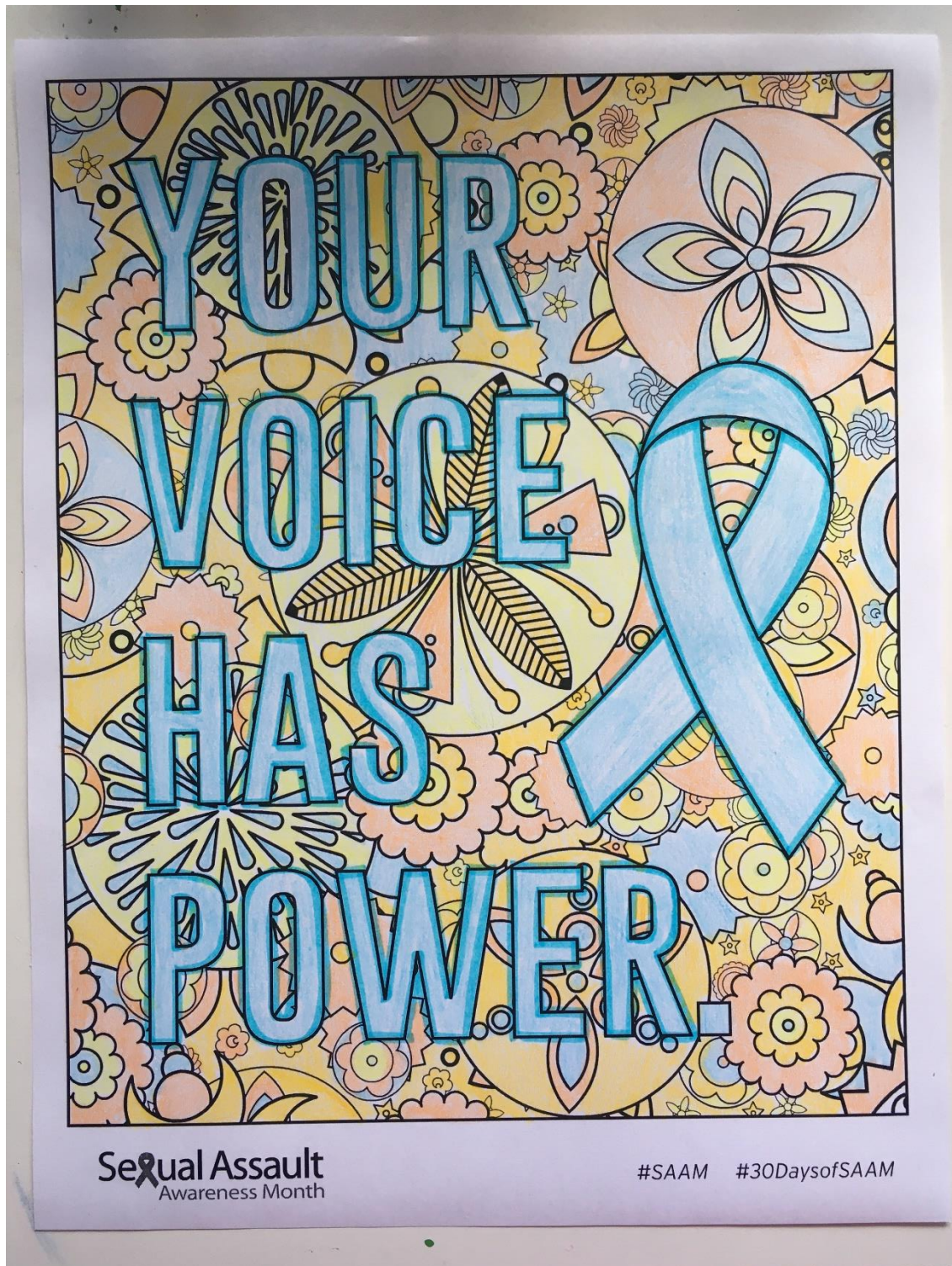


SAAM Art Contest Submissions

Name: Bridgette Hegarty

Description: I was inspired by the lively SAAM color palette while completing this coloring sheet. My hope is that the bright colors draw people to the message which reminds them that their voice has power.

Submission:

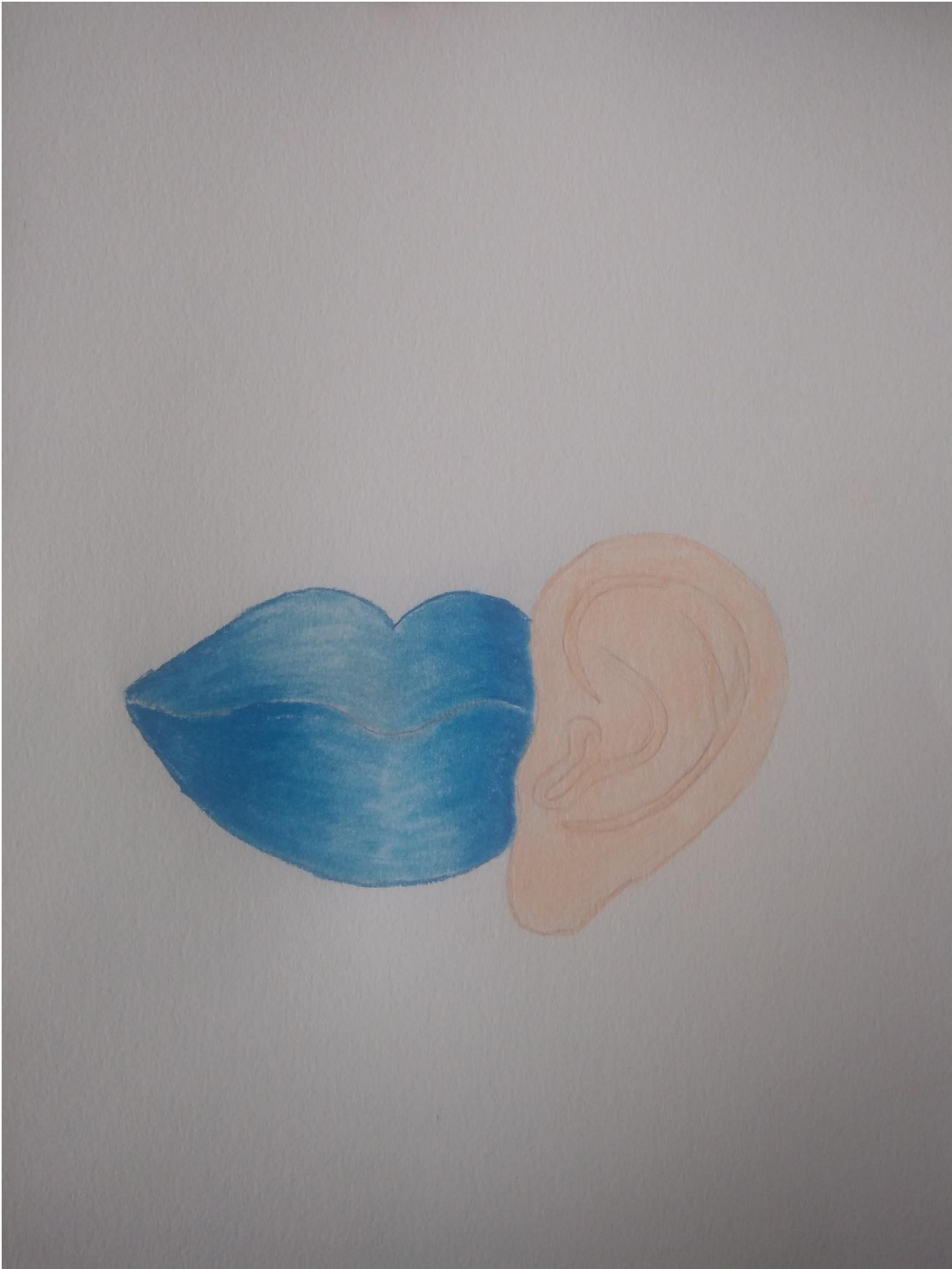


SAAM Art Contest Submissions

Name: Katherine Schroettner

Description: This piece symbolized the miscommunication that occurs so often in relationships of all kinds. If consent is asked for, how often is it listened to? This piece for me says "I ask...Please listen." My hope is that people have the courage to speak up for their desires and the respect to listen to the wishes of others.

Submission:

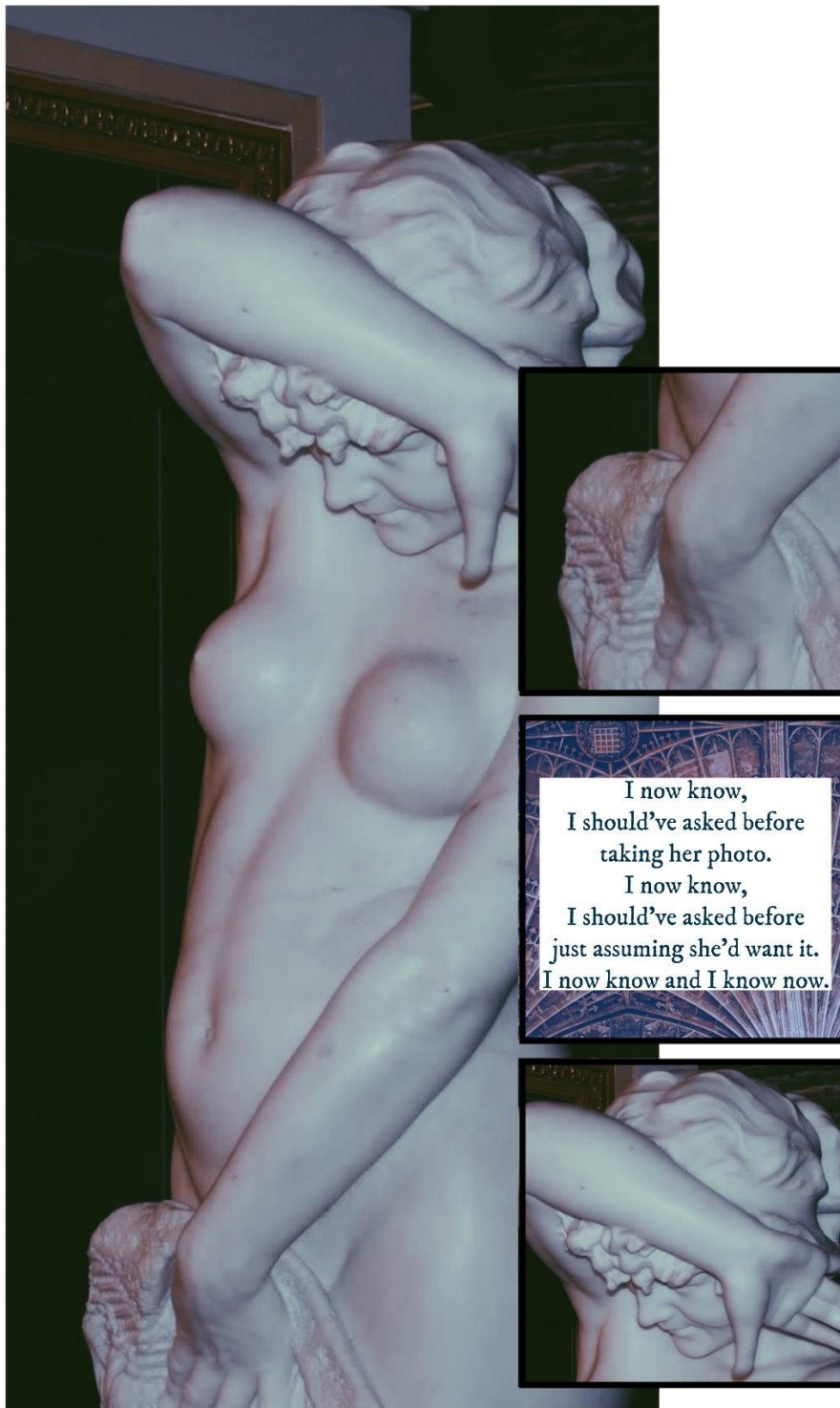


SAAM Art Contest Submissions

Name: Annabeth Kerr

Description: I originally had these photos unedited sitting in my drive, and I found a great parallel in that asking for consent during any sort of relationship and asking for permission to take someone's photo. As I stared at this picture of a statue I realized that she was never able to approve of the way she was posed, nor the way she was displayed, similarly to taking a photograph or to someone who is under the influence of drugs and alcohol. I wrote a short text to becoming aware of this realization, and to pair with the images. These are all my photos. The main photo was taken at the Oregon Symphony Hall and the photo underneath the text was taken at King's College Cathedral in Cambridge, England.

Submission:



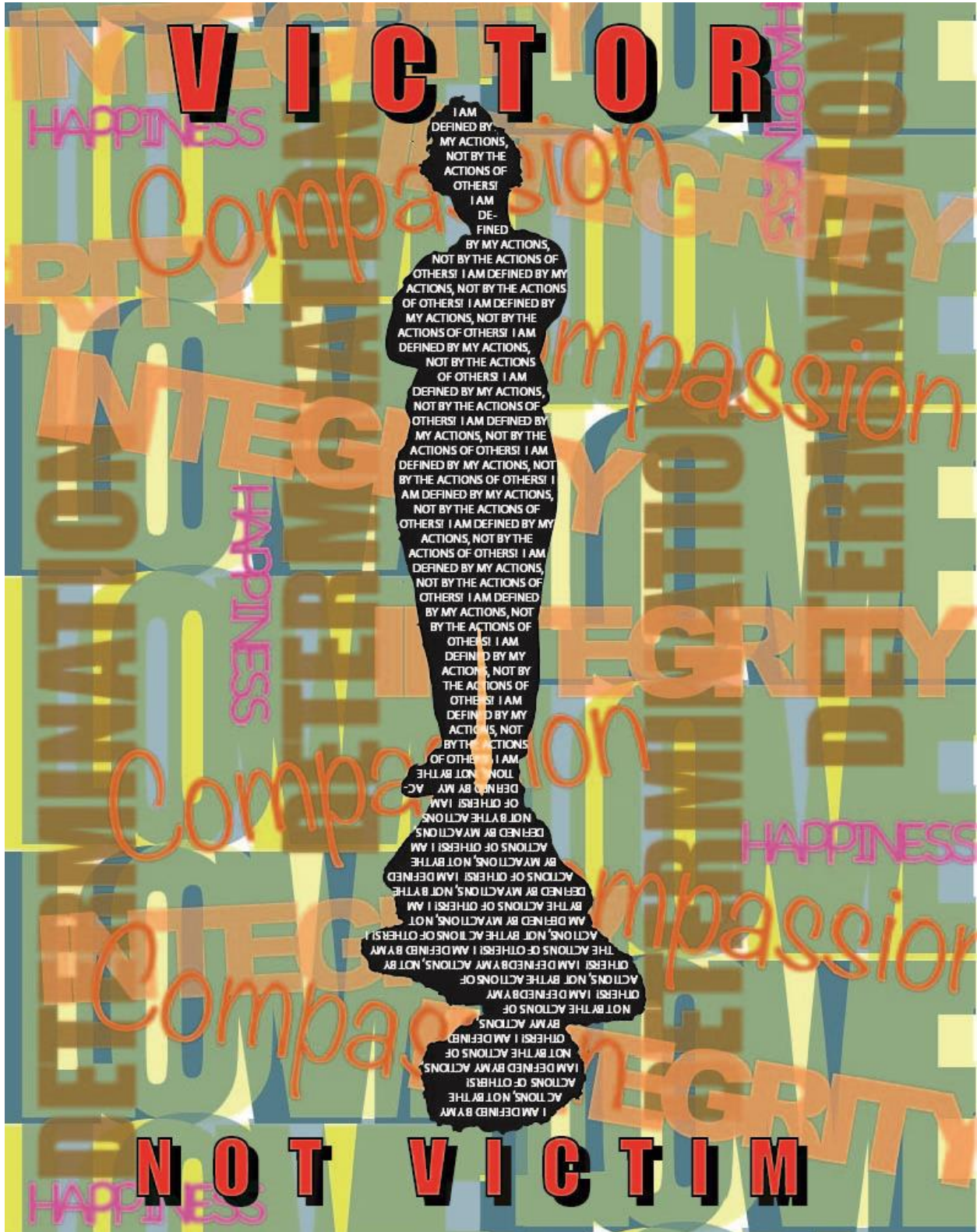
I now know,
I should've asked before
taking her photo.
I now know,
I should've asked before
just assuming she'd want it.
I now know and I know now.

SAAM Art Contest Submissions

Name: Tom Schulz

Description: We are defined by our own actions, not by the actions of others. Actions filled with compassion, love, integrity, determination and happiness have the power to heal, inspire and overcome any obstacle.

Submission:



SAAM Art Contest Submissions

Name: Charissa Jakusz

Description: I am not an artist or writer of poetry but wanted to address awareness of this topic and the necessity of change in society resulting in this short poem.

Submission:

Voices are Powerful
By Charissa Jakusz

Voices are powerful.
They say change takes time.
Survivors are strong.
They say change takes time.
Victim blaming is pervasive.
They say change takes time.
Rape culture persists.
They say change takes time.
Sexism is real.
They say change takes time.
Gender based violence continues.
They say change takes time.
My voice is powerful.
They say change takes time.
I say the time is now.