

What do you want to remember from this moment?

A Visual Diary by Art Team

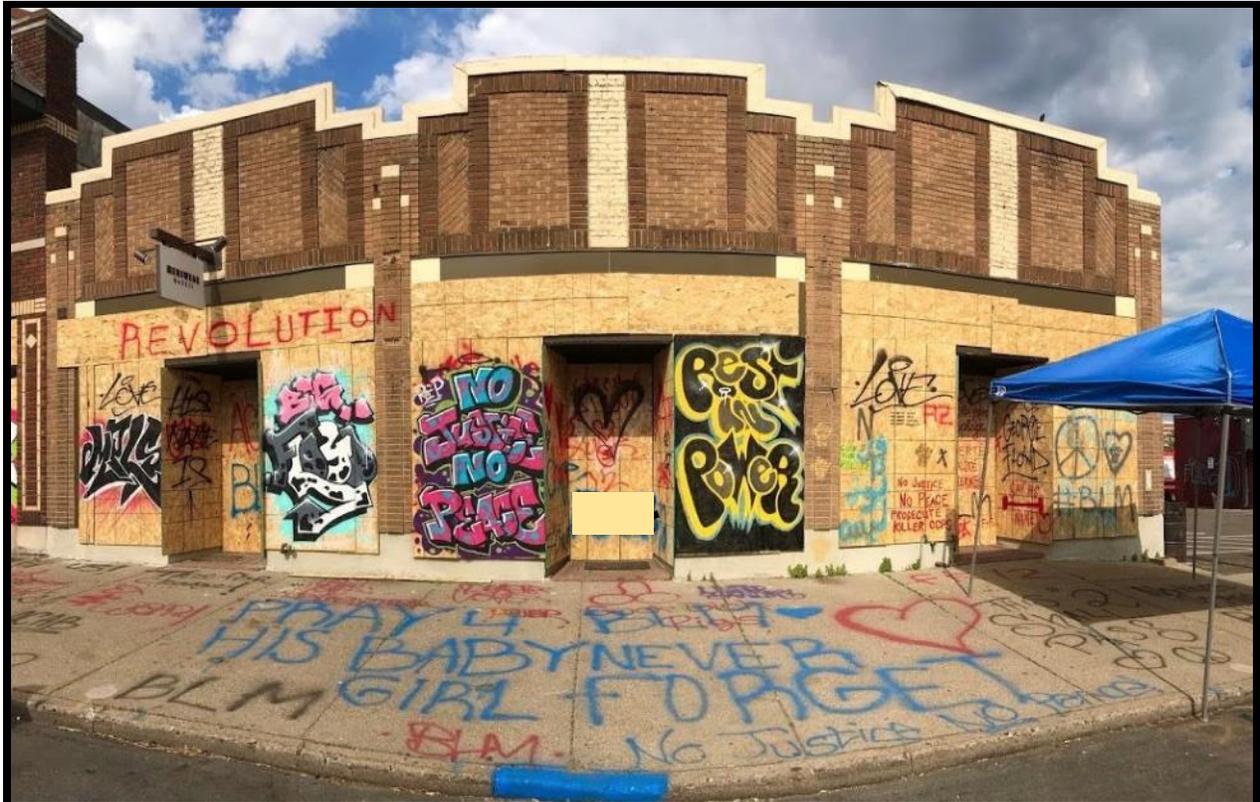
There has been much grief, loss, and destruction that our local communities have experienced in the recent months due to the pandemic and the unjust murder of George Floyd. At the same time, there has also been much resilience, beauty, and opportunities for learning and growth.

“What do you want to remember from this moment?” was the question that guided the creative responses from three teens from Mia’s Art Team. Art Team is a dynamic group of teen staff members who help create and host public events at Mia, including Rated T and Family Days.

We hope you find strength and inspiration viewing the following visual and written responses from Will, Mahawa, and Rhea. And we encourage you to take a moment to reflect and creatively respond to the same question of “What do you want to remember from this moment?”

Will

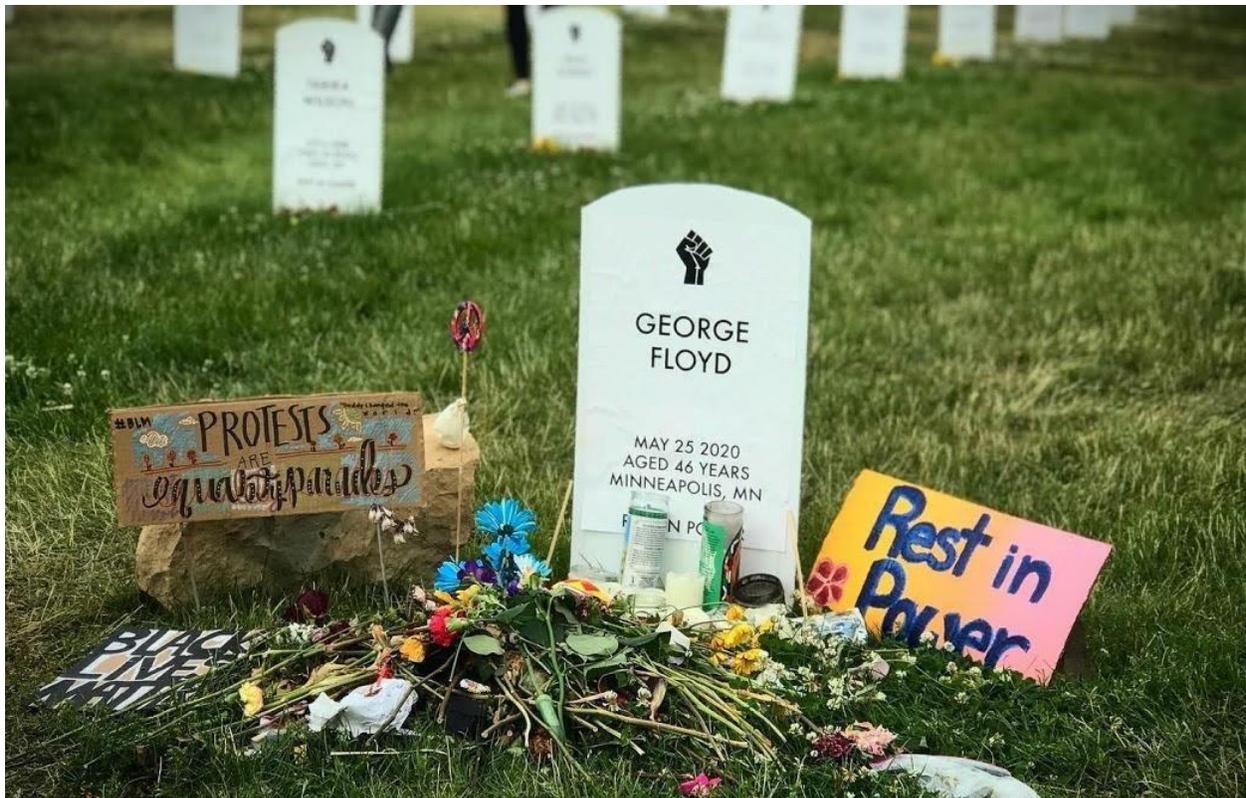
The following series of photographs were taken for historical and educational purposes only. I strive to be as respectful, resourceful, and helpful in a time of grief and loss. I never take photos with the only intention of self benefit, especially when sensitive and serious topics are raised; for example having the close minded viewpoint of “this would look good on my feed.” I am only trying to share love, positivity, honesty, and realness throughout. I try to be mindful and respectful. I am in no way, shape or form trying to glorify such a heinous crime.



The following photo is a panorama of a small portion of the many boarded up businesses on 38th and Chicago. The wooden boards are decorated with bright intense graffiti. I want to commemorate the immense amount of beauty, talent and art that George Floyd's memorial led to. I have recently grown an appreciation for photography and the significance of lighting, style, and coloring. Typically photography is not expected to provide a serious emotional impact but I have learned the importance of how a photo can make you feel and how pictures can often be associated with feelings.



This photo shows one of many murals of George Floyd and the numerous amounts of flowers, gifts, letters, and signs displayed below it. I have only visited the memorial once and it was so surreal how different physically being there felt rather than viewing a photograph or video. I noticed that there were dozens of new flowers being put in as well as many wilted ones.



George Floyd's "headstone" standing alongside all the other black people who have died at the hands of police in the symbolic cemetery known as Say Their Names. This is a worldwide problem; there have been a disturbing amount of deaths and murders of unarmed innocent black folx. We must help to protect all our black and brown friends, family, peers, and community members.

More about Will:

My name is Will, I am an upcoming junior. I am part of many communities; such as the queer community, Seward neighborhood community, Mia community, and South High School community. I am currently working on Lake Street near precinct three, fortunately my job is still intact and running smoothly. Parts of my community such as where I grew up and where I go to school have either been devastatingly destroyed and ruined or threatened. I am happy and grateful to be safe and healthy during and after all the rioting and protests. I am a person of color; my skin tone and race help me to a certain extent and like all minorities I face a fair amount of racial inequalities. I am constantly learning and changing as a young adult attempting to navigate my place in the world as well as my hopes and dreams. I am affected by this worldwide pandemic as well as the community's recent tragedy. I want to live in a world where looking or identifying a certain way is not a death sentence. I am motivated and inspired to use my voice, individual experiences, and platform as a positive, accepting, and safe space for everyone. I have a lot to learn and look forward to helping advocate for a diverse number of problems.

Mahawa

Hello my name is Mahawa. I am a 15 year old African American female who loves to paint and create inspiring thoughts. In honor of the Black Lives Matter movement and our current world situation I have painted a canvas that shows the Black community in all shades and identities. I really just wanted to get the message across that all Black lives matter right now and forever and all Black lives should be treated equally.



Rhea



Black is beautiful:

We see in the media Black individuals are criminalized by just the color of our skin. We see in the media that melanin and darker complexions and skin tones make you more of a threat to society. We see in the media that Afro hairstyles and variety curl patterns are described as unprofessional. The truth is BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL. The way we are born is not something we should control or ever be ashamed of. Black is strength, culture and heritage. Although I am just an ally I see the strength black communities have. I've seen how mothers who have lost children due to the stone cold racism and prejudice by systems meant to honor their worth, lift their communities up and become a spokesperson so that nobody will have to face the same. The media will never see these sides. The media is used to exemplify and tokenize. In this piece we see a beautiful Black woman staring into the eye of the beholder, almost begging them to see the beauty in her and her community.

Support From The Suburbs:

This was a protest that took place June 12th 2020 in the Suburbs of Woodbury about 30 minutes away from the Twin Cities. The cause of the protest is to draw awareness to the injustices that Black Folx endure in America for centuries.





Allyship:

In these photos we see the importance of allyship. We see many people with different skin tones standing up for BLM that may or may not affect their own communities. Black lives Matter isn't just a Black issue. So many acts of creating equality were only taken because of protests and specifically the Black community helping form them. We see in history with protests like the StoneWall riots led by Black Transgender Womxn that helped people from LGTBQIA+ backgrounds have the rights they do today. Fighting for Black lives Matter is fighting for any community that has been oppressed by systemic institutions. Black lives matter is just the beginning.

More about Rhea:

Hello fellow Artists! My name is Rhea and I am a part of Mia's Art Team! I am a first generation Indian- American womxn and I have always had a very strong connection to artistic expression. Art has shown its power to me in ways of expressing culture, heritage and also making statement pieces to stand up for the injustices facing our communities. I am so excited to share pockets of my experiences and use my own Art to convey just how powerful these messages are and hopefully inspire you to create art that is meaningful to you and your communities!