

Brooke Hillegass Artist Statement

My senior art exhibition is focused on capturing the differences between landscapes and cityscapes, but also to show the idea that no matter what someone's background or preferences may be, we all live in one world together.

My paintings represent a type of "morphed" society. I am conveying a message of collectivism. I find that people often describe themselves in terms that represent the area they grew up in. People from my town are often called hicks and are represented with farming and big trucks. People from larger cities are often recognized with business, opportunity for wealth and higher drug and crime incidences. But instead of dwelling on those stereotypical differences, my art is representative of one society as a whole. My paintings show a more green, rustic landscape morphed with a colorful, loud cityscape.

I have also collected an old barn window in which I've displayed some photographs of old, rustic barns. The barns represent different towns in Pennsylvania that remind me of home. I chose to display the barn photographs in a barn window for interesting visual reasons, but also for my viewers to recognize the rustic theme I'd like to portray. The window frame is from a barn in my hometown that has recently been torn down to reconstruct, so this window pane is special to me as a piece of memorabilia from the barn.

Art for me has become more about enjoyment than anything else. Although, I believe artists should use their talent to create important messages about social and cultural issues that are important in today's society, lately for me art has been more of a personal element in my life. I enjoy creating art that brings me back to a place that helps keep my piece of mind; for example, my hometown, the beach or animals. Most of my artwork created in the past four years incorporated at least one of those three things.