

Artists' Statements

Michele Jesus da Costa

Another One, Another Mask: I want to know my deepest self and to live authentically in the world. Again and again, I find my true self behind a mask, an identity—like “poor” or “victim”—and I take that mask off and discard it. The playing children in this print remind me of the freedom and spontaneity of childhood.

Identity 2015: I grew up in narrow and limiting circumstances, have lived in four countries and attended college, speak three languages, and am an apprentice tattoo artist, making my life in a country far from my homeland. I’ve learned that what separates us is far less than what we hold in common, the essence of what it is to be human. I am not looking for who I am but for who I can become.

Tracy Raupp

The Trail: I enjoy going on walks and runs on nature trails with my camera. When a scene worth remembering comes along, I take a picture.

*A path has been laid out/ The trail has been made/ Choices always come/ But prices must be paid.
We are required to follow/ Then trusted to lead./ Along we go/ To fulfill this deed.
After a while/ We're willing to trade/ But take solace in knowing/ That dreams don't always fade.*

Kyonghwa Bouriaque

Shadows Watching: As this young lady gazes into the distance, her own shadow is always watching over her. The symbolic meaning is that we have guardian angels that watch over us as we go through life, just as we watch over one another.

Memory: The photograph captures a moment when the light shone on my friend as though revealing a pleasant memory of the past.

The Brave One: The Old Testament story of David and Goliath inspired this image. David won the victory, so he prayed and gave thanks to God. The story reminds us that our victory comes from God.