

Impact Statement

Emily Leonard, Grade 7.

A Look Into the Past, 2022.

Mixed media sculpture, 11 x 18 x 7 inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Dorothea Lange

To begin, I found my topic by looking at the list of unsung heroes and having found myself at a interest for photography. When I found Dorothea Lange, I thought her work was very impactful and told a story of how people during the great depression era suffered and Dorothea was able to capture the worry in their eyes and she brought society to realize how horrible this was and the life of the poor people of the time. Dorothea Lange was different than other photographers I have seen because she cared for people and tried connecting with them.

Next, Dorothea Lange lived from may twenty sixth of 1895 to October eleventh of 1965, she started selling photography in 1918 while she was traveling the world. When the great depression hit, she began her line of famous photography starting with "white angel breadline" which features unemployed men struggling and wandering down the streets. Not too long later an agency called U.S. Agriculture aimed for Dorothea's impactful images would bring concern to the issue. Later on, she began living with a woman for a little who is featured in her most famous image called "migrant mother" and with these images she would write down information about the people she took pictures of. She says she never saw her photography as art and instead made them to bring attention to an issue. Later in life she continued to socially change how people saw issues and became quite famous for it, yet most people don't know who she was. When brainstorming ideas to represent Dorothea Lange, I thought what could be better than showing the type of camera she used but also, she what images she took with that camera, so I decided to design a projector like antique camera.

Finally, I found myself struggling a few times due to lack of knowledge of how a projector works but after experimenting I found a solution that worked better than the rest. I also improved my sewing skill by a lot. A lesson I learned was how hard it is to create an impactful piece about a impactful person and make people interested in it, that is why I thought making the piece interactive would help with that issue and bring attention to a very important person. Another lesson I learned is now that I know how impactful photography is, I started looking more into local photography that shows or represents social issues. while most my achievements were about my art, I also accomplished a personal goal/ lesson which was to overcome procrastination and I did this by sectioning the time I worked on this project and making a list of what i would get done each day, this project helped me a lot and hopefully help educate other people. I plan to share this artwork with my community by displaying it at my parents' store and talking to people about Dorothea Lange and her accomplishments and with that I will start taking more time to see the issues around me represented in photography or art in general.

To conclude, I believe that this program should be more advertised because it was a fun experience and I never heard of this competition until my teacher started a assignment on this. I

hope one day my piece of art will help everyone one learns who Dorothea Lange is because her existence should not be forgotten.