

Impact Statement

Elizabeth Sturgeon, Grade 7.

Dorothea Lange, 2017.

Mixed media, 17.5 x 24 Inches.

LaVilla School of the Arts, Jacksonville, FL

Unsung Hero: Dorothea Lange

I chose Dorothea Lange to be my unsung hero because she inspires me. Dorothea Lange photographed and showed the hardships that were the Great Depression and Japanese American internment camps. She got people to look and see the Depression. Her pictures still make us stop and stare today. Being an artist myself, I can only wish that one day my work will inspire people the way her work has inspired me. Her most famous photograph "Migrant Mother" speaks lengths. How Dorothea Lange manages to gain Florence's, the subject of the picture, trust enough to be able to take her picture, not only her picture but all her emotions. The photo looks so raw, so real, so human. The way Dorothea Lange can capture such magnificent pictures is an unbelievable talent and so inspiring to me.

My vision behind my painting was to put Dorothea Lange taking a photograph on her truck in front of everything and bigger than any one thing so that your eyes find her first, bringing attention to Dorothea and not her pictures at first glance. The color was to make Lange stand out. She didn't exclusively work in the American Southwest, but she spent a great deal of her time there, so I wanted to make sure I brought some element of that into my painting. Dorothea Lange worked in only black and white, so I left her pictures in an optical black to bring out the idea that this all happened many years ago. I tried my best to bring detail to the picture "Migrant Mother" because the photograph that Dorothea is most recognized for. I then found other pictures that she has taken and placed them as collage around the "Migrant Mother" Making sure to make them not super detailed so that your eyes can focus on what is going on in the pictures but still know that the main picture you're supposed to be looking at is "Migrant Mother" I faded the blue sky into the picture so then the photos would have a dream like essence. The imagery I used to come to my final piece was all different. I found pictures of her most famous work and put them in a photo shopping program so I could make them smaller. I then found an image with a lot of space around her, incorporating a camera. After much trial and error, I finally found a position it would all work in and I grid the collage up to size on a separate piece of paper. Then after putting a lot of graphite on the back of the paper, I transferred my image to my canvas. The methods I used were, putting an even toner when I first started painting so that the pictures had an old kind of look with a coffee stain looking border and places where there was white and light shading looked like a yellowish brown, too.