

Impact Statement

Brittany Bradley, Grade 12.

She Wouldn't Take No For An Answer, 2019.

Mixed media on paper, 28 x 21 Inches.

Forest Hill High School, Jackson, MS

Unsung Hero: Kadambini Ganguly

Perseverance. While deciding to pick an unsung hero, I decided I wanted to create a project using a female role model who showed perseverance. She needed to be someone who was not afraid of working hard for what they want to achieve. A woman that did not accept what the men of her society said was the proper behavior for a woman. To me this woman was Kadambini Ganguly.

Kadambini Ganguly's perseverance is how she ended being the 1st in so many ways. In 1861, Kadambini was born into an Indian culture that did not value the education of women. But thanks to the influence of her father, who was a co-founder of the 1st women's rights organization and a headmaster, she was granted the opportunity to go to school. She ended up being the 1st woman to pass the entrance exam and 1st woman to graduate college in India (with Chandramukhi Basu). When she 1st applied for her medical degree, she was rejected. After a long fight, she finally was accepted to Calcutta Medical College and became the 1st Indian-educated female dr. She continued to fight to be accepted as a legitimate doctor, even going to court to fight the slander. Her fight even gave her another 1st as a representative in the 1st female delegation of the Indian Congress. The story of how Kadambini Ganguly fought hard for her chance to go to medical university and continued to not take no for an answer, is what stood out to me the most. I chose Kadambini Ganguly because her being the first Indian-educated female doctor gives off that sense of pride and confidence. It was very difficult for females to move up in society due to the comparison between male superiority and female superiority. Her story allows young females, such as me, to have a glimpse of how difficult it can be to achieve your dreams and become a success; however, it also inspires me to never give up on my future goals. She has impacted my mindset because I no longer see different opportunities as impossible. I view my opportunities as a new challenge I can overcome.

My piece of artwork is none other than a portrait of the great Dr. Kadambini Ganguly. Throughout my research, I did research on the numerous colleges that she attended. The images and seals of these colleges are located in the background behind her. The buildings that stand tall behind Dr. Ganguly are Bethune College and Calcutta Medical University. It shows her progress from being at a regular college to moving on to bigger and better things at Calcutta University, where she earned her Graduate of Bengal Medical College Degree. The very unique symbol that stood out the most was the Indian Medical Association, which is located on the bottom left corner of the picture. I chose this specifically because it was the most common used medical logo in India today and without her, today's young female doctors would not have the ability to be a part of this profession. The colorful sky lit background portrays the struggle of her life as being the storm she fought through. I decided to research a little about the Indian culture. The Indian sari is a very popular piece of clothing in India. The designs that are on her clothing, and throughout the picture, are there to express the culture behind India. It is also to

show the beautiful nature of her origins. Lastly, is Kadambini herself. I decided to do her monochromatic grey because I see no race. I see a strong female who did not obey the rules of the gender-based limitations of the world. She proved that the female gender could make a difference in the world; that I can make a difference in the world.

In the process of sharing my work and my research on Dr. Ganguly, my teacher has arranged for me to display this work in a local art newsletter this spring, in the district art show, and at my school. Along with display, I will be telling the story of what this piece means and how it has impacted me.

In my personal life, I will be attending college next year at a local private college on a full scholarship. I plan on taking the lessons I have learned from Dr. Ganguly's drive and tenacity and use them as a guide to not ever let someone put me down based on being a female or my race. This "Unsung Hero" has continued to be an inspiration over a decade later.