

Impact Statement

Adriana Herrera, Grade 11.

Hope in Concealment, 2017.

Graphite on paper, 22 x 29.5 Inches.

Cypress Springs High School, Cypress, TX

Unsung Hero: Maria Agnese Tribbioli

The definition of an unsung hero is a person who is not recognized for their significant contribution to society. There are countless numbers of people who go unrecognized for their heroic acts. Beyond this definition of an unsung hero, there is simply a human being who lives and breathes just as we do. The point of this competition is though, not to recognize these people as unsung heroes, but rather simply heroes. Maria Agnese Tribbioli was born on April 20, 1879 in Florence, Italy. She was mother Superior of the Firenze Convent on Ferragli Street and the founder of the Pie Operaie di S. Giuseppe Order. Maria's motivational story and actions moved me into creating this piece depicting her sacrifices.

In her earlier years, she had experienced much poverty and struggles such as her father death. She soon experienced some hope as there was an institution whose purpose was to educate and teach young girls from families of poverty. During her time of education and studying, she had been motivated to live a life of faith towards God. This faith had led her to pursuing the righteous act of saving the many Jewish from persecution. She after many years dedicated to studying and praying, she then became Maria Agnese in 1901.

During World War II; the German soldiers were invading parts of Italy, particularly in the city of Florence. At this point it was issued that anyone concealing or accused of hiding a Jew would immediately be executed. Because of this many Jews were in fear of their demise and imprisonment, many had nowhere to turn. But Maria Tribbioli was a woman of great faith, who took on the heavy burden of keeping the Jewish women and children from being persecuted by the SS, or German Soldier. What made this burden even greater was that she alone only knew of the Jewish identity. This reason of keeping this secret from the other nuns of the convent was to spare them if they were to be caught concealing the Jewish people. She knew of all the risks she would be taking when doing so. Maria's act of concealing these people away from harm and what might have been their demise had brought about a hope. A hope given to the people sparked by her benevolence and the assurance of sanctuary. In the end, the Jewish people that she aided in hiding successfully escaped.

For my techniques I used graphite pencil to create a high contrast and to help create realistic facial features. The purpose for choosing graphite pencils was to emulate a vintage feel to the time this action took place. I put emphasizes on the faces of the people to capture their different emotions. I prioritized the different facial expressions on the people. I wanted to capture emotions such as anger for being trapped, sadness for the people pushed to their limits, fear of being caught by the soldiers, and I also depicted exhaustion to show from being tired of running from place to place in attempt to avoid the persecution of the German soldiers. The wall dividing the people and the German soldier is drawn thin on purpose and is emphasized by drawing holes with rays of light through it. The frailness and delicateness of this wall symbolizes hope,

but at the same time its frailness is all what physically separates them from the German soldiers. The position of Maria's hand holding the door shows her holding back the soldier. Besides the thin wall, she was the most important barrier between these terrified people and the German soldiers.

She was a woman not looking for recognition, but rather found the personal call to stand up for what she believed in. Despite the fear and many people against her, she did what she believed was right. Her actions have impacted many lives. The many people that she had saved in turn preserved the coming generations and the present ones.