

Impact Statement

Katherine Guzman, Grade 12.
Celebrating L. Alex Wilson, 2016.
Watercolor on paper, 12 x 16 Inches.
South East High School, South Gate, CA
Unsung Hero: L. Alex Wilson

A familiar story about inequality between blacks and whites was told by an unsung hero named L. Alex Wilson. His story was the most interesting and encouraging, in my opinion. He is a guy who was mistreated by whites, yet he never fell down or gave in to their assaults, leaving him unaffected. He wrote stories about his people's mistreatment, believing it may change their way of living. He wants the stories of these people to be heard by many, to view things differently because everything may not be what it seems. Instead of giving up, Wilson, would continue to fight for him and his race, his kind, his people, his followers.

Through my artwork I gave this unsung hero strong colors, giving him more of a heroic brave feeling. His followers were given bandages on their faces and bodies, to show what they have gone through. Whether they were young or old, small or tall, they had all gone through discrimination, humiliation, and beaten to the ground because the white believed, at that time, that blacks didn't deserve the same rights as they had. As he distributes the papers of those who follow him, L. Alex Wilson walks as a leader within a white neighborhood but although he knows the consequences, he continues to march on with his people. As the whites view Wilson and the crowd with disgust, they show no fear but instead they show courage and bravery. They give an example to their children and future generations to come believing it can make a change to their world.

A multitude of colors were used to create a time that these people believe should be colorful and lively. It shows that they still have the passion of heart to continue to give light and speak between right and wrong. Even during these dark times where blacks are mistreated and denied their freedom and right to live as an individual, they want to continue and reach for a newer and brighter future. The flow of the crowd was made to give an impression of a strong and undefeatable revolution, wanting to be heard my many. The shadow of the people shows that these people have pride in their color and they will not stand to be pushed down any longer.

This process helps me view people in a whole new perspective. I now know that there are people out there that will take a stand for others and stop what may become a change in there lives. Our actions can affect others and create a dramatic shift in our history through time. A lot of us don't know this world is blinded by what they teach us since the beginning of birth. People need to stand up and fight for their freedom, rights, and equality just like L. Alex Wilson did for his people. Not many people have the courage and bravery to continue to fight after so many obstacles that try to stop or break them. Many of us are scared of what may become of us, but people need leaders/heroes like L. Alex Wilson to reach our future dream destination.