

Artist: Yuxin Chen

Title: Masks of Corruption

Media: Watercolor & Ink

During my weeks working with DUNK, I had many experiences, but one moment that struck me the most was when one of my classmates told me that when she was talking to a woman who said, "You guys are here, smiling and laughing, but a kid just lost his mom." This has really opened my mind and I will remember that forever. Before that, I knew that there are a lot of single moms in Jamestown and a lot of people are probably living in poverty. However, during my days there, I did not think of that at all. When I learned a kid just lost his mom, I realized that there are a lot of people out there that need help. Does the government help?

In my opinion, a true leader should care about his own people. He/she should try to make his people's lives better. He/she should try to make sure that he/she goes to his/her best ability to make sure that no one is falling below the poverty line and children have homes and schools. I think the leaders, they always say, "Oh we are doing this for you." But are they truly doing all of this for us? I start to wonder about that. And after sometime, I started to even think more deeply about this topic. I connected this to the safety issues that are happening in Ghana right now and all of the other problems like the health insurance problem. Maybe I am just saying this in a way that makes all of these problems appear much easier to solve than they actually are, but I wanted to express that feeling in my illustration.

In this picture, the leader has some colorful masks in his hands, while his true face is a face of a cuckoo bird's. This expresses my feeling of maybe he is saying all of these promises on the outside, but in the inside he really does not care about any of this problems. The reason as to why I decided to use a cuckoo bird to represent this image is because cuckoo birds are very sneaky and cocky. This leader is also wearing a very loose tie. This symbolizes him being a sloppy and uncaring guy.

During this unit, I got in touch for the first time with inking. I have understood that inking is not only about just tracing pencil lines, but more importantly, it is about giving proper weights to the lines and also adding more creative choices and textures to your piece of art. Inking helps to tell the story of the piece. In addition, I have learned watercolor techniques. I understood that in order to make the color appear really light, we will need to first wet the paper with water and then apply the paint over the wet paper. I have learned that art connects people. It brings people from all

backgrounds, religions, cultures, classes and races together. This is because everyone can feel something from a piece of art.