

## Indiscriminate

Keegan Nash

### Abstract

*This piece represents modern day protesting from a cubist perspective. The perspective of a cubist aim to show different viewpoints at the same time and within the same space and so suggest their three-dimensional form. In doing so they also emphasized the two-dimensional flatness of the canvas instead of creating the illusion of depth. The painting breaks down the different points of view that surround protested issues and widens the usually narrow scope on those issues. Rather than focus on a single perspective, it is important for all of us to learn about all sides to prevent ourselves from creating a myopic view. By breaking protesting down into three perspectives and fragmenting them throughout the piece it creates confusion for the viewer. This, in turn, then forces their eye to explore the piece and search for a meaning within it. The massive scale of the piece is meant to intimidate the audience, much like the sides of protested topics can be intimidating to look deeply into. By overcoming the large scale and sorting through the confusion created empowers the audience to look for answers on their own rather than accepting one given to them.*

My piece "Indiscriminate" focuses on bringing different perspectives to current day social issues through a cubist perspective. I chose to focus on the recent Charlottesville protest for my main subject matter. The piece breaks down the different sides and views that clash during this protest into one for this piece. By breaking it down into different perspectives it becomes fragmented throughout the piece, this is what cubist aimed to do within their work, breaking things down into different perspectives rather than one singular perspective that is considered the norm with art. Cubism is all about being able to show multiple perspectives within a single piece, the concept of cubism fits best within this

because not just because of its abstract nature but also it's for this piece where I am showing a multiple perspective outlook into a singular piece. This key to understanding the piece, I am trying to show the audience that there is more to these issues than just one perspective given to them by the media or other outlets, rather being able to see all the views that are a part of the conflict and being able to create their own independent opinion based on what they've learned. This is the bases of my piece and what I want out of it from the audience.

Through creating art through the cubist perspective it's allows the audience to interpret the work in different ways thus not getting the piece a singular meaning rather a

whole new experience from person to person much like how issues such as protesting is different from person to person. This piece is meant to reflect this in every way while still remaining non-bias throughout the piece. Keeping the work in a neutral political position is important to it because I am trying to convince the viewer to think on their own rather than guided by others thus creating a piece that is not guided in anyway. Through the creation of this piece it made me realize something's about the subject matter "protesting" and the sides we attribute to each belief such as liberal or conservative. This made me realize that this labeling of sides just causes more conflict rather than resolving it. We start to associate the straw men of each side as a full representation of that sides beliefs and ideology on a subject matter. For example, most people associate the leftist to be an extreme SJW globalist and on the right, most people are seen as a radical racist who loves the second amendment but these are stereotypes that the media creates and implements into us. Both sides of the media are guilty of this false narrative and it, in turn, creates more conflict because each side uses the other as fuel to keep the anger and tension moving within it towards the other side. I don't like the use the terms liberal or conservative or even libertarian to identify my political views because it puts me into a position where I'm being judged before I even get a chance to express my opinion. If I come out and say "I'm a conservative" then people will judge what I say on the bases of I have conservative views so therefore I am this and they can just tune me out because my opinion doesn't matter because I am a conservative, and the same goes both ways. We as a society think this way because of the damage the media has done to us of the many years of our life. Their political influence is everywhere and is almost unavoidable in 2018, no matter how you

consume entertainment through TV, social media, magazines, or newspaper the mass media's influence can be found somewhere within it. This isn't an issue that can be simply resolved by boycotting certain outlets because nothing is being gained from it. Those who are boycotting that station just turn to a new outlet to be told how to think. This is about free thinking, forming your own opinion of a subject not what someone else told you to think. The words "THINK FOR YOURSELF" are graffitied onto the piece and then painted over and then rewritten to symbolizes a struggle on free thinking. It shows a conflict between parties much like the background of the piece shows conflicting viewpoints through protesting. The irony of this is I'm telling you to think for yourself while forcing you to think a certain way. It's never ending cycle and it shows the complexity of the issue when getting down into it. This outlines how hard an issue like this is to fix it can't just be simply fixed overnight it takes generations to fix the damage that has been done. Learning to think for oneself is something that can only be taught back by oneself no through anyone else. It can however be encourage through others rather than taught. Promoting the idea of forming your own opinion on issues is something that be encouraged in schools and within society as a whole but it takes an open mind from everyone to start progress. My piece is made up of two different art style in which I enjoy, cubism and street art. I think these are two very unique styles of art that both share the same message of challenging modern issues within its own creative ways.

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### **Biography**

Keegan Nash (b. 1998 in Richmond, VA) creates contemporary abstract paintings,

sculptures, and installations. Keegan started making art the age of 4 from painting with his hands to building structures out of legos in his own time he found a love for creating. It wasn't until high school when he began to find himself within the arts. In 9th grade, he found his dislike for boundaries within art projects and sought to challenge the idea of what constitutes art. Moving forward Keegan discovered the artist like Jean-Michel Basquiat, Jackson Pollack, Pablo Picasso, and Paul M Cote. These artist along with many others helped to shape his love for abstract art, It wasn't until his 12th-grade senior show that he was able to express his love and interest in contemporary abstract art as there no guidelines for the show. This allowed him to express himself freely and was the bases for what he does today. " Art is an outlet for me to express my political

and social beliefs into the world" - Keegan Nash, art became a stress reliever for him in a world surrounded by political and social turmoil. After graduating high school he sold his art for the first time in a hair salon in Mechanicsburg where he only sold one piece. " It felt weird selling my work to someone I didn't know, knowing it's hanging in someone's house is such an odd feeling to me, but I like it." The first semester of Freshman year gave him a chance to express himself to a larger audience of higher critics. Being educated on art on a whole new level gave him the tools to become what he is today. Moving forward Keegan hopes to further challenge the rules of art and push the boundaries of what art can be.

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**Recommended Citation**

Nash, K. (2018). Indiscriminate. *Made in Millersville Journal*, 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.mimjournal.com>