

Art for Social Change Gallery Activity

Photography can often times be very powerful tool to convey a message for social change, advocacy and activism. Look around this area of the *Through the Lens* exhibition and select a work that you are drawn to. Discuss what elements of the work pull you in and what questions come up as you observe the work. What message is the artist trying to say?



Capitol Policeman (Washington DC, September 1971), 1971; printed 2007, Edmund Eckstein (b. 1943), Gelatin silver print, James A. Michener Art Museum Collection

Creating Art for Social Change



I Want to Matter, 2020, Ada Trillo (b. 1975), Inkjet print, Courtesy of the artist

Think about an issue you care deeply about. This issue should be a general concern or issue in society, not just a pet peeve. Perhaps you are concerned about the environment, racism, homelessness, bullying, mental health, or discrimination. There are many issues out there and creating an artwork is one way to send a message—whether it is to raise awareness about the issue, or advocate for or against the issue being portrayed.

Next, talk to people—your friends, classmates, or family members—have any of them been affected by the issue that you care about? How? Why? Spend time researching your issue and gathering notes and sketches about it using a journal or sketchbook. Research other

artists that might have also created artwork around the issue that you care about.

Then, using an art material of your choice, create a final work conveying this issue you feel deeply about. What will your point of view be? How will you use this work to create awareness for your issue? Will you include words in your image?