

Overview

[The Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University](#) (GHELI) provides immersive residencies that enable exploration, experimentation, and innovation with creative multimedia approaches. This artwork was created by a Cambridge School of Weston (CSW) student as part of a resulting integrated studies course developed during a collaborative residency with faculty from CSW. The assignment? Take what students had learned throughout the course and boil it down to one word that represented what global health signified for them, then translate that idea into a piece of artwork in a meaningful, evocative way.

Abstract

A charcoal drawing exploring how self-preoccupation impedes global health..

Artist

CSW Student (2016)

Caption

Solving global health issues requires international awareness, coordination, and cooperation. The left side of the drawing depicts a big bold “ME” encircled by a pair of arms in the shape of a heart. On the right, the word “YOU” is barely visible. The drawing symbolizes how some countries are so focused on themselves that they don’t notice what is happening in other countries.

Artist Lens

This piece is more about the student’s self-awareness than a particular policy about global health. This student was very interested in how most policies, most countries, most people, by nature, are thinking about themselves. “How can I protect myself and my loved ones?” The image of “me” with the arms in a heart shape is about that.

The hands look claw-like, as if they are protecting “me”—maybe in a fairly vicious way if they need to. That’s what this student learned to care about in the course: It’s not just “me,” there’s a whole “you” out there. As long as we think of the world this way—I’m important, maybe you’re not—we’re not going to solve the issues of global health.

[Watch Me/You Reflection](#)

Media

Charcoal

