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artist statement

My philosophy is best understood if I speak less abstractly and base what I am saying in reality. These are the things I believe about how I work right now, but in no way is this a completed document. This is the first of many personal philosophies, all of which will be different.

I believe people should feel at home. Discussion is the primary way to communicate ideas. Words don't need to be long and dramatic to be heard, instead they should be simple enough to understand when placed among other simple words. But those made up words should also be used, why just keep those to yourself?

When I was younger most of my friends called their grandparents Grandma and Grandpa, but I have always called my grandparents Papa and Grandad. This little difference in names always made me feel weird when talking about my grandparents.

I believe in the stories my friends tell. Each person's history is as important as the next, and I want see how unique each one is. Highlighting differences pinpoints areas of interest for each person, and those interests are what I want to hear about in discussions. When people are true to themselves it is easier to understand the way you feel about other things.

I am part of a three person collective called The Print Factory. Our mission is to educate people on street corners about printmaking and to hand out free prints hot off the press. Since there are only three of us and our audiences are typically 30 people it could seem a bit overwhelming at times, but we have all come to recognize our strengths and use them so all of us aren't trying to do the same thing. This decision has made our public performances run seamlessly.

I believe if the same amount of creativity that went into troubleshooting was used in creating a place for ourselves, we would live in a much more interesting place. By allowing for a neutral space I am constantly allowing for voices to be heard and changes to be made. When everyone has an equal voice one has to voice his or her own so not to be run over.

During high school I stopped daydreaming in classes and would just leave school when I felt like my time was being wasted. At the time I was constantly worried about getting a truancy ticket, but I was never worried about the classroom that caused me to leave. If I walked out on a class I really cared about it would feel like I had betrayed a good friend, but not many of my classes allowed me to have that connection with them. The rules were set before I got there and that was that, so when I didn't fit into that mold I felt like I needed to leave.

I believe more truth about the world can be learned outside of school rather than inside, and through engagement with the world around us we will live in a more just society. Creative minds interacting in communities outside of school models a practice of direct community action. This is a practice of troubleshooting, learning, and teaching; all of which have long-term importance in a person's life. Depending on each other rather than depending on a system will help to overcome the problems our society is seeing today.

As an art student in college I started out funding all of my own projects and feeling like I was expressing something that no one else could relate to. After a while I left my studio to see what was going on outside and began talking to people about my ideas. By communicating an idea to someone and discussing it with them I was able to build support communities for my artwork. This activity was extremely liberating, so I have continued to keep this practice into my graduate studies.