

Taylor Houlihan

I was born in Changting, China, amidst economic instability of the Post-Mao Era. After the prosperity of road and railway transportation and the growth of dams built along the Ting River, Changting lost its advantage as a vital transportation means, therefore becoming isolated by the surrounding mountains. On Father's day, 1998, my soon to be father, mother, older sister, and godfather flew to Fujian, China, to adopt a little girl that they had only seen in picture. I grew up in Miami, Florida surrounding by a multicultural population and loving family.

In the summer of 2016, I was received a scholarship to study at Renmin University in Beijing, China. This opportunity not only afforded me the chance to explore the art scene in capital, but also allowed me to practice Mandarin and immerse myself in my cultural heritage. Since my racial phenotype is Chinese, but culturally American I sometimes found it difficult to internalize my identity while abroad. While studying there I took advantage of visiting National Museums as well as contemporary galleries.

This trip inspired me to address my multicultural identity in my senior IP project. I do not believe my project would have been as strong if I had not experienced the beauty of Chinese life and culture, and recognized that I not excluded from that world. So by learning more about the meanings behind Chinese iconography and infusing them with American symbols, I began to reclaim my own narratives. My IP will inspire others to re-evaluate their own unique heritage and understand that it's beautiful to embrace all of their identities. They are visual representation of my journey to finding my voice, reclaiming the stories of my heritage and past and explore them through digital fabrication.



Journal I kept in China

Images below are form Senior IP Project

