

Dear Professor Wang,

Thank you for your kindness and generosity in giving me the chance to be a Candy R. Wet Prize for International Studies in Art and Design participant and recipient. My name is Abigail Clemens, and I hope to create artwork overseas before applying to graduate school.

As both a visual artist and jazz bassist, I've found that the arts are one of the most unifying forces of mankind. Being able to create something that creates warmth and familiarity amongst and between total strangers has always been a key element in my work. I grew up not really knowing where I socially belonged due to my interracial white/Chinese heritage, so the beauty in inclusivity and relativity are indispensable to my creative process.

In honoring the memory of Candy and global citizenship, I want to create a painting series and a documentary about jazz education in Japan. I'm excited to use my prize money on residencies and equipment-related fees. I'll be sure to check in if things go well!

Thank you again for allowing me to continue my cross-cultural and interdisciplinary art practice. I hope there is a day we can meet so I can express these sentiments in person.

Sincerely,  
Abby

## Abigail Clemens

*Three Steps: a harmonic progression of jazz and projections for family and musical legacy.*

Here is the postcard from my senior exhibition. I combined live music performance, ink wash painting, and animation to metaphorically represent the triangular relationship between my race, ethnicity, and nationality. I would love to hear your thoughts on the cultural references I incorporated, and the videos can be viewed here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=E33tXL7tk90](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E33tXL7tk90)

and

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AVmdixY8c0&t=49s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AVmdixY8c0&t=49s)

Best,

Abigail (Abby)

Close Encounters The 2017 Stamps Senior Show, University of Michigan