

*Global Hope*

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First Place, High School Art

For my research on a Holocaust survivor and a current event today where people need our voices, I consulted the web site of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where I learned about survivor Lola Rein and about the genocide in Darfur.

Mrs. Reins' story inspired me to create this work. She survived the Holocaust as a child, separated from her parents, and hidden in a tiny space with strangers. For seven months in hiding, she wore the dress sewn and embroidered for her by her mother. She had no other clothes. After liberation, the dress remained her only tangible link to her mother, who was among the millions killed in the Holocaust. Mrs. Reins kept the tiny dress until January 2002 when she donated it to the Holocaust museum in Washington, D.C.

My artwork portrays a woman (modeled after my likeness) who is wearing a cloth made from the flags of countries in which persecution occurred during the Holocaust or where people today are experiencing injustice and suffering that calls for the attention of the world. It is through being a global citizen, being aware of the world around me, that the crisis in places like the Sudan will come to an end. My portrait displays the hope for all those who have none. I lend them my own smile until they have reason for their own.

