

# GALLERY 1265

UNIVERSITY of TORONTO SCARBOROUGH

## Absences - Allen Agostino Artist Bio

My name is Allen Agostino. I have struggled in my life to carve out a niche for myself. I am finding it exceedingly difficult to wear masks so that I can function in society. My difficulties stem from my complications in dealing with time. I struggle constantly with being unable to stop moments and progress quickly to others. Time is linear but my experiences and moments lay parallel for me in the present. I wish I could walk between these moments of my life. I'm pained by losing the past because it is certain, whereas I am troubled by the future because it is not. People are shaped by time and are thusly a sum of their experiences that occur within that time.

From this line of thinking came my struggle to deal with my Nona's declining health. It has been years since she has been able to look at me and say my name. She has been put into a home now. There has been a shocking and dramatic shift from a woman that cared for to a woman that is cared for. I still have such clear memories, sitting around the small table in her kitchen with a view of the ravine, through the trees and a slimy creek a building and road are tucked behind, tiny cars with microcosms of life that I know nothing of driving by, A road in the distance; far enough that the cars look like 2D paper puppets. My Nona's kitchen was somewhere in Italy but here house was a 5 minute walk from Kennedy station (Italy in the middle of Scarborough). Again the 900 photos are memories of my Nona most of them are of the way she was. I want her to be remembered like that because I have cousins and second cousins that will not have the benefit of knowing the incredibly loving woman she was. She is the only the woman that is left in the home who is present but not conscious of being there.

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## Absences - Allen Agostino Artist Statement

This gallery for me is more than the current trend in postmodern and post postmodern art. It is not the arbitrary attachment of value to meaningless objects or made in reaction to classical art elements. This gallery is of the absolute highest value to me. It is inspired by some of the people that matter most in my life. Culture at UTSC is so rich but I struggle to find my place in the community. This is the way I know to share my cultural identity; through my perception of my family.

My first piece is of my Nona, an 87-year-old immigrant from Italy. She is in the last years of her life and has now found herself in the care ward of an old folk's home. She constantly cared for everyone and over what seems six months now needs constant care. She only sometimes recognizes me. I made this piece for two reasons, I wanted the next generations to see and know the loving woman she was not the frail and confused woman she is, and for myself because I am trying to find my own memory of her to hold onto.

Everyone ultimately walks as a stranger. Nobody is known by the intimate details that shaped who they are. Those romantic, disgusting and heroic acts that occur in everyone's lives and fill countless novels are absolutely unknown to strangers. My subjects should not be strangers, everyone should be as lucky and blessed as I have been to know and love them. They have changed my life and I hope these pieces can effect change in others.

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## Absences - K.J Tommy Artist Bio

K.J Tommy is a recent U of T graduate, graduating with a minor in studio art, Art History and a major in English. Tommy draws influences from these disciplines to produce conceptual and socio political pieces. He utilizes sculpture, painting and drawing to convey his ideas.

*Probae esti in segetem sunt deteriozem datae fruges, tamen ipsae enite ut.*