

Creative Response Rationale

Facing Human Wrongs: Navigating paradoxes and complexities of social and global change brings together four interconnected denials: denial of colonial violence underwriting the system, denial of unsustainability, denial of entanglement and denial of the magnitude of the problems. I took this course wanting to learn more and join discussions on global challenges as trends of social awareness emerge daily. What I was looking for was the how's and why's of global challenges as well as the way forward which was met with mixed emotions of shock, anger, denial, acceptance, hopelessness, and more questions as I engaged with this course.

I love drawing so I thought the best “artistic” way to depict what I experienced in the course would be through a drawing. With a sketchbook, a ballpoint pen, watercolors and paint I have made two works: a field of flowers and four mountains of garbage which I merged into one piece (see Appendix). The field of flowers represents the beauty that I looked for and escaped in. My approach to the world was of blocking challenges and finding hope. My hope was fuelled by a belief that pursuing education would open more doors and a secure future. The mountains of garbage represent the chaos, the “shit”, the problems, that I knowingly or unknowingly pushed back, ignored, or believed was others' problems. I encountered world problems through the eyes of an observer being aware of some of the challenges but not taking any responsibility towards them.

Every week each module pulled me in to face my compliance and ignorance. Modern society is built on violence, colonization, exploitation, socially sanctioned ignorance, dehumanization, racial capitalism, consumerism etc. The interconnected modules gave me a glimpse of how complex systemic problems are and how there are no quick solutions. Separability is the foundation of *the house modernity built* and I perpetuate this among many other ways of being in the modern world. The course helped me appreciate entanglement, our reciprocal responsibility to more-than-human beings, collective healing, the importance of diverse ways of being e.g., indigenous ways of being to mention but a few.

It is very difficult engaging with material that challenges your core beliefs and lifelong ignorance. The flowers I cut out to cover the foundation of the garbage represents how I sometimes faced the denials with more denials. The course invited me to sit with hopelessness, accept how some problems will never have solutions and how there is no saving the world as it is. So instead of denial and avoidance, the course has given me a foundation to build my capacity of holding space for unpleasantness, encountering, and engaging the good and the bad with *honesty, humor, humility, and hyper self-reflexivity* depicted by the flowers I tried to put together with the mountains of garbage.

I appreciate the learning and unlearning process as I experienced this collectively with others. I have a long way to go in challenging my denials, but I have newfound hope in collective decluttering and composting.

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Appendix

Artwork making process shown in video uploaded separately.



Field of Flowers and 4 mountains of garbage over garbage fossils. (4 mountains inspired by the 4 Denials)



Denying denials



Final piece: Towards Hospice