

My project is about table manners and what is acceptable and expected at the dinner table. The idea of manners and being polite has always intrigued and confused me. There are some manners in American culture that I have not found any logical reason for: why is it rude to lean over your plate while eating or to put your elbows on the table? The only explanation I've been able to give myself for the purpose of these manners is because that's what is considered to look best.

The emphasis on attractiveness in manners is what made me decide to combine a setting, culture where appearance typically really matters, contrasted with the display of manners that are thought of as ugly. I took this idea further by setting a table using visually appealing components, but setting the table in a disorderly way. My hope for this project is that it compels people to think about manners and their purpose, and maybe to question the reason for certain standards for etiquette in other parts of life as well.

DINNER PARTY

Colby D.