

My final project represents the polarity between being part of a close-knit community while simultaneously missing a sense of belonging. Many different types of identities can create a community including race, religion, gender, financial status, age, and common interests. Often these categories combine and create beautifully diverse communities that have people from all kinds of backgrounds. However, while diversity provides new perspectives and a range of experiences, it can also create a sense of not belonging for those who do not fit into very prevalent aspects of their communities.

This collage was inspired by my experience at Oxbow as a student relying on financial aid. During my time here I have made many new friends from different backgrounds and contributed to a community of passionate artists. At the same time, I found myself as one of the few students who didn't come from a particularly prosperous background. Because our shared interest in art is the main contributing factor to this community, I did not feel visibly out of place. However, in discussions about our home lives I quickly realized the differences.

In my work, I created three separate collages that each portray a different aspect of community; religion, age, and wealth status. I then sewed them together to represent how smaller community groups can come together to create diverse and complex communities. However, in each collage there is a central figure that is contrasted from the community they are in. They are a part of the larger community while also internalizing their feelings of disconnection.

## SOLITUDE WITHIN COMMUNITY

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