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— Rion Emery ('25)  
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much ownership over the curriculum as [her] white compatriots in study.” In retrospect, she said her experience may have differed had she studied contemporary art.

### Combating exclusion

Emery said the first step to combatting injustice within the art industry is incorporating more research and information in the curriculum centered around sexism, racism and LGBTQ+ rights.

“The school should focus on creating more art classes centered around social justice topics because art is a powerful tool to make these points about gender imbalance and bias and exclusivity,” Emery said.

From a curricular perspective, Gajendragadkar said art exclusivity should spur introspection about messages conveyed to students.

“At least in the Social Studies department, in thinking about our curriculum, we need to consider, ‘What do we teach?’ ‘How do we teach it?’ ‘Is that really in line with the kinds of things that not only we want to be teaching, but what you want to be learning?’” Gajendragadkar said.

In addition, Gajendragadkar said fostering a culture of questioning is imperative to tackling injustice within art.

“I was definitely not as aware as this generation is of many of these questions of gender or race or age or even ability,” Gajendragadkar said. “It was not something that was talked about when I was in school, it just wasn’t a thing. Now, it’s this incredibly powerful tool.”

Yardley said individuals ought to make an active effort to immerse themselves in various forms of city art to “see artwork from everyone” as opposed to a narrow demographic.

“Just going out and getting your hands on things and being experimental exposes students to urban forms of art that are more diverse than museums,” Yardley said.

Ultimately, Gajendragadkar said transcending the boundaries of identity in art is conducive to furthering inclusivity.

“People end up creating these really strong collections of art by women and collections of art by people of non-European heritage,” she said. “That is where people first start breaking the boundaries of collecting and exhibiting art, creating spaces for art to be viewed outside of the tradition.”

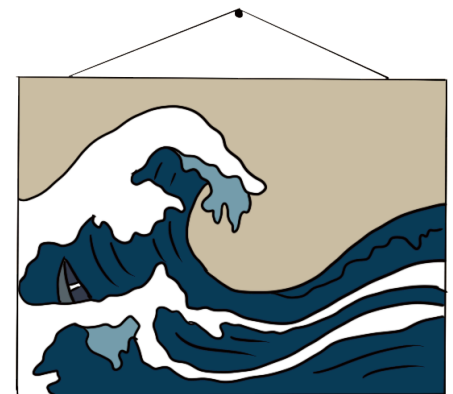


Illustration by Zainab Shafqat Adil

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