



NEXT STOP: Artist Statement

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I am choosing to focus on chapter 27 when Offred and Olfgen were in town. To start this was a major turning point in their relationship, and it marks an influential time in our book when dynamics are changing, and relationships are coming to light. With this new knowledge also comes new perspectives. When reading you get the sense of familiarity and helplessness from

our two handmaids especially when they are walking through the town. In my artwork I hope to emulate those feelings of uncertainty and confusion. When I was creating the background I wanted my image to look like a postcard. I wanted the back to seem desirable like someone was reflecting on a nice vacation. Even though it is a major contrast to what Gilead is. The attention of my image is centered around two handmaids that are meant to represent Offred, and Olfgen.

“ A rat in a maze is free to go anywhere as long as it stays in the maze“(pg 165). This made me think deeper about the constructs of Gilead as a society. Choosing to use the expression, “ rat in a maze” makes the reader think how easily manipulated things must be in Gilead. Choosing to use rats in a maze instead of other similes also suggests to one that the handmaids have some kind of guide. It also shows that the handmaids have control over what they do in the city, which is one of the fewer things they have control over. This quote is reflected in the center of my image seen as a maze. Additionally this chapter marked a moment in time when Offred and Olfgen had stepped over an invisible line together, hence the yellow line directly in front of them with arrows that lead to the maze. This invisible line marked a shift in dynamic. Olfgen knew she had something Offred desperately wanted; knowledge. When further analyzing the maze in my image, it is confusing on purpose. Things aren't adding up, there's obvious routes I could have taken but decided not to. All of this was intentional. To convey how confusing and quickly Gilead's society moves. You think you understand, then realize there's so much more to the greater picture. “ we have crossed the invisible line together” (pg169) . In this moment the reader gets the feeling of relief and worry coming off of Offred. On one hand she is happy to know that Olfgen isn't what she seems. On another hand she is worried that this could all be a trick, some kind of ruse. The maze is meant to represent Gilead, and the societal structure around it. The yellow line that cuts through and meant to be the path that handmaid's take to try and piece by

piece win their freedom back. The massive gray question mark represents a lot of uncertainty in the world of Gilead. This made me think of how everyone Offred gets a little bit of freedom, but at the same time she always questions the legitimacy of it. This leads the reader to wonder how many moving parts go into making gilead successful. All in all, my choices stemmed from looking at the greater picture of what could be going on in Offred and Olfgens minds. I chose to make my art piece reflect a postcard based on a question that hasn't been answered but has been on my mind. What must the rest of the world think of Gilead?