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Senior Projects Spring 2018

Bard Undergraduate Senior Projects

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Spring 2018

## Queens' Finest

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Queens Finest: Senior Thesis Artist Statement

This project is an exploration of three neighborhoods in Queens: Elmhurst, Flushing, and Jackson Heights. In making this work, I hope to gain a better understanding of these neighborhoods in order figure out how and why these communities have transformed dramatically over the past several decades from exclusive “garden cities” intended for the white upper and middle class, to neighborhoods of extreme ethnic hyperdiversity where hundreds of languages from around the world are spoken only within a few blocks, and where cultures from every corner of the world exist together in unique ways. Since a young age visiting my grandmother in Elmhurst (where she moved from Colombia in ‘69), I knew there was something different about Queens; it stood out from the rest of New York City and I did not know why until now. In this work I hope to accurately depict daily life and the extreme variety of life and culture in these neighborhoods, because Queens is a special and unique part of New York that some sadly tend to overlook. By photographing the people, the streets, and the food, I also hope to show those who are unfamiliar with the world’s most diverse neighborhoods, what it is like to walk around and exist in these spaces to show exactly what makes them unique.