

Artist statement:

The inspiration for this illustration is the pain, anger and frustration towards the ongoing racism and recent hate crimes towards the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community that is happening through the U.S. Xenophobia towards Asians in the U.S. is not a new concept. It goes back to the late 19th century, most notably the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. This intense prejudice has never been more prevalent since COVID-19.

Due to the virus's origin in Wuhan, China, people start associating all Asians with the coronavirus. As a result, racially motivated hate crimes towards AAPI increased in the United States, but Asian hate crimes became more severe at the beginning of 2021. Most notably, the shooting in Atlanta where six of the eight victims were AAPI. On a daily basis, there is news of violent assaults on an AAPI, especially toward our elders.

As an Asian American, it is horrifying to see these hate crimes happening in my community, especially when many of these crimes happen in areas where my family members live. It's time for the AAPI community and our allies to stand up against racism and hate crimes. Everyone, please stay safe and fight for what's right.