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## Letter from the Editor

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# THE TEAM!



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In the modern context of the word, Roger Williams could be considered an activist. Williams was expelled from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for spreading “new and dangerous ideas,” such as the separation of church and state, the rights of the indigenous peoples of this land, and religious freedom. A key aspect of social justice work is activism, and in the context of Critical Social Justice we are able to examine social justice topics from a more academic and artistic lens. NaDI aims to examine the experiences of our community members through the expression of art as a tool for social justice.

Art plays a unique role in the advancement of social justice. It allows us to express our emotions, environments, and relationships in a very personal and intimate way. This intimacy is something that fosters a deep connection among people and is a valuable tool for others to share our lived experiences. NaDI’s use of art to promote social justice is completely new to this campus and something that I believe will be incredibly impactful. When it comes to social justice, our campus is mostly apathetic. My hope is that the artwork featured in NaDI will give people a glimpse into the experiences of their peers and start conversations about social justice to foster more compassion. The pieces that are being featured are all incredibly powerful and beautiful. Whether it is poetry, visual art, or prose, each submission is entirely one of a kind and shows how social justice issues impact the lives of everyone in our community. The contributors’ dedication to self-expression through art is something that is vital to the work of social justice, as it is a way for them to make sure they have autonomy over their own narrative.

It has been an extraordinary privilege working alongside my amazing teammates on the Zine Team, as well as with the talented group of artists who submitted their work to NaDI. Coming into my first year I had no idea what social justice was, or that it was something I could be a part of. Through involvement with the queer community, some incredible faculty and staff, and my own self-education, I have been able to learn so much more than I expected over the past four years. Being immersed in art and social justice during my tenure at Roger has been a transformative experience. Not only has my work with NaDI afforded me the chance to combine my two greatest passions: art and social justice, my involvement this past year as the Managing Copy-Editor has been an incredible way to wrap up my time at RWU. I hope NaDI will become a much loved tradition and provide our campus with the opportunity to learn about the importance of social justice and get to know the members of our community intimately, in a way that only something as expressive as art allows.

*Lily Schenk*