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Artists' Statement

For our project, we designed and developed a website to spread awareness on inclusive design practices for anyone. Inclusive design empowers everyone who designs to do so thoughtfully in a way that enhances others lives and resists interlocking systems of oppression. We introduced the basics of inclusive design to others by dividing the ideologies into five sections, which include reflection questions at the end. Two diagrams were illustrated to increase the accessibility and clarity of two core concepts: designer bias and the spectrum of disability. This class lessons and discussion on epistemology, the study of knowledge, inspired this project in way to integrate these concepts in the field of design and web development.

This project serves multiple intended audiences. Primarily, we strove to provide a free informational website to design students, much like Pavel in Informatics and Tatum in Human-Centered Design and Engineering. We aspire for students to show students the ideology of inclusive design within their fields and illustrate how core concepts from the Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) department apply to their professional and academic careers.

Currently, many design classes and internships follow beliefs that correlate with liberal feminism, where existing oppressive institutions are accepted. These environments and institutions recognize that discrimination is a problem without acknowledging the systemic and societal context of a design. Or, if they do, it presents as an excuse to avoid or neglect designing

a solution given the pervasiveness of interlocking systems of oppression. Instead, the design is critiqued from a baseline of monetary value, productivity, and colonialist aesthetics of beauty.

More broadly, our website also strives to support the general public in everyday, nonprofessional use as well. The field of design often runs orthogonal to other disciplines; most other fields require design at some point in their professional processes. Those in other academic, social, and personal spaces often design without any academic background, including proclaimed experts. As a result, designs within these spaces often are underrated and their purposes and power often ignored, sending a clear-cut message to what human bodies are accepted and expected and which ones aren't.

We selected to build a website as the medium for our creative project because a website more closely follows inclusive design principles of accessibility than a traditional academic paper, both for students and the general public. We kept our concepts simple with concise paragraphs, emphasizing reflection and personal experience over academic analysis and critique. The format of this website allowed for images and diagrams to welcome users, keep them engaged, and more clearly illustrate concepts through visuals rather than detailed sentences. Dividing the page into sections increases readability and allows for readers to move at their own pace or skip to the next section easily. Additionally, we emphasize important points in bold for viewers with time constraints, shorter attention spans, or review practice. Above all, the reflection questions with each section provoke the viewer into applying the provided concepts into their own lives. In feminism, the personal is political, and rather than an argumentative tone of a paper, the reflection questions are designed to enhance users' own lives, knowledge, and experiences.