**Overview:**

This project reflects maps of America as viewed through cracks in our sidewalks. The project is designed as a postcard, including a front with an image of the US and an attention grabbing title for the card, and a back with a short description of the project’s overall theme.

**Process Explanation:**

The images of the US are AI generated combining images I had taken of cracks in concrete and images of maps of the USA, using the dream booth stable diffusion fine tuning notebook. These maps included satellite images, road maps, election maps, etc. I then inputted the images into a canva project and added elements classically used in postcards to influence my design. Most of the titles/headings in the postcard were directly inspired by classic postcard lines. The writing on the back was my own writing, reflecting my current feelings about the country and what it means to my project. I had originally tried to generate a text for this description, but I struggled with it and found that I liked what I had to say about my project and just used that instead.

**Why This Process, Result, Data Set?**

I was influenced by the conversations about my data set resembling maps, and I was stuck living with anxiety due to the election. So I figured I would channel this anxiety into the project and combine it with the ideas of maps, creating generated images of the USA as if it were made from cracks in the ground. I chose the idea to present it as a postcard because this week America felt a lot like a tourist attraction, with the whole world watching us and anticipating the results almost as much as American citizens were. This election also felt like a needed time to stop and really look at where we are as a country, and see the state we are in.

**Reflection:**

I think this project has really reflected my feelings at this time. When I started making it, I imagined our country almost in ruin, divided, falling apart, and losing people to the damage we are doing to it. This solidified for me after the election. I felt quite hopeless, completely broken, and I wasn’t sure I would be able to do the finishing touches on this project in the state I was in. In the end, it felt cathartic, a way to work through the terrible emotions I was feeling and express them freely. I also felt that when I shared it in class, others felt the weight behind it as well, so I feel like it had the impact I had desired.