Art exhibition at Alfred University continues to increase awareness on the issue of sexual violence 9/06/18



Alfred University students view the exhibition "Against My Will" by alumna Traci Molloy �92.

ALFRED, NY – While most college campuses welcome new students with enthusiastic marketing campaigns, Alfred University's lampost banners display a much more powerful message. Art activist and Alfred University alumna Traci Molloy has installed an outdoor exhibit to raise awareness about the realities of sexual assault, harassment, and violence on college campuses.

Molloy, who earned a BFA degree from Alfred University in 1992, has painted twenty-two portraits accompanied by handwritten testimonials detailing traumatic experiences. The work, transformed into vinyl lamppost banners, will remain hanging along Alfred University's Career Path until Sept. 15 before making their way to another college campus.

The installation, entitled "Against My Will", is the result of a yearlong collaboration between Molloy, various University offices, and students involved with peer education around issues of sexual violence. The project also serves as a bridge between alumni and current students as the stories were collected from both populations. Molloy envisions a growing project, inspired by the initial courage of Alfred University survivors, collecting stories from other college campuses. National studies often indicate that one in five college women have experienced sexual assault.

The Against My Will installation will next travel to the University of Maine. The art will be on display from Oct. 2-26.

Molloy will be visiting their campus to help install the project and give a lecture, as well as assist with a "Take Back the Night" event in early October. Staff at the University of Maine are hoping to generate support and funding to grow the project with new portraits, made in partnership with current student survivors, as well as survivors that are faculty and staff members.

A resident of Brooklyn, NY, Molloy travels the country as an artist and activist, often helping communities address issues of violence, addiction, trauma, and loss. She has partnered with children who lost a parent in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001; adolescents displaced from their home countries due to genocide or war; sexual assault survivors; and underserved youth in rural and urban communities.

Inquiries about the Alfred University exhibit may be directed to Dan Napolitano, assistant dean of the School of Art and Design at Alfred University, at <u>napolitano@alfred.edu</u>. Inquiries about the traveling exhibit may be direct to Traci Molloy at <u>tracimolloy@hotmail.com</u>.