

Shayna Schwartz

What do you think about when asked about your future? What worries you most about the future? What gives you hope about the future? Is there a part of your past that influences your future? Was there a particular moment in your life where you were very concerned about the future? Is there a moment you can recall in which you were very certain about what you would do?

Three women from different backgrounds and ages are the subjects of *What are you thinking, when I ask you about the future?* Each woman was interviewed using the above questions as springboards for a larger discussion, and her answers were recorded. The resulting audio is distilled into a short video segment that combines portions of the interview with animation. *What are you thinking, when I ask you about the future?* prompts thought about what it means to consider the abstract concept of the future. When you watch this piece, reflect upon your own answers to these questions and how they relate to the answers depicted.

I am inspired by the animated biography genre, including works such as *A Room Nearby* by Paul and Sandra Fierlinger (a twenty-seven minute film showing five people's stories about loneliness, based on a series of interviews), and the project *Animated Minds* (a series of animations using interviews with patients suffering from mental health problems to depict their experiences) directed by Andy Glynne. Hand-drawn animation is a very powerful medium in depicting intangible ideas in biographical stories. Each frame is drawn by hand, giving the piece the individualistic mark of the artist that matches the individualistic nature of the stories. The piece is labor-intensive; one second of video is twelve frames or images (12fps). It explains emotion and thought through visual metaphor. My piece draws from and includes itself in the animated biography genre. Through the medium of animation, *What are you thinking, when I ask you about the future?* strives to illustrate the individual perspectives about a topic that concerns us.