

SoCal college students create moving video tribute to the emotions experienced by our country over the past weeks.

A group of college students who met through a Facebook group created for newly accepted students at the California Institute for the Arts in Valencia California bonded over the emotions they experienced due to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis and the reckoning with racism that has flooded our nation's consciousness.

14 students with talents in the areas of music, film, photography and animation created the video to be released on Juneteenth, a holiday celebrated annually on June 19 that honors the end of slavery in the United States.

"This video is something we made to spread awareness about the Black Lives Matter movement using the gifts that we have," said James Fall, an incoming freshman at CalArts who will major in the Performer Composer Program. "Around May 30th another student, Macy Mae Cowart, put the idea for the video out there and the rest of us responded because we were eager to do something that would have a positive impact on the world and was something we all believed in."

Macy Mae Cowart says, "This has been an amazing collaborative effort by young artists around the world. We created this hoping it sparks important conversations, moments of silence, and a sense of urgency to create change. As young artists in this generation, we must use our artistry selflessly and powerfully."

"We hope this video will explain, inspire and educate people," Fall explained.

The video, titled "Why We Protest", will be released June 19th on YouTube.