Lisa O'Connor • Advisor: Dr. Anna Ursyn
College of Visual and Performing Arts • University of Northern Colorado

1. Friend
2. Daughter
3. Sister
4. Entrepreneur
5. Performer
6. Feminist
7. Environmental - Activist

1. Student
2. Gamer
3. Daughter
4. Artist
5. TV Binger
6. Friend
7. Pet Parent

1. Human
2. Student
3. Daughter
4. Cousin
5. Granddaughter
6. Friend
7. Sister

Who are you?

An Intersection of Math and Art and Identity:
A data-driven quilt exploring women's identity at UNC

We derive identity from the roles we fill and the relationships we are in. We derive it from philosophical ideals, spiritual beliefs, ethnic heritage, and cultural traditions. Yet we are not all things all the time. Amidst these competing, and sometimes conflicting, facets of identity which get the most of our time and activity?

Who are you first? Who are you second? Who are you next? I want to know who we, as women students of UNCO, say we are. Not who the media says we are, or advertisers say we should be; but who we really are. As each set of answers is color coded and the individual quilt blocks are constructed, what will we look like all standing together? Will we find conflicts, or commonalities to build on? Can what we see change our community for the better?

Sixty of the ninety-six quilt block interviews have been completed and recorded. The answers and responses from interviewees have been a surprise throughout. At my first location I directly asked a handful of women to participate. After completing the interview, those participants recruited others as volunteers wanting them to experience the questions as well. The most frequent initial response is that no one has ever asked them this before. Some have cried because no one ever wanted to know this before. I heard from some a week later that they couldn't stop thinking about the questions. Others asked if I already knew from their answers what their block will look like. Most have asked when will it be done, and will they have an opportunity to see it. I did not expect this level of emotional attachment that my interviewees have made with the project. This attachment, combined with the subject matter of individual identities building a community identity, strengthens the project's contribution to understanding how women within UNCO define themselves, as well as a recognition of the beauty inherent in their many variations.

1. Daughter
2. Sister
3. Christian
4. Student
5. Woman
6. Latina
7. First-generation

1. Woman
2. Friend
3. Advocate
4. Sister
5. Partner
6. Student
7. Teacher