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ARTS 458 • John Sappington

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### Social Propaganda Proposal

As a young adult woman, the subject of birth control never ceases to be relevant, whether talked about directly or not. In this current age, especially, there is such a variety of birth control options, and therefore it is rare that you will meet a woman who does not interact with it in some way, regardless of preferred method. Recently, birth control has become a social issue, sparking controversy among people who use it and those who do not. For this reason, I have chosen to focus on birth control and its propaganda: issues, methods, and empowerment.

The plan is to combine images of birth control tools, portraits of women and girls that wish to be included, detail shots, and other physical items that have to do with birth control into a textile-printed final product. I would like to create five relating collages on fabric which I will then sew into pieces that will complete a set: two pillow cases, a blanket/quilt, panties, and a bra or robe. This final presentation may change and vary depending on the success of the solar prints and resulting meaning. Many -- if not all -- of the images will repeat between the pieces in some way, likely a different tool of birth control being the main focus in each.

Other things that I have considered and plan to include in research and thoughtful background include birth control alarms, Planned Parenthood influence, wrappers and consumerism, period stains, heating pads, public stigma and fights against it. I have also begun to look into other artists that do work around this topic, including and not limited to Deja Whitney (photography) and Kathy Acker (writing).

I plan to talk to friends, family, local doctors, and others to get eye-witness accounts to include and/or learn from, and I would like to include both male and female accounts if possible, as certain forms of birth control are relevant to any gender (i.e. condoms, vasectomy). The final product will likely contain both visuals and text.

As a student artist, I believe that artwork in my life is viewed and enjoyed in a social way, and I feel that it should be created in this way as well. Therefore, I plan on creating this work in a collaborative way, including testimonials, images and information that I gain from other women in my life and combining them into a physical and informative presentation.