

CHRIS TREGGIARI
ARTIST STATEMENT

Growing up in a family involved with social work and the betterment of the poor, I quickly learned to embrace the “outsiders” of my community. Many of my friends live in the “rougher” areas of Massachusetts and Rhode Island – areas perceived to be infested with drugs and the problems of the poor. The neighborhoods had their share of dangerous parts, but there were also many positive aspects of these communities. Most overlooked these aspects. As an artist, I naturally gravitated towards other creative people – poor or wealthy. I grew much respect for the creative strength of the artists of these “rougher” areas.

When I moved to San Francisco to attend SFAI’s graduate school, I eventually made my way to the Tenderloin area. Riddled with drugs and prostitution, it was a rough area. But once again, I started to see glimpses of hope and light through the darkness. Many of the residents that call the Tenderloin home use their creative voice as an outlet of expression. The visual artists, poets and musicians are full of talent. And they are also my inspiration for the *Tenderloin Collective*.

The goal of the *Collective* is to highlight the Tenderloin’s talented residents and bring them out into the great San Francisco community. By providing a platform for the expression of their ideas, I hope to change the perceptions of San Francisco about those that call the Tenderloin their home.