

Hello,

We are writing this statement to add clarity to our design “Help Each Other Grow”. The model we hired for our proposal is a model named Alex Kimikoo of Japanese descent. Although she is of Japanese descent, the intention behind the design is not to build narrative around a racial or cultural concept. The reason the model was chosen for this design was based on availability and proximity to our home , as well as her great ability to pose and take direction. Additionally, we felt really comfortable working with her during a pandemic because we have worked with her multiple times and knew the precautions she took.

When creating artwork, we focus on the narrative first and go through several drafts of ideas before we hire our models. We hire and work with models of all backgrounds, races, and cultures not with the intention to highlight our unique differences, but to tell a human experience understanding that being human is more complicated and interesting than being defined by our outward appearances.

The “Help Each other Grow” design circles around the narrative of helping each other, where the main figure is watering and giving sunlight to the young tree. This idea being a metaphor for helping your fellow human grow to their full potential and understanding how rewarding that can be. And although all these moments of helping someone might sometimes seem tiny and insignificant, when you pull back you can see the huge ripple effects they can have.

We appreciate all the feedback and sincerely hope this adds clarity to our design.

Thank you,

- Maria-Jose Lindo-Lawyer & Joshua Lawyer