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Curatorial Statement

In Virginia Woolf's experimental novel *The Waves*, Woolf expresses the thoughts and feelings of 6 characters who are not distinct characters but rather a collective being. Her novel challenges the accepted ideals of society which rejects our natural need for community and prioritizes individualism and the labor of the individual when analyzed through an industrialist and capitalist lens. Throughout the novel, we see a more natural portrayal of humanity and our need for connection with others and our environment. In our exhibit titled "Human nature: An Exploration of Nature and Humanity in *The Waves*," we sought to reflect this thesis utilizing both creative and critical assets within the room. When picking the room for the exhibit, we deliberately chose to center nature in choosing a space with a tree in the middle surrounded by a natural mountainous landscape. When the viewer enters the space, the goal is to create a clear tie between the natural environment and the more modern design of the room. This reflects back to Virginia Woolf's novel *The Waves*, being a modernist text that utilizes nature to reflect back onto human nature, both being naturally connected. The assets within the space further express this idea, bringing up motifs found in *The Waves* such as the collective being and interconnectedness of the characters, humanity's desire and need for connection, as well as humanity's connection to the natural environment. Some of these colloquial assets include a poem "Ode to the Waves" by Stephanie Gutierrez and Hannah Henning which takes inspiration from Woolf's writing style, a

wall with pictures of Virginia Woolf's friends who likely inspired the characters in *The Waves* and expresses her connection to them, two photographs labeled "Human Trace" and "Beauty in the Collective" which conceptualize motifs of collective humanity, an interpretive dance expressing the six characters flowing in and out of each others lives like waves, a Myers Briggs personality test to assess which character your personality type is closest to, a spotify playlist meant to represent our thesis and the collective conscious in *The Waves*, three critical essays by Stephanie Gutierrez, Emmalee Escobar, Kate Arroyo, and much more. Each of the assets have been arranged around the room, covering as much of each wall as possible to encourage the viewer to make their way around the entirety of the room, seeing and reading a variety of work. More collaborative work such as the works cited, "Ode to The Waves", and this curatorial statement is placed in the center of the room, while the individual creative work has been placed on different walls, showcasing each group member's work.