Perception---

Perception is defined as the ability to see, hear, or become aware of an object through the senses. In optics, we place our focus on visual perception and on the eye as its tool. Our eyes are the pathways to our mind; the instrument through which we absorb the world around us. Though we all may receive the same information, our perception - or the way we process, organize, and interpret this information - is unique to each individual. Our innate ability to collect information from the outside world is an essential basis for shaping our opinions and political views.

Illusion---

Illusion is an abstraction of perception in the form of visual stimuli. It represents that which is perceived differently from its real essence. It is a phenomenon that we are deeply familiar with in areas that touch our daily lives: communication, media, and politics. The theme illusion revolves around a distorted, artificial world surrounding us. Projects under this category illustrate the ways our perception can be altered by these illusions.

Reality---

Reality is perception in its purest form. It is seeing the world as they actually exist, as opposed to an ideastical idea of them. Often, we are blinded by constructions, by altered versions of the truth and get lost in the noise that it creates. The truth remains unseen and waiting to be discovered. Resurfacing this truth that is right in front of us is no easy task, yet projects under the theme of Reality achieve just that. Through their work, students illuminate their audience by eliminating redundancies that may distract us from what truly matters.