What is a future for everyone?

A future for everyone starts one second from now, immediately as you turn away from this painting, with our collective thoughts and actions our new future must begin.

*We encourage you to experience this painting by starting on the left side and moving to the right.*

Left Panel

Begin with the left panel. There is a vibrant pot of flowers in full bloom, and the words reading “A Future For Everyone”. Then look at your reflection in the mirror found in this piece. How do you see your role in this future? To the right of the mirror is a worker in action of gathering. The worker, laden with wood, bears the burden of their labor on their back. Above, we see two characters in the act of ‘Leaving’ and ‘Taking’ from that pile.
Center Panel

The blue tree to the left reads “Starts Now”, referring to the future. The tree is barren but full of life. New growth is representative of seasons, change and transformation. Just beyond that is a head with thought bubbles projecting ideas and interests. This is a nod to our collective hopes and dreams for the future: food, housing, community, nature, love and joy.

At the bottom, there is an ailing giraffe slumped over a zebra, — a recognized symbol for rare disease — which depicts the duality of a black and white rigid binary world existing within a world of color.

To the left, there is a scientific beaker with four chambers portraying the science needed for humans to thrive, crowned by a sun honoring nature. The chambers on the container read: “cure, manage, prevent, all disease”. Out of the beaker, three large drops drip down representing truth and reconciliation as a healing process for social change.

Continue to the right to see colorful houses split open to reveal a wild amount of life and complex interwoven energy. Inside, there is a big tangled, colorful mass. This represents collective consciousness, community effort and the magnificent entanglement of all creatures.

Next is a teacher, a book that says “Read”, a school classroom and the library with a thinker on the steps as a metaphor for the climb towards better access to education.

The blackbird symbolizes knowledge. The bird calls out to anyone that might listen. The house with the blackbird shows two characters in the act of holding hands — reminding us to put forth care, to receive and to show empathy, and to love.

Framing the opening of the house is an image of two 1968 Olympians holding their fists up and another standing in solidarity to symbolize advocacy and the fight for justice. In this image, we ask the viewer to question: is it enough to stand in silence for peace, and racial and economic justice?

Right Panel

Spanning the height of the far right panel, we have a body looking into a face invoking introspection. Its nervous system spreads out like a plants’ roots, with a brain and a heart dictating the way, their feet standing atop a magnified human cell atlas. A ribbon twirls around their legs and states the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative’s visionary pillars: Science, Justice & Opportunity, and Education. Blue floral patterning fills the reflection and directs the viewer to a flower growing from the figure’s foot, their shadow mirroring the contemplative body and its resilience.

Our goal is to invite what needs to happen right now. How can we convey all of this with beauty? The articulation of pain and struggle turned into loving options to create a beautiful future for all living things.