Communicating Climate Change Impacts through Crochet
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INTRODUCTION
- As climate change causes an increase in natural hazard events across the United States, special attention must be paid to the impacts these events have on citizens, particularly those in marginalized or vulnerable communities.
- This project illustrates the impacts of extreme precipitation patterns in New York by using crochet to represent future residential impacts for different socio-economic groups (Franksen and Kunkel 2022).
- I explored the important role that art can play in representing and illustrating often abstracted ideas, like that of climate change (see Hawkins and Kanngieser 2017; Boykoff 2019).
- Crochet art is a great conveyer of information. Palatable data and concepts are significant in the field of sustainability and should be able to get a point across to different audiences from children to scientists.

METHODS
- I created these crochet pieces as both pieces of art and tools for climate communication and understanding (Boykoff 2019).
- In order to do this, I planned out an imperfectly mirrored scene of the aftermath of a disaster, while making sure to include many of the effects these precipitation events have on different socioeconomic communities.

DESCRIPTION
- This display presents two sides of the same climate crisis with different communities being affected unequally.
- On the left, a lower-income urban neighborhood experiencing improper flood drainage, a sinkhole, and occupied apartments of those who don’t have the luxury of evacuating before an extreme precipitation event.
- On the right, A higher-income neighborhood was virtually unaffected by the disaster, with the implication that the families were able to evacuate.

CONCLUSION
By turning this data into a collection of crochet art, it not only creates tangible representations of climate change impacts across socioeconomic groups in New York but also materials that can be used for education, engagement, and communication of environmental concepts. It is our hope that this could become a larger collaboration among artists and environmentalists.

REFERENCES:
Franksen, Rebecca and Kenneth Kunkel, NOAA State Climate Summaries 2022, https://statesummaries.ncics.org/chapter/ny/