



# Shannon Brown, Grasshopper

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Horseheads High School, NY.

## **Artist Statement- "*Binding Guidance*"**

My family raised sheep for seven years. I was known in my family as “the sheep whisperer”; I was always skilled at raising calm sheep while my two sisters struggled with sheep that were feisty and unruly. Throughout my life, I have had a connection and relationships with animals. Spending time with sheep taught me that while they may seem simple, they are calm and peaceful, and I enjoy being in their company.

Traditionally sheep represent sacrifice and obedience: sheltered from the harm of the world and forced by society to keep a perfect, spotless, and obedient presence.

This ceramic sculpture depicts a slaughtered sheep’s head with its ears removed and the eyes covered with a blindfold. This represents young lives that are not their own. I created this piece to show the blind trust of lambs. These docile creatures are dependent on someone to guide them, but they can also be easily manipulated like people can.

I have had Ms. Cratsley as a teacher this year for Sculpture Class and Design in Clay class. She allows to me to work independently when I have an idea that I want to explore that may be different than class assignments.