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Artist Statement - Glorified Crime
ARTF2223 SP23

Glorified Crime is an online store for controversial artist merchandise. Controversial artists are placed under the spotlight as the website investigates the artists and how they translate their crimes into music and lyrics. The concept is executed in a website demonstration created using Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Audition. This digital medium mimics a traditional online store for artist merchandise and heightens the audience's awareness of the nature of the music they consume. Featuring the phrase, "Controversy has never been so cozy," Glorified Crime exposes its audience to graphically offensive sweatshirt designs and uncomfortable renditions of problematic songs. The website takes the form of a stylish and trendy merchandise store to help disguise the true purpose, attracting a typical customer for merchandise while forcing them to uncover the truth about their favorite artists. Conversely, Glorified Crime can serve as a store for an audience who has already developed a hatred towards the marketed controversial artists.

When developing Glorified Crime, inspiration was drawn from the daily news covering the unlawful activities of celebrities, carefully-placed censorship of songs on the radio, and the rising social media culture. The increasing cultural prevalence of social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok, has increased the accessibility of information regarding celebrity controversy. Twitter has normalized cancel-culture, where one mistake an artist makes is publicized and ruins their reputation in seconds. However, in an attempt to fly under the radar of cancel-culture, artists tend to disguise vulgar lyrics and instead make them "catchy." Glorified Crime is inspired by both a love for music and the cancel-culture created in today's social media setting. It investigates the separation of an artist and the art they create and analyzes whether

their music is a reflection of their own actions and morals. For the consumer, Glorified Crime seeks to make its audience uncomfortable and to prompt reflection into the music and artist merchandise industry. It raises questions including if it is necessary to hold artists accountable for their mistakes and lyrics and if society glorifies crimes and offenses because popular artists promote them in their music.