

Repeated use of myself as a subject correlates to the theme I wanted to maintain in my works. Obsession of myself/identity is not only limited to portraying myself, but also exploring who I am, whether it be who I am in society, who I am intimately, and who I am to myself in the form of other objects or ideas relevant in my life. An exploration of personal identity is illustrated among my works, and may seem like I am full of myself. The purpose of indulging in myself is to visually express how I judge myself and the world around me, as my audience is a part of myself as they interact with my art. My audience can connect to my artwork in the sense that they are capable of feeling the same things I do, as my works touch base with self-image, cultural identity, and empowerment.

I often rely on styles that are easy on the eyes and make people want to look, but also favor ones that make people want to look for the wrong reasons. This could be through my use of color, as it draws aesthetic pleasure despite it being a facade for the heavy content that some of my works emulate. I also tend to alternate from digital mediums and painting with acrylics. Digital works glamourize complex human emotions, while paintings capture my perspective on the real world, as I attempt to mimic a semi-realistic style. This is to send across the idea that nothing in life is perfect, as opposed to how much emphasis is put on the flawless in a society where first impressions are critical.

In regards to perfection, I myself am decisive in the final outcomes of my own works. As much as I believe my works are finished, I don't always feel like they are, but through my exhibition, I attempt to make every work look complete among all the others, in unity. My works are all reflections of myself, and as long as they are interconnected among my theme and centered around myself, then in unison, they will make themselves complete. I also intended my pieces to reflect the same level of vulnerability that they hold about me in the way they are shown in my exhibition. My acrylic on canvas painting, *The Breast of Me*, is intended for potential viewers to degrade the subject (myself) pictured because of how I show myself off and how sometimes, people won't hold you to a certain standard and others may help lift you up when you're being looked down on. Intimate themes, like sexual identity is illustrated through *The Breast of Me* and *I'm Au Naturel*, which can show off my vulnerability. *Mi Preferida Mexico* will be hung, similar to a flag to bring attention to the pride I have for my ethnic background, despite it being looked down upon in certain parts of Western society. It will be contradicted as it will be hung in a higher place so people are forced to look up to it despite not everyone associating with the culture. My intentions for positioning is to get people to see me in new perspectives and see all my flaws and confront them. Obsession with myself and how I identify myself is seen throughout my gallery and even through the positioning of my works.

It's almost like making an audience feel annoyed with my choice in theme. Being the center of my own art and having my own experiences and thoughts be put into my own works can cause an audience to become resentful with me as a subject. This is intentional as it imitates the way I judge myself and brings that idea to life. My work centers around self-exploration, learning who I am through new mediums and content. I rely on bright colors to express my personality and also to hide my insecurities and deep thoughts. Semi-realistic approaches are sought after as a reminder that nothing can ever be perfected. My preference in digital media makes serious content in my work more comical, which is something I want my audience to perceive also.