

My work explores the theme of identity and culture but more specifically how I perceive and embody that culture. From having the opportunity to travel to different areas of where I am from, I became more exposed to my culture and roots. This is explored in my work where I not only looked at the history of my culture but also the issues that they have and continue to face. I also intertwine my culture with the identity I hold and continue to develop. By focusing on different mediums in my work, I was able to look at how I could convey my message in different ways. I mainly worked with paintings and two dimensional works to explore different movements and how I could use these past ideas and values and tie it into my culture in a more modern approach.

As culture being the most prominent theme in my work, I looked at different ways to explore it. I used ancient codices and sculptures from the Mexica and Aztec civilizations to my personal regalia in order to connect my identity with my roots. I used these codices and stuck to techniques similar to what my ancestors wore in order to make a stronger connection to my culture. However, through other artworks I looked at different movements and mediums to again connect to my culture and issues Mexico faces. From different paintings and boards, I used European movements such as impressionism, pointillism, and rococo to look at how using those specific techniques convey the message I was trying to show. Some of these issues being economic gaps and struggles, stereotypes, and societal expectations.

With other works I focused on showing how my identity was affected through my culture. Works such as *Alebrije*, *Traditional Mexican Folklore*, and *My Day* portray this mixture of themes. I made sure to show different aspects of my life and how different areas of my culture affected me. Cultural dance, traditions, and customs are a few of those aspects that have affected the way I interact and perceive different areas of my culture. With each piece I focused on certain elements in order to show that message. With some artworks I used space to emphasize it while with others I used color and contrast to make that connection.

Additionally I used inspiration from European and Mexican artists to show my mixture of culture and how I don't necessarily fit into both cultures. Being born in the U.S. but having parents from Mexico has affected the way I perceive and interact with both cultures. Accepting this and using inspiration from two different cultures is seen in a lot of my work. From using inspiration by Alexander Roslin, Maximilien Luce, Joaquin Sorolla, and Camille Pissaro I look at European culture and how it differs from country and time period. Similarly by using inspiration from Jose Guadalupe Posada, Manuel Jimenez Ramires, and Manuel Carrillo I look at how art from my culture has changed and how I can use those prominent techniques and messages into my work.

Through the arrangement of my artwork, I looked to place different themes in different areas and show how my work has evolved and differs. From the center I place work I created some time ago and then place more recent work on the outside to show my expansion of mediums and messages. I wanted the theme of culture and identity to be prominent in every work and have the viewer see how with each medium or movement I looked at different perspectives and ways to show it. I wanted to go beyond one perspective of identity and culture

in my works and therefore made sure to show aspects of my culture, of my identity, and how both intertwined with each other.