

Starting IB Art junior year I was not passionate about art, I was taking the class because I thought it would be an easy way, but I was wrong. The majority body of artwork focuses on the theme of assimilation. Whether this is the assimilation of a new culture, assimilation of adulthood, or the assimilation of new laws that are being imposed during this time period. The art focuses mostly on the Mexican culture; mainly because of the multiple things that have been said about my culture by the people in power of the country. The work was a passive response defending my people. I also wanted to incorporate my own personal experiences as a Latina student into the artworks in order to enjoy each piece in the making. Creating art is not just about drawing your favorite artist, art is about putting your soul into it, about sending a message and trying to make a difference. In order to make a difference in society the message trying to get across should be clear and engaging.

In order to make the viewer have an epiphany of what really is going on in this country, I decided to give each piece their own space in order for it to stand alone, and each individual piece should have an impact by itself. Certain pieces are emphasized because they are either in the middle of the exhibition or clumped into one panel. For example, there is a piece inspired by the pop art movement and the artist Roy Lichtenstein. This piece focuses on the DACA dreamers and the attack that they have felt. The dreamers have to assimilate to the cancellation of the DACA program. This piece is a diptych and it is placed one on top of the other to represent how some people look down on the dreamers, yet they are the foundation to a new generation.

The history of my ancestors is also included throughout multiple pieces. My whole family migrated from Mexico to the United States in search for a better life and a better education. They came from Mexico to the U.S. not knowing English, not knowing anyone and with very little money. They had to assimilate to the traditions of Americans yet still clinging to their Mexican

roots: this is seen in the artwork titled “Frida in the City”. This piece is centered in the middle as the main focus of the exhibition. The Mexican culture is represented by the artistic inspirations like Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, and certain artifacts that are familiar to the Mexican culture. This piece represents the assimilation that my parents had to go through when getting to this country. Another piece that showcases my own assimilation is the piece titled “Loteria”. Loteria is referred to as the Mexican bingo, and this piece represents the transition from a girl to a young woman. The dress is made out of the Loteria cards, which represents my own childhood. The quinceañera dress represents the transition from childhood to adulthood, and the assimilation of new responsibilities.

The exhibition will be set up as a distorted timeline. The majority of my artworks are set as a timeline. It is a timeline from the day my parents migrated to this point in life. Yet the artwork will not be set chronologically. This is done in order to engage the viewer as they connect the pieces. This represents the overcoming of obstacles that life presents. That is what the audience will feel, a sense of struggle and at the beginning that is what I want the audience to feel. After they connect the pieces then they will feel accomplished therefore feel powerful.

The most important concept that should get across from an art piece is to create a connection with the viewer, and make them an open-minded person in order to accept other views and opinions, as well as learning about a different culture. An exhibition of art should be made in order for the audience to know more about the artist.