

Gabriela Martinez Artist Statement

My vision for presenting this body of work is to show off the culmination of my art in the past 2 years and in the process look back on my artistic development.

My body of work has various themes such as feminism and cultural heritage, but at the heart of it all I consider self-identity as the core of my art since it's a unifying theme throughout. For example, I have made pieces based on celebrating unique heritage, the journey women have taken to get to where they are now, acknowledging the different facets of our personalities, and exploring what makes us us. I think many experiences influenced my creation of these pieces, with the primary being that today's world is so interconnected that it's easier than ever to see how other people live and associate with the world. I wanted my art to be empathetic and display emotions and experiences everyone feels at times. Prior to taking this IB course, I had considered art a minor interest; I sometimes drew, but I didn't consider it a hobby. Throughout this course however, I have become much more well-versed in many art forms such as painting, digital manipulation, sculpture, and printmaking to name a few. Not only has my art grown in aesthetic ways, but I am much better at creating meaningful art that I hope many people can relate to.



I have exhibited my work so that most, if not all, viewers can see themselves in the art in some form. I want my art to be representative of our emotions and experiences which are at the core of what I think it means to be human. Amid the current circumstances, it was not easily accessible to hang my work in public. However, I found that putting my art up on my website was able to create a new, fresh experience for the viewer. I had more freedom for choosing the placement of my pieces and was able to group them by themes I thought held significance. For example, I put my most impactful, emotional pieces in the center as a sort of attention grabber.

I hope that by looking at my work, people are able to not only relate but also acknowledge that these experiences are shared by everyone and realize that we are not so different. That may sound a bit cheesy, but in recent years I feel as if the world can feel big and daunting at times. It can only improve everyone's lives if we all learn to relate to one another. One of the ways I do this is by combining elements of aesthetics and hard-hitting symbolism. This combination keeps attention while also forcing viewers to take into account their own prejudices and preconceptions.

The arrangement of my work supports the relationship between the artworks presented because it makes the viewer aware that even though we all feel lonely at times, it's important to remember that none of us are ever truly alone. As long as we have neighbors and peers, there is someone to rely on. Our identities are integral to our bonds with others just as much as with ourselves, and I hope my artwork displays this idea to some extent.

Throughout my time in this course, I discovered a love for art that I had not previously had. It's therapeutic, but also an effective way to get a message across. It also connects us and our experiences; it is something I can see myself doing far into the future even if just as a hobby.