

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Living Through Art—A Journey Unfolds

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When my grandmother was alive she was quiet, ever watchful, and still. Looking back, I have often felt upset that she was not as vocal as her daughters. As I picture her sitting quietly with her hand holding her head up, I begin to wonder: Was she not ready to talk? Did she refuse? Or was she just waiting for the right moment to speak? I remember her whispering under her breath, behind her hand. One of her favorite sayings still rings in my ear, “Cada cabeza es su propio mundo.” In my work, I often present moments of listening, of contemplating, of deciding, “What will be next?” As a way to document the lives I’ve witnessed, particularly those of my ancestors, I paint. Painting also provides a way to honor a person’s existence and make visible the marks he or she has imprinted upon me and the environment, a legacy left for me as well as those still to come. Intimacy abounds in the lives I encounter and whether the subjects are grandparents, activists, neighbors or friends, I aim to articulate their stories. My artwork thus extracts the inherent liminality of a moment before I commit space and time to the images I exact from their lives—the moments that drive me to act. Using posture, symbols, and hot and cold colors, I provide the viewer with a visual articulation of the interweaving delight and pathos that comprises our human structure. My artwork tells our stories, as I capture them.

As a child of the carpas, I am connected to art as a visual performer and work to manifest my vision as an artista and muralista. As a set and graphic designer, I unveil the world as I imagine it for others to see. This inheritance compels

me to capture the forward movement of my people through colorful portraits and murals, using bold brushstrokes, often painting women who have a strong sense of self, even in their silence. For me, it is urgent to represent women in a strong manner and to illustrate their dignity as I have witnessed it in everyday acts. My work reflects my activism. My focus is to give voice to mental health and immigration issues. I believe in the social importance of art. It is the most accessible way to protest, love, heal, and learn. The way we share our stories—the voices we choose to manifest our passion, hurt, anger, sadness, love, hope, and heritage—has the power to fortify our human relationships with one another. Understanding emotions increases the quality of our existence in the multicultural landscapes we occupy. Through my artwork and paintings I provide the viewer with a visual articulation of the emotions that surface as my journey unfolds.