

My pieces of art explores many major themes, some of them being self-discovery, heritage and political and social issues. The projects I have created are also different, such as paintings, mixed medias, ephemeras, block prints, dry points and digital art. Prior to starting IB Art I didn't have intensive classes on artistic theory or art history, but through this program I've grown as an artist and have begun to understand the connections between artists and culture.

I am a hispanic that lives in America, this speaks to me more than other people with different backgrounds. Therefore, one of my themes was racism. I created *Recuerdanos* during the elections in America. The meaning of the piece was that America is superficial since it promised all the people the, "American Dream" only to be surprised with false hope. It was inspired by Andy Goldsworthy; he creates art based on nature with natural materials. The meaning of my pieces holds truth within.

Frida Kahlo is another inspiration for my work and my connection to her is personal since we both share a Hispanic heritage. Some of my own pieces were inspired by Kahlo's *What The Water Gave Me* and *The Two Frida's*. In addition, I make decisions in the course of my work by deciding on the spot. Before I start my project, I research my artistic inspiration and attempt to know them based on the information that I have access to, this helps when i'm deciding because I ask myself, "what would Goldsworthy do?" Lastly, I used the materials that I utilized because those are the ones I have access and are the best I tried so far. For example, I bought a canvas and it was expensive and felt like plastic when I was painting. Therefore I preferred to use the schools canvases because I make them however I want them and the texture is better. Also, some techniques I have utilized were when printing a block print, I use a dry roller as a pressing tool when printing. It works better, than what I was taught.

My work for IB is done, but my own personal work is still in progress. Most of my current work is paintings, since that is my true passion. By painting I am attempting to challenge myself to improve my skills and my techniques because I know I can learn more by myself when working on something for a long time. In addition, the selection and arrangement of the exhibition of artworks was complicated because the whole point of placing a piece is to evoke feelings, such as sadness, acceptance, trust, anger, joy, surprise, anticipation, love, pity and shame. I gave every art piece it's proper space. I started off with *Colors Within Flowers* being placed on the left, then next to it in the corner, I placed *Tree of Gratitude*. Next to it, there is *Milwaukee Girl* with *The Two Leslie's*. On a new section, *Colors* begins and then there is a group of block prints and dry points by it, *Child, Sad* and *Elephants*. This follows the placing of *Familia*. On the new section, *Unfair* is placed and next to it is *Recuerdanos*. This arrangement evokes certain feelings because they are all placed in areas according to their theme. In the theme, racism, some pieces can evoke pity or shame and in the family theme they can feel love or sadness and so on. I spaced all the pieces evenly and they were all eye level. My exhibition conveys an understanding of the relationship between the artworks and the viewer by giving it its own space so it can be just seen as its individual so they can feel what I have experienced through my artworks.

In conclusion, my themes are self-discovery, heritage and political/social issues projects. Also, I discovered my passion is fine arts and my goal is to practice and learn more by myself. Lastly, I have put my artworks in designated spots so they evoke feelings that will make the audience feel my experiences and emotions that I have felt by the position they are in. I want to convey feelings that only a piece of artwork can do.