

My work is about me; the two themes that surround my artwork have been inspired by my current state, as a hispanic student growing up in the Milwaukee south side. My first theme consists of stories, observations, and representation of the culture in my neighborhood. My second theme consists of the mental state, struggles, and life of a highschool student. Being able to relate to both these themes, I was able to incorporate personal experiences in my pieces. I also tried to enhance the stories of my pieces by experimenting with different art mediums and by incorporating multiple elements of art.

In regards to the theme of the culture of my neighborhood, I often try to gain inspiration from hispanic culture or, art within my neighborhood. This can be seen in my piece *Graceful Bloodshed* as I used *Mural of Peace* as inspiration for this piece, *Mural of Peace* is a gigantic mural present in my neighborhood, whose purpose was to commemorate the Milwaukee south side and its diversity. It was through this piece that I was inspired to create a mural like piece, a piece that would represent my neighborhood for what it was, a neighborhood of hard working people. It's in this way in which artwork from my community inspires me. But I also derive inspiration from stories that I used to hear in my childhood. This can be seen with my piece *Tales of the Rosemary Lover*. This piece was inspired by the stories that my grandfather used and still tells. His stories consist of working multiple jobs, from cooking at an indian restaurant, to being a painter, and lastly a construction worker. It's these tales that inspire to create pieces that many immigrant and hard working people can relate to. I also derive inspiration for my themes on experiences that i've had an example of this can be seen in *I'm Hooked on a Feeling ... I'm depressed on believing* as it was a time in which I was going through a lot mentally, I felt as if I

was being torn apart from the inside. I was able to use this painful experience and make a piece out of it, it is this way in which I derive inspiration from my pieces through experiences.

When I was little I went to a public school, which had little funding, I received no proper art education until I came into reagan. Always having an interest in art I decided to take art, and for these past four years, I have seen my art skills and knowledge grow and develop. For my 11 pieces I wanted to show that journey. I picked the pieces that show the pieces that show development in skills and ideas. For example *Reagan Ball Z* was a flag design for my highschool. This is a perfect example of honing skills as the entire flag design was carefully measured and colored by applying multiple coats of colored pencil that gave my design the impression that it was printed. But I also used my growth in my skills to enhance the themes of my pieces, an example of this can be seen in *ICE*. *ICE* is an illustration that whose purpose is to raise awareness of the mistreatment of immigrants at the hands of ICE. For this illustration I used a combination of colored pencil and charcoal, this piece showcases two hands reaching for one another representing separation. This is emphasized by the vibrant colors of the hands, while I used the stark darkness of the charcoal to fill the space around the hands. This not only establishes contrast and emphasis but it also involves a feeling of sorrow and despair, as the hands are surrounded by complete darkness.