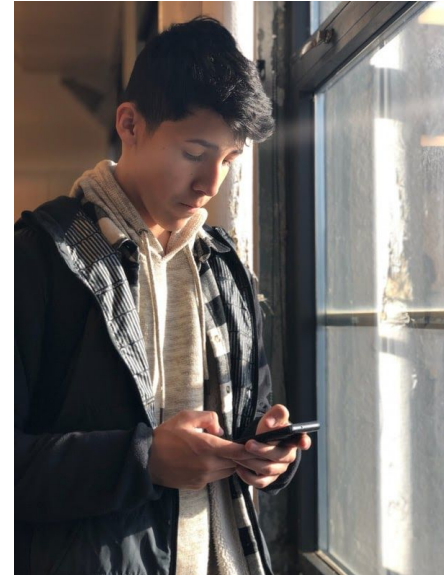


Charlie A. Sanchez-Gallegos Artist Statement

My vision for my body of work worked its way through a few different concepts, but stayed true to the overall theme I was aiming for, which was identity and culture. I explored this theme by walking throughout the city I live in, walking through some of the largest parks in Milwaukee's park system, and I sat down and talked with my family members to get a better understanding of how they were trying to raise me and which lessons they were trying to teach me. While working on my works, I tried emphasizing on things such as my surroundings of nature and the city, life lessons I learned while growing up, personal struggles I have faced in my daily life, as well as the culture my family has raised me in. My works have incorporated a number of different processes that I used and adapted to fit the needs of the current piece I was working on.



Many of my works were indirectly inspired by the culture and dynamic of my family. The ideas that more directly inspired many of my pieces include nature, the city, and the life lessons I live by. The works that explored these concepts worked through the mediums and techniques of multiple printmaking styles, digital works through the use of Photopea, acrylic painting, and photography. My purpose behind these inspirations was to reconnect with my roots and dive into a deeper understanding of myself.

In the making of my printing pieces as well as my gouache illustration pieces, I was deeply inspired by the life lessons my family has taught me as I grew up. Each piece connects back to my family and the connection I have to them. Some of the biggest lessons my family has tried to teach me is that I can always rely on my roots and my strong base as they will always be there to hold me up, and in moments of feeling all alone, I have to look for my light and chase it until I am out of the hole I was in. In my illustration pieces, I wanted to give the audience another important message I learned from my family. I was always raised to be humble, and to accept whatever I can get, but as I got older this became more and more clear to me. It isn't about having the nicest shoes, or newest games, or biggest friend group, or whatever people think they want, the goal should be to be happy. My goal behind these works was to give the audience something mesmerizing to look at while also giving them a life lesson that they too could potentially live by. I wanted to share with them a string part of myself.

I also experimented with photography and digital editing. For these pieces, I went out into the places I grew up in, and I took pictures of exactly what I saw. I received inspiration from artists like O'Keeffe as her art works were also to show her point of view on the things she saw. Using this new medium, I was able to add multiple layers and refine my art to be as clean and crisp as possible. It took a lot of practice, but my skills in photography as well as other mediums has definitely grown.

When creating my industrial design works, I went into those projects with the audience in mind. I wanted to create a piece that not only was clearer in my understanding, but also made sense to the viewers and gave them real life ideas of how they could potentially use my plans in their personal lives. For this reason I included sketches, list of features, applications they could be used in, materials, and a mind map. I wanted to include as much information as I could to give the viewers the best possible idea of what they were looking at. I kept the backgrounds plain to minimize the amount of possible distractions, and I chose to use contrasting colors between my background and the text to allow for easy reading.