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MY CULTURE ART IN HEALING ACTION

A Thesis

by

FABIAN CHAVARRIA

Submitted to the Graduate College of
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

May 2019

Major Subject: Art

MY CULTURE ART IN HEALNG ACTION

Thesis
by
FABIAN CHAVARRIA

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May 2019

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ABSTRACT

Chavarria, Fabian; My Culture Art in Healing Action. Masters of Fine Arts (MFA), May, 2019, 32 pp., 8 figures, references, 9 titles.

My Culture Art in Healing Action is the study of many visions, processes, and applications of art, the role of culture on the development on a personal, social, and multilevel of society development.

Art has a major role in my life and my purpose as an artist is to advocate positive change on the lives of people around me, is my duty to promote the positive image of my people, by using my culture as a jump platform I would promote, family values, social structure, social conflict, social change, and the factors of personal development by incorporating my point of view on some of the changes we go through as a person and as an artist.

DEDICATION

The completion of my Masters studies would not have been possible without the love and support of my family. My mother, Carolina Chavarria, my father, Benigno Chavarria, my wife, Olga Vazquez, and my Professors they inspired, motivated and supported me by all means to accomplish this degree. Thank you for your love and patience.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank my family and friends for their support and encouragement over this important step on my life (listed in no particular order):

Mom, dad, Carolina Chavarria, Benigno Chavarria, wife, Olga Vazquez. Professors, Donald Lyles, Josefina Stoleson, Phillip Fields, Paul Valadez. Thank you fellow travelers!

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In the course of studying painting for the past three years at the University of Rio Grande Valley, I have found the importance of exploring different styles and media to communicate my ideas, my culture being born in Mexico move to the United States when I was sixteen years old, and go through all this live changing revolution it has affected me on many levels.

Art has a major role in my life and my purpose as an artist is to advocate positive change to the lives of people around me, is my duty to promote the positive image of my people, by using my culture as a jump platform I would promote, family values, social structure, social conflict, social change, and many factors of personal development by incorporating my point of view on some of the changes we go through as a person and as an artist.

I focused my research on some of the most direct issues that impacted me. Mexican Americans (Spanish: mexicano-americanos or estadounidenses de origen mexicano) are Americans of full or partial Mexican descent. As of July 2016, Mexican Americans made up 11.2% of the United States' population, as 36.3 million U.S. residents identified as being of full or partial Mexican ancestry. Hispanic Americans and Latin Americans are people in the United States of America who are descendants of the Spanish-Speaking and Portuguese-Speaking countries of Latin America and Spain. This are some of the many levels you find in our society referring to people from Mexican background, my question is where do I belong? I was born in Mexico move here when I was sixteen years old now I consider myself a Mexican living in

America, one of the things that I have in my life is an everyday battle of mixing culture and traditions. When I got here nothing made sense everything was new, new people, new land, new life style, and the nostalgia of leaving my old life behind was too strong, I wanted to go back to Mexico where you can smell pure fresh air, hear the sounds of the birds, see sun rise and sun set, play soccer outside, walk to school every day, those were some of the things I did back in Mexico, now found myself on a place where car is a major player in your life, you need it to go everywhere, food was different, school was different, language was different, language became one of the first barriers I had to overcome in order to feel part of this place that now I call home.

In my art work I try to express the healing power of art and life choices using different processes, media, and style, to create a body of work that will represent my culture how it was how is being changing, and how is moving forward making part of a place that now is my home. One of the media I used was oil paint on canvas my style surrealism and expressionism. Surrealism 20th-century avant-garde movement in art and literature that wanted to release the creative potential of the unconscious mind, for example by the irrational juxtaposition of images. Expressionism style of painting, music, or drama in which the artist or writer seeks to express emotional experience rather than impressions of the external world.

CHAPTER II

PROCESS AND MEDIA

Oil and canvas allows me to create unique work, the system I used to create oil painting has a very long process, it begins by brainstorming an idea or issue I am trying to communicate, the size of the canvas can affect the way you deliver the message, I use big canvas to manipulate the viewer point of view and perspective, image placement on the canvas is very important it affects the way we read messages, I use a system that I call a 3D space manipulation on a 2D picture plane, I start by creating the background first, middle images, and last the close image to the viewer, this process has helped me to be more efficient on time creation and application. I can reduce by half the time it will take me to create a painting, with this process image placement is not an issue. Oil painting takes a lot of planning, one of the processes I learned when I was on my undergraduate program was underpainting and the masters theory of space use, as well as planning by using geometry on paintings to create atmospheric space and perspective.

I learned under painting process on the first year of undergraduate school, it was taught by professor Rigoberto Gonzales, I used earth tones oil paintings for example, raw umber, yellow ochre, raw sienna, burn umber, burn ochre, and brown ochre. I use this color for image placement and value, it makes it really easy because earth tones are easy to block with bright colors, space and geometric forms on oil paintings learned with professor Donald Lyles we used master paintings theory to study space, professor Lyles has this amazing theory, basically by picking a painting from one of the old masters from any time period, begin by breaking down the

use of space with basic lines by identifying the figures that captures the eye, a deconstruction of the paintings, is a process by taking away layers of paint and explore the mechanics of the painting, form, light, eye view, background, space limitations, canvas size, image placement, eye manipulation, line, and perspective are just some of the many elements exposed when you do a deconstruction of a painting, I believe I have learned a lot using this method it has helped me to develop an understanding platform where I can relay and create better work, I have developed a unique way to communicate issues through my art work also discover old masters paintings used geometric figures to balance space, triangles, squares, circle, and many more shapes with the only purpose to balance space and create atmospheric painting. Another method they used was the grid. From the point of perspective of graphic design one clear example was the Cartesian grid is a coordinate system that specifies each point uniquely in a plane by a pair of numerical coordinates, which are the signed distances to the point from two fixed perpendicular directed lines, measured in the same unit of length. "Each reference line is called a coordinate axis or just axis (plural axes) of the system, and the point where they meet is its origin, at ordered pair (0, 0). The coordinates can also be defined as the positions of the perpendicular projections of the point onto the two axes, expressed as signed distances from the origin" (Jack H. Williamson). Here is an example that shows the use of grid on the Renaissance it is a wood cut in the sixteenth century by graphic artist Albrecht Dürer it demonstrates the use of grid visually breaks down the three dimensional image into a set of modules for the purpose of transferring and reconstructing it on another surface with the corresponding grid. It was a very important tool that supports Professor Lyle's image theory, because it breaks down a 3D dimensional image into a 2D dimensional space it gives you the tools to transfer an image with proper placement, also it helps with the transfer of angles meaning it makes it easier to draw and paint buildings in relation with a human

body or land scape form, this are just some examples on how geometry and the grid created a new revolution on the painting and drawing field, also it had other application in other fields for example engineering.



Image.1) Albrecht Durer, woodcut, 1538.

On the wood cut we can appreciate the use of the grid, it was used to make foreshortening more easily if you look close it would be a major point on the person drawing the model, without the grid the level of skill and observations needed to be master, is my believe it allowed a person to work faster, back on this time period one of the main focus was to short the time it would take to create a painting on a control environment, and this tool give the artist the potential to be more productive.



Artist: Fabian Chavarria
Image # 2
Title: Home
Media: Oil on Canvas
Size: 3 Ft. x 5 Ft.

On this painting title Home I used my surrealistic style and all the process I have learned on my masters' research, is my interpretation on the responsibility men or a women plays when they became the head of the house, according to society they are supposed to be strong and provide basic needs for the family, however we rarely think of all the problems and challenges they fight very day just to make money to provide food for their family. The lion represent the strong image of mom and dad, ready to defend his or her children, the house on the air represents the weight, and the heavy responsibility they have on their hands, the rope represents the line of life that is linked to your family and the vulnerability of life itself, people that let go of this rope

for whatever reason, makes his or her family suffer, because the main structure of the family gets broken, boat represents adventure to the know combined with the background represents the process we go through when we decide to form a family, day and knight represents the time that never stops, water for me always represent life, hope, and valance, important aspects in life to pursuit happiness, the open night and the moon, can be read as open window to happiness every single person shots for, however is open to interpretation, because every single person has their own interpretation of happiness, my message can be break down in many parts because it is not my intension to tell the viewer what to think on a direct form, it is a big message with broken connections this allows my audience to make the connections, or not and create their own interpretations this gives me the opportunity to play with my audience and make them think on everyday life choices that sometimes define who we are as a person and member of society.



Artist: Fabian Chavarria
Image # 3
Title: Reborn
Media: Oil on Canvas
Size: 3 Ft. x 5 Ft.

On this oil painting used the same process, however one of the things that inspired me to for this painting was unique, I focus my energy on one of the most common issues we have today, addictions some of the most common drugs and alcohol. South Texas is one of the most diverse in population, this means different life styles, different culture, and different traditions. One of the things that affect our population is the use of Alcohol and drugs, one of the populations that is most affected is the youth “according to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS in 2016 about 49,069 students in grades 7-12 from 99 school districts across the State were asked to report on their use of alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, illicit drugs, and over-the-counter and prescription drugs, as well as, their attitudes, extracurricular involvement, sources of information, and other related behaviors. Students were randomly selected from Texas school districts using a multi-stage probability design.” This issues capture my direct attention because I was very close to them in my family alcohol always was present, in every birthday party, family reunion, event, and everyday day life. It became so common it was not consider an issue in my family, until my father became sick of heart problems, alcohol was a major player on his life, he had an open heart surgery, he recover quickly and began a new life style without alcohol, one of the things he said when he got out of surgery was “I was born again” (Benigno Chavrria) translation to Spanish (volvi a nacer). We laugh and we comfort each other we knew at that time he was going to be fine we were happy to have healthy father with his second chance. One of the things that make me think was the fact that not all the people have a second chance or have the opportunity to born again, people with drugs or alcohol addictions died or end up in jail because the choice they made was not a good one, I know some people want to change to have a better life, but they do not know how and the people that they have around do not want to help, or simple they do not how, others denied their problem it becomes a sick cycle that either the one

parts that has the problem wants to accept and the issues becomes bigger. I have the opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of the student at my school, at the Zen Recovery Center the University of Rio Grande Valley in march 2017 I had the opportunity to present my work and give a lecture about my work dealing addiction. My approach was to represent the pleasure of addictions and in that process this painting of Reborn was created using symbolic elements of life. I began by creating a galaxy with movement with the DNA breaking a part on a, planets the eye on the planets I used to symbolized god that is observing life, water to purify and sustain life itself, a broken egg to symbolizes beginning of life, and the Bristol cone pine three to show the process of life, beautiful, full of energy, that belongs to a place and time. This painting was donated to the Zen Recovery center with the purpose to inspired other people to fight for a second chance, we are humans and we make mistakes, however is always good to be remind we are not the bad choices we made, my purpose is to inspired people to look or a personal level to look for a positive change to inspired the world

CHAPTER III

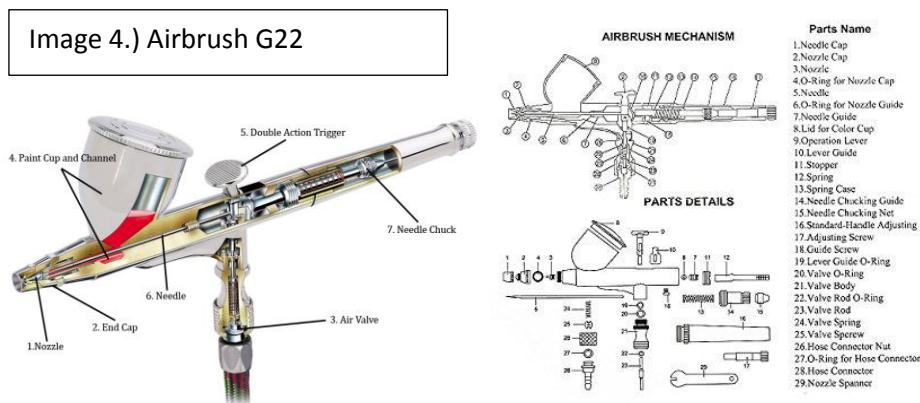
MIX MEDIA

Second process I use to create my work is mix media acrylic, paint pouring, and air brush. I used the same process as oil paintings, I start my work from back to front, in this case I do paint pouring to create the background let it dry, next image placement to create the composition in the last step I proceeded by using air brush to create clouds. The final touches on the painting I used transparent paint, this process added a special effect on my paintings. I also created a signature and style that is in all my paintings without forcing the material to become vague.

The history of airbrushing goes all the way back to the 1878 which was invented by Abner Peeler from the city of Iowa. Airbrush has many applications, for example, the first airbrush was called, a paint distributor, compare with the airbrush used today airbrush has serve as a multipurpose material used in many nonporous as well as porous. Throughout time it has developed new and sophisticated ways to be used in different fields. Poster making, photography, murals, fabric embroidery, auto painting, tattoos, and beauty industry are some example on which airbrush has developed and become successful. Nonetheless, back in the 1800's airbrush techniques were limited by the quality of the tools that were used. Today you can use different airbrushes for different jobs. Depending on the brand, airbrushes vary on the quality and performance. For my particular choice, I use Master Airbrush. The model G22 is a

multipurpose airbrush that is gravity fed. Gravity fed consists on placing the paint on the container and gravity does the rest of the job by pressing and pulling down the trigger. This

Specific airbrush can handle different kinds of paint like acrylics, water soluble, oil based paints, among many.



On image 3 airbrush G22, all of the parts of the airbrush are visible in every detail, all of the parts are infused together. One of the most important step is to keep the airbrush clean from debris by learning to carefully take it apart to clean and keep maintained in order for the airbrush to work properly this is just one example of the air brush, it is a very extensive field that has an establish language and techniques.

Air brushing can be very technical, technique and equipment care can be confusing, color is complex like oil painting, color theory is needed to achieve unique effects, also is divided in solid opaque color, transparent, fluorescent, pearl, and iridescent colors all this colors may vary depending on the brand of the paint all this factors can make a lot of difference when it comes to the quality of your work main brands of airbrush paint are createx and wicked depending on preferences for me this two work . I want to give you an introduction of the complexity of the process for every effect you want to do with air brush, there are some techniques you need to

follow, for example if you want to paint clouds there many ways you can paint them, free hand, with stencils or combination of both just to mention some, you need to build this techniques and the only way to do it is to spend some hours doing clouds, is smart to avoid some of the technical mistakes for example proper mixture of paint, good colors, and proper mixture solution to avoid dry paint on the tip of air brush, observation of clouds is as important as technical techniques, good observation is a key to open the doors on good develop work.



Artist: Fabian Chavarria
Image # 5
Title: Unknown
Media: Mix media on Canvas
Size: 6 Ft. x 5 Ft.

Image number four Title Unknown is my representation of the struggle between men and the environment it is tryptic, city on the right is the representation of the busy life of the

corporations, the small house represent the essence of life that is getting lost every day on the turmoil in the city. The image on the middle panel represent the struggle a person goes through when it is impossible to change the laws on the protection of the environment, the last panel on the left represents the massive land that is changing everyday on slow motion, the hot air balloons represent the good ideas that fly away on the thickness of society that does not seem to care on the direction that our world is going, the turmoil on the sky represents the beauty of change and the unknown, color plays a major role on the communication, blues and reds are deliberate used to communicate turmoil on the space and the textures are design to express beauty to trick the viewer and make them think giving them the freedom to choose their own interpretation, process is the way I connect with my work it shows the complex breach that is created between creator and work to convince people to change the habits of living.

CHAPTER IV

SCULPTURE

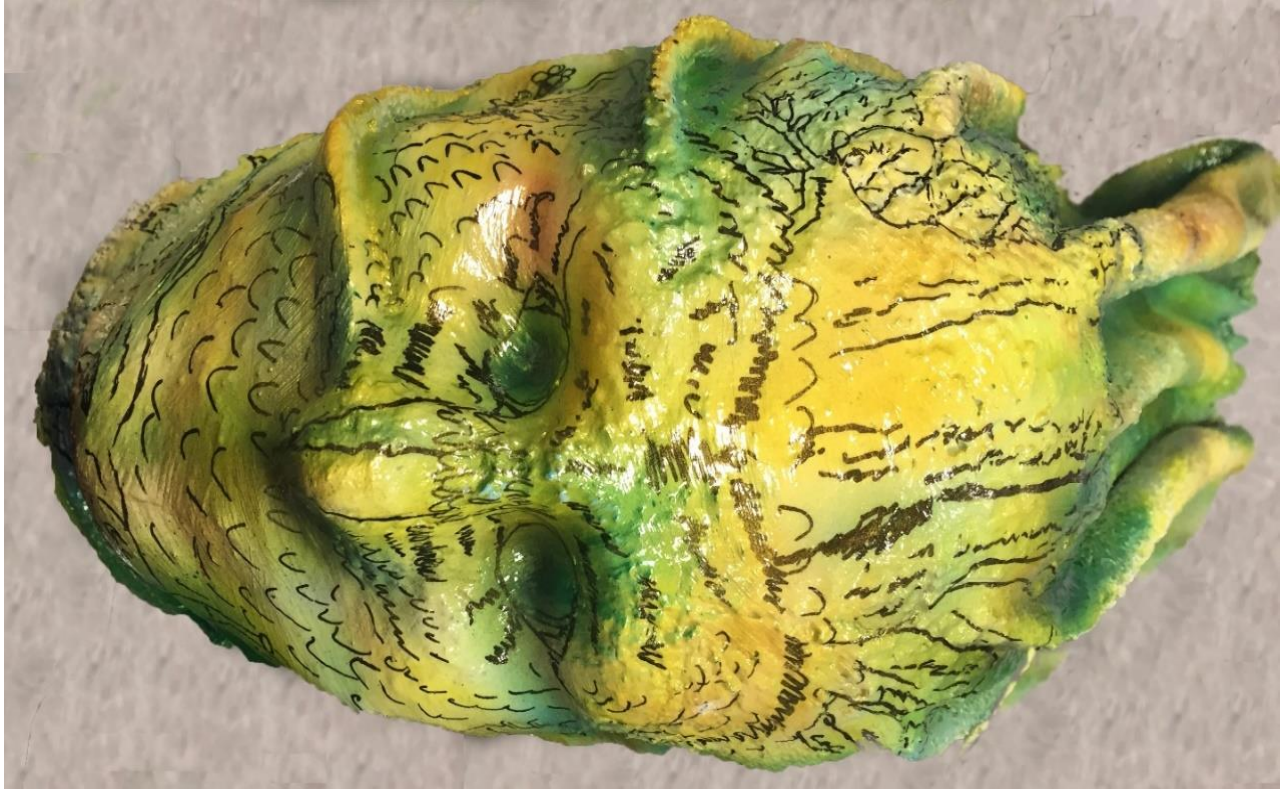
My process of sculpture has a more deeper connection with my me it confronts one of my deepest fear, it began the first time a cross a border line and I became one of the millions of people that lived on the shadows of an American system that is design to keep immigrant people on darkness. When I move to the United States I felt I was cut in two parts, one remember my life in Mexico the other was overwhelmed by change, I did not knew back then if change was good, I had to fight against immigration laws to get a new life to function as a member of society the first months in my new life I was afraid of going out thinking I may get caught by immigration and send me back to Mexico, it was not a good feeling or a good life, things change I finally got my papers I can finally felt a big weight lifting out of my shoulders, however what happens to a millions of people that are not given that opportunity for whatever reason or mistake that they made in the past, all this people stay on the shadows forever some fight against the system jut to make In off money for basic life needs, others take the easy way out, they get involved in drugs, rovers, organized crime, addiction, some died in the middle of the border line and they disappear like a sounds disappears on the distance and government does not care. Government agencies see these are just numbers or just another wet back one less problem to deal with.

I believed is my duty to bring awareness and give voice to this people, my art is my loud voice to society, I am using body towels to create this heads, mix glue and plaster, body towels

are very symbolic, they represent the smell of a person, they can be very intimate, because we use them to shower and is on every peoples home, imagine your everyday routine, you wake up shower, brush your teeth, if you are a men or women you go through a very specific routine that gets you ready to go out and be a productive member of society, you use a towel to dry your body and clean your face every day. Towels develop a personality, we choose our favorite towel, you can have a large number of towels and out those large number one is going to be your favorite. By using towels to develop my sculptures I am trying to absorbed the essence of the people that used this towels and give them a new meaning, each head represents the soul, and personality of an immigrant person dead and alive that does not have the same opportunity as we have, to get ready and be part of our society, I deliberate not giving a facial expressions to this heads I am just mimicking the round form of a head and shape, however I am using iconography from my culture to emphasized a place where this people came from, I am using animals, plants, food, color and my own life experience to help other people get out of the shadows.

Head number one image five was created thinking on one of the major issues we have in our border line here in south Texas is has all the components of need of representation, I use color green to remember the meaning of the Mexican flag hope, hope of fair representation to cut the cycle of unfair laws, however this heads is the direct representation of a dreamer that let behind his or her life, that got on a broken ship chasing a new life, sometimes full of misfortune. When I moved to the United States my life was full of fear because I did not had a plan laid in front of me, saying you are going to do just fine. My life is not been easy however I had to chase mi dreams not give up educate myself, I worry most of the time on making the wrong choice, with my work I am planning to open the eyes of people to make an educated choice for the benefit of change, my heads and my process are design to bring awareness about the struggle we

can go as a person living close to the border. When person comes out on the news making the wrong life choices we acquired a negative title and is hard to fight back to change bad images about Mexican people or Hispanic people, I strongly believed my art is my way to change bad images about my people and bring back the positive message of hard working people, characteristics we can associate with people that came here to the United States to chase the American dream, dream of changing your life with a better one by working hard and make the right choices in life, build a better future for the family your trying to make family values play a major role, I believe is essential for us to fall back on the culture we have to became a better person without giving up on the family traditions that make us unique.



Artist: Fabian Chavarria

Image # 6

Title: individuality 1

Media: Plaster on Body towel / Ink /
Airbrush

CHAPTER V

INK ON CANVAS

Ink on canvas is one of the method I am using today to create my work, ink has a life on his own made mainly to do comics or used for letters on the ancient time, I am currently using Super Black India ink and Chinese calligraphy brush on water color paper that blends beautifully, however what happen when you push those limits it can be a big success or a big failure. In the process of doing my masters my professors had given me always a positive advice about my work, one of the things that had stuck in my head and sometimes does not let me sleep is the advice of what other media or process you can use to create work, are you challenging yourself in off to say to yourself I had fail trying to produce or do the impossible, frustration is a good teacher when you are an artist it can push you to something glorious or total fail, my experience of pushing myself where you stare failure right on the face had make me a better person and better artist, right now I feel I can produce better work using many techniques I had learn along the way, ink has become an addiction for me I have felt the necessity of painting and drawing on a big canvas surface to challenge myself on production using ink, it has return the joy of exploring new ideas, it has also show me the limitations of ink on canvas, however I do not used it as excused to stop producing my work. Ink has an spiritual connection with the artist is an extension of the mind, a peace of heart, and extension of the arm, it flows on the canvas like blood runs through the veins in the body is pure energy and essence of life, without it canvas will

remain a white space and the connection would be broken, the artist would not be able to transfer life to the new creation.

In this painting image number 6 Title La Travesia I try to capture the essence of travel, I use the rooster to represent the bravery, associated with the challenge of confronting the unknown, plants are native to south Texas, Mesquite tree, dandelion to represent a wish for brighter future, I used them as icon to help me deliver my message, also to associate my painting with a place that it has a bad reputation in north states and government sees it as problem rather than opportunity to communicate positive change, immigration laws are very hard to immigrants here in South Texas , when you travel on the city is very common to see border patrol trucks on the road, if you are in the right place you may see people crossing, border patrol chasing people or local police chasing drug dealers, sometimes I wonder on what can I do to make South Texas a better place, and my answer is to promote the arts, work with arts, teach arts to open the eyes of ignorance to government representatives that makes laws based on statistics , and not of the need of common people that leave and work here on the border. The light bulb fishing is the direct representation of culture in South Texas, the orchid leaf the movement of change and progress we want in this region, the river a direct land mark that identify us on a national level. I want people to remember South Texas by the mixture of culture and the opportunity it creates to be unique, people in in this region work hard to have the American dream and I want to be remember as a type of person that never give up.



Artist: Fabian Chavarria
Image # 7
Title: La Travesia
Media: ink on Canvas
Size: 3ft x 5ft

CHAPTER VI

ABOUT CULTURAL AND CONTEXTUAL INFLUENCES RELEVANT TO MY WORK

The Mexican culture is the inspiration on the iconography behind my work, however at the beginning of my art career I was floating around, trying to find my voice, it was a long research, at the beginning I was trying to communicate my ideas using a fantasy world, I was using iconography from other cultures, like Egyptian, Greek, roman, Chinese, and much more. I was attracted to the mystic stories and great power of this cultures. I learned a lot from this cultures I created paintings that helped me to be a better artist, for that I am thank full, they have shown me the true values on my culture, I used them as comparison with my culture to understand the differences and similitudes to help me on my level of reasoning to make my work stronger.

One bird that is a big symbol in my work is the road runner, some of the characteristics of this bird are, fast and sensitive, they need to be fast to protect themselves from predators, sensitive to their surrounding as defense mechanism, they are found on the South Texas Region and Parts of Mexico. Some of the meaning of this bird from other cultures. "Tribes, Hopi and Pueblo, believed that roadrunners are medicine birds that have incredible healing possibilities. They were used as protection against bad spirits and negative energy."(Dreaming and Sleeping)

One concept that is very real on the border community is the idea of the “Migra” border patrol, on the community immigration officers have a bad reputation, and they are fear, on this idea I use the roadrunner to symbolized immigrant people that is always running from the border patrol, when people do not have the proper documentation they need to be aware of your surroundings and be fast to run from the border patrol that is identify with the key words la Migra. We need to change this image of border patrol they main purpose in to protect the border however some of the laws they inforce brake some of our human rights, for example the “SB4 is a Texas **law** that forces local governments and **law** enforcement agencies to do the work of federal immigration officers.” (aclutx.org)

Lion is another animal I use on my work, associated with strength, energy, dominion on other animals, in my work is used to symbolize strength. Chicken and roosters I used them in my work, because is a direct link with my child hood, I am planning of using cows, donkeys, horses, docks, goats, just to mention some, all this animals I had a direct interaction with them, was either by ownership or by observing them on their natural control habitat, a rooster was my alarm in my town I could hear the singing at five in the morning, I know it was time to wake up and start my day, we eat them too, as well as chicken, cows where used for milk, bulls to farm the land, donkey to carry water, goats for meat and sell to buy needs the house, swine was used for sale, all animals had a direct impact on the lives of my family and people in my culture, they are a deep connection to my childhood, birds and wild life are pure memory, they showed me the importance of life, dogs a best friend that give meaning to my runs of no direction just a run for the joy to be alive, I going to use this and more iconography to communicate purpose and action, my culture is full of them . Another field I am interested is the iconography on objects, tools, and plants, they played a major role in my culture, on the study of Mexican American we learn the

importance of all this elements that form a culture and I just got more engaged with this field, for me is a great opportunity to learn about my culture on a deeper level, and try to understand the evolution we face every day specially when we move to a different place.

The armadillo is my way to connect with South Texas, however this animal is not native from this region is from Mexico, Texas has turn in to an icon on his culture, armadillo means in “Spanish little armed one, the first armadillo recorded in South Texas was in 1849.” (Jenny Webster)

The Aztecs called the turtle rabbit, since this animal had a unique appearance and was different from all other animals, I used this animal to represent a place and the potential for adaptation and change, South Texas for me represent a lad of progress it has unique characteristics and mixture of culture and I want to communicate this image through my work.

CHAPTER VII

ARTISTS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED OR INSPIRED MY WORK

In my work inspiration comes from the known, meaning I try to understand how people think according to the circumstances of life. Some of the artist that have influence my work in many different ways, Francisco de Goya, Vincent Van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, Remedios Varo, El Greco, Henry Matisse, Raphael, Michelangelo,, Titian, Caravaggio, And Jacques Louis David. This are just some of the names of many artists that inspire me to produce art, each had its unique form of seen the world, I try to explore all the strong points and weakness of every artist and I apply in the process of making my work. For example, a painting from Goya that it got stuck in my head the first time I saw it was, Saturn Devouring His Son. “According to traditional interpretation, it depicts the Greek myth of the Titan Cronus, who fearing one if his sons he would be overthrown he ate each one of them upon their birth. This painting is one of a series of Black Paintings that Goya painted directly onto the walls of his house sometime between 1819 and 1823” (visual art cork).



Image: 8
Title: Cronus devouring his son
Artist: Francisco Goya
Dimensions: 4' 8" x 2' 8"
Location: Museo Nacional Del Prado
Subject: Cronus
Created: 1819–1823
Period: Romanticism

Goya develop a language that in the beginning I was struggling to develop, this particular painting caught my attention and I give it my own interpretation, for me is a direct criticism of power in today's society Saturn represents the government, we the people are the sons that are powerless fighting to survive. At first I was afraid of confronting some of the issues in our society, however Goya made this transition more easy and guided me to develop my own language of painting using different media, in terms of application and process, Goya help me to be more open to the use of new materials, his vision of the world and the problems it has, Goya adapt to them and explore a technique that worked for him, I am trying to do the same by exploring different media and process that works for me to help me be more efficient on the development of my art work. Every single artist I mention has help me to develop my work on a direct or indirect way, some by pushing me to try new methods and stiles of painting, others to center myself and feel proud of my family background, my culture, to push for a change, and inspired me to chase he stars and change the world.

Another artist that impacted directly in my process was Jason Pollock, he was an American painter and one of the strongest leaders behind the abstract expressionism, he develop one of the most fundamental abstract styles in the history of modern art, "detaching line from color, redefining the categories of drawing and painting, and finding new means to describe pictorial space."(pollock.org).

This process can be appreciated on my paint pouring paintings, I set the painting in the floor level, then a first layer of bright paint or dark paint is apply, paint pouring start by adding acrylic colors then mix the colors using just the air from the airbrush, most of the time I let the painting run and make its own form, others I try to make a form without forcing the process, it becomes an indirect process I try to give form without touching the canvas, color preparation

and mix need to be done prior, and is a long investment of time, however when you love what you do I always want more time on my work, you know I am being working too hard on a painting when you skip your meal time. I feel free doing this process it transform myself on to another dimension, I can feel that I am floating in between the colors, I connect with my art as Jackson Pollock did by finding reason in color, purpose in floating lines, and communication on mixture of light. I have try to learn as much as I can and one of the thigs I admired from this artist I mention, they show me a path where I can build my voice and make me a better artist I feel confident about myself and my art, and now know I am on the right path where I can make a difference and impact people for a positive change, one of the things I want to do is to help people heal from past bad experiences, one way to do it is to help and educate about some of the bad and poor choices alcohol and drug abuse can generate, jumping in to a chain reaction of unfortunate choices that if you do not get help it may be impossible to get out.

CHAPTER VIII

HEALING ACTION

One of the things I always ask my self is what is the purpose of my art? I the beginning I knew I wanted to impact people on a positive way, I want to be remember as a person that promote positive change. Art is a powerful tool to impact people's lives. My direct link with this field is to bring beauty to the lives of people, hope, second chances, self-empowerment and inspiration. Teaching for me is a one of my dreams, today all my teachers and professors are my biggest inspiration, I want to be able to inspired students and people on my community the same way they inspired me. It is amazing on the high level of respect a teacher and professor's project outside the community and school community. For example when we the students talk about our professors the amount of inspiration is noticeable, I know students that look forward to take classes with a specific professor.

One way my art can help in the healing process, is on personal level, or community base project, one example of this can be a project we develop as a group dealing with birds' preservation on the wheat lands of the city of Edinburg. On the class of Professor Donna makes us do on a group, project to bring awareness to the people on our community about some of the local birds migration and habitat, we had to make it interactive, fun, and informative art piece, my group and I decide to use a birds native to South Texas the Great blue Heron, is a very large bird, tall dark flashing on the neck and brown feathers, long and "S" shape they hunt for fishes at

the river bank, we cut 345 birds about 6 inch tall made out of cardboard, three big birds about five feet by four feet, the vision we had was to recreate a land scape full of birds, we found a good location by a river bank the birds were put on an wood stick, drill on the floor to simulate birds eating on the side of the river, another thing we used was birds feathers to symbolize a promise or a wish from people to the birds, or the environment then it was taped to the birds and we kept all the feathers with the promise writing on it, one thing that really was very amazing to watch, was the interaction of the people with the birds it became so intimate to the level they became overprotective about the promises and the wish they wrote on the feathers. People wishes or promises create a big personal connection, they take it very serious because in some way is a representation about the image of the person character, some thought it was fun other took it very serious, kids where happy to follow the example of their parents, we had fun explaining the purpose of the art installation, and it was a good response from our audience, they got informed about the preservation of natural habitat of birds and some of the benefits this birds bring to our region. It was a lot of work, however it was very satisfying see people find a connection with our natural world here in South Texas, this is the purpose of my work to find the beauty on the connections of people around us, make a better place by a direct connection with people has shown me a pad I can explore to keep motivating people to change habits on everyday life and create a change.

CHAPTER IX

SUMMARY

The journey on my master's program was extremely satisfying, it had shown me some of my strengths and weakness, and I enjoy every process of making art I experiment, I develop a deeper connection with my work, I learn we create our own limitations depending on the material and process we use to create art, this is just the beginning of a land of opportunities I have in front of me I am going to keep making work to promote change, and experiment to make my work unique.

Researching on the process I used and the materials limitations was a very important step to my paintings. The references of artist I listed on my thesis influence to experiment and take on consideration the importance of promoting arts to impact people's lives and help them heal from a broken life by bringing joy and admiration to the beautiful world we live in.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Fabian Chavarria was born and raised in Queretaro Mexico until the age of fifteen until he moved to the United States at the age of sixteen. He earned his BFA in Fine Arts while majoring in 2D studio from the University of Texas Pan American (UTPA) in 2015. Currently works as Recreation Supervisor since 2016 at the City of McAllen where he teaches for local afterschool city recreation programs. Admitted to the Master of Fine Art (MFA) program at the School of Art in the University Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV). Fabian is perusing a Master's Degree in 2D Studio Art, minoring in 3D studio art, and certification on Mexican American studies. His 2D work have been exhibited in several shows in the resent year, he also served as juror for the regional VASE High School Art competition.

His art pieces are unique on process and communication of personal and social events dealing with life choices. Color and culture plays a major role in communication in his art. The subject matter changes with the purpose to communicate change in many levels of everyday life. Local animals and trees are signature of most of his work. A light bulb Character is his personal connection with his art and his path to connect with people on his community.

With the unconditional help of his wife and family, he persevere through a full time job, family responsibilities, and creative journey always trying something new through the completion of grad school. Fabian Chavarria aspires to become one of the best art Teacher and established artist, not only local in the Rio Grande Valley where he resides, but throughout different communities where he can create a positive change using art.