HABLAMOS JUNTOS together we speak

Drawing of A Scapegoat, charcoal on canvas, 4' x4.5' 2017

NATALIE ORTIZ

Contemporary Latinx Broadsides Project

Museo Eduardo Carrillo & Young Writers Program

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Untitled Self Portrait (Scapegoat), oil on canvas, 4' x4.5' 2017

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Encircling, oil on linen, 2' x 3.5' 2017

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Natalie Jauregui Ortiz

Natalie Jauregui Ortiz is a young, emerging artist from a working class, commuter city in the Bay Area. She has worked with fervor on oil paintings for almost three years now and doesn't plan on letting the economy nor naysayers stop her now.
She has won numerous awards and grants. She earned her with a bachelors degree from the University of California – Santa Cruz.

Let's get personal. Tell us about your artwork and the importance of Latino/a artists as role-models. What education and skills are needed for an art career?
My cultural heritage is Mexican American
I was encouraged by or mentored by my mother, and painting professor Melissa Gwyn
My education/training included a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art and an artist residency at the New York Academy of Art.

What were/are your major influences?
I looked to successful artists like Monet and Frida Kahlo, from their technique to their subject matter.

How old were you when you started your artwork?
I knew I was an artist when I took my first oil painting class in 2016. Previously, I had been casually interested in art but after taking this class, I promised myself I would always take a painting class during my time at UCSC and (almost) never broke this promise.

What was the reason you started creating art?
I turned to art when I felt extreme emotions like desire, distress, joy, and love. Influential, real-life experiences have led to the creation of the goat painting. Ever since then, my art has had more significance. I use objects as symbols, such as a table with a vintage record player. I knew someone who owned one and that led me to include my own bedside table with the memory of that specific record player.

I would tell young artists… to keep practicing art and think of it as exercise. When you don't exercise for a moment, you will lose muscle and form of technique. With art, the more you practice art and creativity, the further and stronger your art will become.

What leadership skill have the arts cultivated in you?
I have very good time management skills that helps me plan out my days, tackle

multiple projects, and reach deadlines. I believe the arts has also allowed me have a very keen eye for detail.

When did you make your first sale of your artwork?
I haven't sold a painting yet! However, I am not worried about sales. During my residency in New York, I met an artist who told me she didn't sell a painting until during her time in grad school. Now, she is a living artist who makes her living on commissions with dog portraits.

How do you think art impacts our culture?
I don't think many people realize just how important art is, and how greatly it influences, touches, and impacts our lives visually, physically, emotionally, and psychologically. Art is everywhere, from our clothes, posters on the walls of buildings, to everyday products or in graffiti. Art is a language that cuts across cultures and speaks no words but can be understood by anyone and everyone.