Let’s Get Personal

Cultural Heritage: Salvadorian

Mentored by: Oscar Menjivar

Education/Training: University of California, Santa Cruz

Influences: My parents have been major influences on how I work and function in society because they have a tireless work ethic and they NEVER give up.

Tell Young Artists: Practice your craft and pursue something that you are passionate about.

Here’s the Artwork

Art Medium: Film photography

Intent of the Work: Portrait of Frankie is part of a series titled ?Soy Un Hombre? It is a study on understanding masculinity within South Los Angeles, where I grew up. It was important to me to get to know my subjects so I had them answer a survey of 13 questions on topics that ranged from gender, sex, adolescence to concepts of manhood. The community I call home can be tense and hostile; the goal of the project is to start a conversation with my subjects in order for them to express their feelings and thoughts in a safe manner.

Unique Skills: The film photography medium allows me to think of what I am shooting, I manually input all the settings and value each shot because a roll of film limits the number of shots I can take at one time.

I utilized film portraiture photography, specifically the technique of photolithography. In order to create one image it would take multiple days. I had to develop the image through many technical processes and hand print in order to achieve a final product. Working in this cross disciplinary method allows me to have more control.

Art Impacts Life: Art is a valuable instrument used to communicate amongst each other. It gives a form of communication to individuals who necessarily do not feel comfortable using their voices.

Let’s Look Closely

Look: Why do you think the artist chose to use black and white photography rather than color? Tell me about Frankie.

Notice: How would you describe the look on Frankie’s face. Do you understand what his tattoos say? What is the purpose of his tattoos? Since they may usually be covered by clothes do you think they are secret?

Discuss: Why do you think it was important to the artist to take Frankie’s photo? Does the artist know the subject well. Are they at ease with each other?

Get a Fuller Picture

A Note from the Artist: “Try to find a voice and a way of speaking, choosing which medium you want to work with will allow you to reveal things about yourself that you did not know. Stay true to yourself and never forget where you came from. Always work hard because the person that cares most about the work you do should be yourself. There will be obstacles that arise but you WILL overcome them with determination and good work ethic.”

For the full transcript please visit: http://museoeduardocarrillo.org
http://www.pajarovalleyartscouncil.org