

Thalia Agosto

Education

2019 - present
Columbia College Chicago
Fine Arts

Exhibitions

2019 Scholastic Berlin bank exhibition, Iowa
2019 IHSA, Chicago IL
2018 All City, gallery 72, Chicago IL
2018 Chiarts Juried Exhibition, Chicago IL
2018 Junior exhibition, Chicago IL
2017 Chiarts Kerfuffle, Chicago IL
2017 Bold disobedience, Weinberg Newton Gallery, Chicago IL 2017 Sophomore showcase, Chicago IL
2016 Freshman preview, Chiarts, Chicago IL
2016 All city, gallery 72, Chicago IL

Arts Awards

2019 Gold award in Drawing, IHSAA ceremony
2019 Gold key for portfolio, Scholastic
2019 Gold keys for 3 individual works, Scholastic
2018 Anderson Ranch Residency Scholarship
2017 Scholastic art and writing awards Honorable mention for still life oil painting
2017 Scholastic art and writing awards Gold key for drawing

Statement

Unlike many artists of color in modern day America, I can't really say that my own cultural identity has directly impacted my artistic choices and character greatly. I have lived in America my whole life, and so have my parents, uncles and aunts. There has been a great deal of tradition that's been watered down to fit the norms of modern American culture. Despite "watered down" having negative connotations I don't see myself being "less Puerto Rican" than my Grandparents as something bad. My current identity is one that I have accepted as my own, regardless of how my ancestors defined themselves.

In my work, I'm interested in depicting the intimacy that I have with the people in my drawings. I immerse myself in the stories of others and reflect on my own life and personal narrative. I'm always curious about the people around me, and how they change throughout their lives. This is why my current series reflects the belief that other peoples' stories are just as important as your own. The specific focus within these works is on the process of mental and emotional change over a period of time.



This piece is both biographical and autobiographical. I depicted myself as a grotesque monster of faces, looking in all directions, and holding a wine glass. The addition of a straw in the wine suggests a contrast between growing up, and looking back on childhood. In fact, none of the faces in this composition are my own. I took source imagery from my three younger siblings, to further emphasize that idea that people my age are at a crossroads with their youth vs adulthood. The color palette I used also alludes to this idea, with using mainly the primary colors.

Thalia Agosto, *Joint Face*, 2020. Colored pencil and pastel, 23 x 18 inches



Two years ago I had a conversation with a friend about emotional changes in someone as they become adults, and the negative toll it can take on a teen with a low self esteem. We may choose to fixate all of our attention on one activity, or idea, because the social interactions we once partook in, are now fleeting. Often introverts find comfort in the material world, as well as the intangible activities that surround pop culture. In my friend's instance, he found himself turning away many friends for the fear of their initial rejection, and turned his mind to schoolwork, and bettering himself academically.

Thalia Agosto, *Orbs of Concentration*, 2019. Colored pencil, 14 x 13.5 inches



This autobiographical piece highlights my struggle with social communication, and interaction. I find my comfort zone in my own head, where I can keep my thoughts and ideas to myself, without the embarrassment or discomfort that may come from sharing my thoughts to a group. I portrayed a "cozy" version of myself nestled in my brain, very warmly, and dormant, while my facade appears cold, and uncomfortable.

Thalia Agosto, *Dormant*, 2018. Colored pencil and watercolor, 19.5 x 17.5 inches