

Artist Statement

Please answer these questions using complete sentences.

1. Describe your artwork as if you were describing it to a person in another room. Use descriptive adjectives.

My artwork has an undisturbed background. However, the facial expression does not look undisturbed but rather stressed, tired, and worried. Although the facial expression is not very enthusiastic, the warm colors make the painting feel more calming and serene rather than fully chaotic and stressful.

2. What are you telling others about yourself with this artwork?

In this artwork, I am telling others that the majority of the time, I am a student who is almost always tired and doing homework. More specifically, I am a first-generation Mexican-American college student. This can be more stressful because I don't have anyone in my family to go to for help. A lot of the time it is also more stressful because I feel the pressure of having to do well in school since I am the first one to go to college. Even though school plays a large role in my life, I also enjoy other things which are demonstrated by the objects painted around me, like the blanket on me.

3. How did you use elements or design like composition, proportion, and color to make this statement to the audience?

By including a background, the statement I was trying to make became more evident. I wanted others to see I was in a public space because of the ceiling and the couch. The lines on the ceiling also start to point toward my face which helps the viewers notice my face more and the expression I am making. Although I used some cool colors, I mostly used warm tones to make this work feel a bit more intimate and tranquil to contrast with the stress on my face. The blanket also originally says "it's not easy being cheesy" but I only included the words "it's not easy" to allude to the fact that sometimes being a student is not easy.

4. How does your statement connect to the unit's big idea of intersectionality? (How does it represent the many different parts of your identity?)

This statement connects to the big idea of intersectionality because I am portraying myself as a Mexican American woman who is not just a woman, but also a student in college who sometimes seems put together even if the majority of the time I am tired and trying my best to get through school. By including objects like my blanket, I am showing that even though I am a student, I am also a person who enjoys other things like comfort, peace, and cheese!

5. How does your work reflect the work of the artist we studied? (see artist handouts) Kerry James Marshall, Emilio Villalba, Guim tió Zarraluki.

My artwork reflects the works of Emilio Villalba because he paints pictures of his everyday life and tries to find meaning in his life through his paintings. In a similar manner, I took a photograph of something I do in my everyday life which is doing homework on my computer while being comfortable. While painting this, it allowed me to reflect on life and the ways in which I choose to spend my days. I also included objects like Villalba does in his works. I included my blanket with cheeses printed on it because I love cheese and blankets and I included my computer because it contains many important things that I need in life.