

Featured Artist



Artistic licence pushes envelope

By Kirsten Springer

“Don’t ever take art out of schools, it would be unpatriotic. Just like taking the red and blue out of the American Flag,” said Natalie Gonzalez, senior at Eureka High regarding art teachers getting laid off. Art has been in Gonzalez’s life for as long as she can remember. Drawing has been her main focus in creating art, but she now enjoys photography, pottery, painting, calligraphy and forming collages.

There are two people in Gonzalez’s life that have been role models for her when it comes to art. First, a family friend named Lindsey, whom she has known since she was two, has made an impact. “I loved the art she hung up in her room. I loved watching her draw and would daydream about being as good of an artist as her someday,” Natalie explained.

The second role model to Gonzalez is her friend Crissy. “She’s a local artist and I met her a few years ago. I love her creativity, her passion, and love what she puts into her art. She influenced me to apply art into my life, not just as a hobby.”

Gonzalez described her thoughts on falling into the footsteps of other artists and the bias that can be created by the reputation of an artist on their pieces. “I don’t get attached to a select artist because I’m afraid I might adapt to their style, and be unable to have my own. If I had the choice, I would prefer my art to be anonymous, so viewers can base the opinion completely on the art itself.”

When asked what she would say to viewers who might find the nudity in her art piece offensive, Gonzalez replied, “Art is free, and if we want high school students to act as adults, we should treat them as adults, and expect them to take nudity in art in a mature way. Also, I don’t ever want anyone, including myself, to be limited when it comes to art. That’s the absolute beauty of art, and art has no boundaries.” Gonzalez said “song writers, poets, music and musicians are the core of my inspiration...Leonard Cohen, Jimi Hendrix, John Lennon, Shel Silverstein, Bob Dylan and Stevie Ray Vaughan.”

In regards to her future she said, “I know with all my being, I will follow art in any direction I go. My goal is to become an art professor and teach in India.”



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