

History of the Americas: Personal Mural by Crismery Guzman



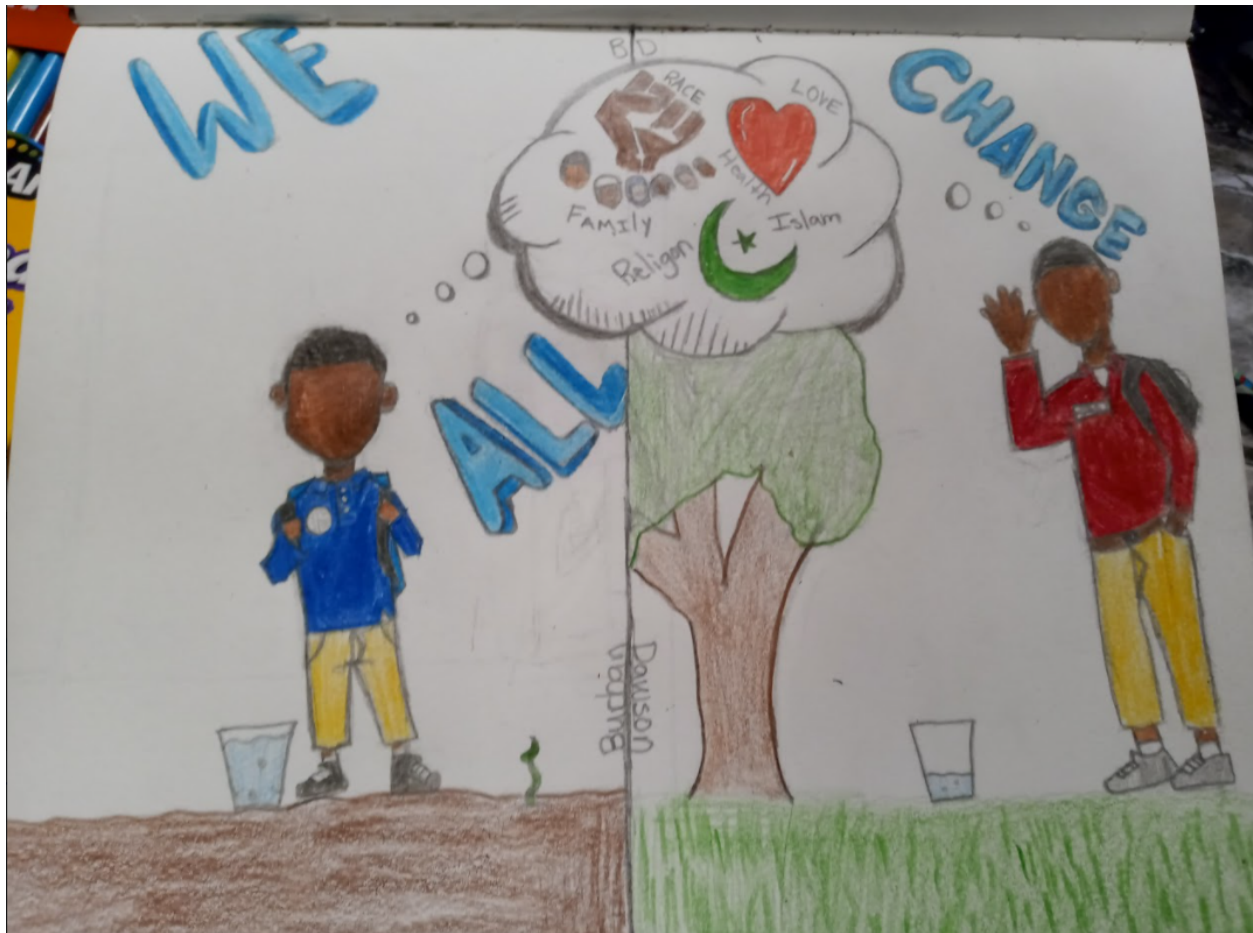
This mural means a lot to me because it depicts a part of me, something I love and enjoy, and the story behind it, but it also depicts the past behind it all and how it is affecting me today. My mural illustrates my connection with butterflies and how it developed. It also portrays how my fascination with butterflies influenced my travels away from home, family, and friends. If I had to title my mural, it would be "Mariposa traicionera." I'd give it that name because when I was about three, a song called "Mariposa traicionera" was issued, and my mother would always play it for me, and I'd always dance to it to my own rhythm. As I've gotten older, the song has become a part of me. From the age of one and a half to six, I lived in the Dominican Republic. When a bright orange

butterfly landed on my forearm during a family gathering in my backyard, I was initially terrified, like any four-year-old would be when they see an insect, but I was fascinated and felt very comforted by it. My uncle, with whom I was very close, had unfortunately passed away a few days earlier, and the song was actually playing in the background when this happened. I was captivated whenever I saw a butterfly, whether it was a real one, a piece of art, or a photograph.

When I was five, my family and I moved to Spain for four months for business, and I was given a butterfly ceramic piece by a friend of my mother's. I loved it, and the next day, a butterfly appeared in a plant by my mother's window, so I asked my mother to take a picture of me with it. From then on, whenever we traveled, whether inside or outside of a country, I would always tell my mother to take a picture of me with something involving a butterfly. I returned to the United States when I was six years old. I was sad because I missed my friends and family in the Dominican Republic, and I had to learn to adapt to new situations. It was difficult at first, but I eventually got the hang of it. The little ceramic butterfly could always be counted on to bring me comfort, and it has done so for years. Butterflies continue to play a significant role in my style, and I enjoy integrating them because they have such lovely meanings, such as liberation, peace of mind, and beauty.

My artwork/mural illustrates the earth and flying around it is an airplane interpretation of the times I've traveled to several locations in the middle of the earth. I drew a polaroid influenced image of me in it reaching for butterflies to illustrate how anywhere I'd go, I'd always take a picture incorporating butterflies. Over the earth drawing, there's a music note with butterflies to illustrate how the song "Mariposa traicionera" is important to me. The butterflies, of course, were added because they are a part of me, as everyone in my family tells me. Since the blue butterfly is my favorite, I wanted it to stand out the most. I had a lot of fun doing this mural, and it means a lot to me because it reflects my creativity, it shows a part to me. I'm glad I can share that.

The Mural of My History and Me by Burhan Dawson



During my time of making this mural there was a lot of brainstorming and what I wanted to add in the mural and so throughout my time brainstorming I found something's to share that I think are important in my life and some even represent my goals and my progression throughout my life so far. So there are many things that are in these murals that some people may not understand and that's why I am here to explain it. So, throughout this project there are many things that I would like to break down on what they mean and what they represent about my life. So first I would like to break down what I think are kind of difficult to understand and I believe that is the glass of water so as you see there are 2 cups of waters one with less water and the other with the most so what I'm trying to say is my progression and how far I've come from then to now. So, the cups of water can also represent how the cups change from a glass with a lot of water and a glass with a little cup of water.

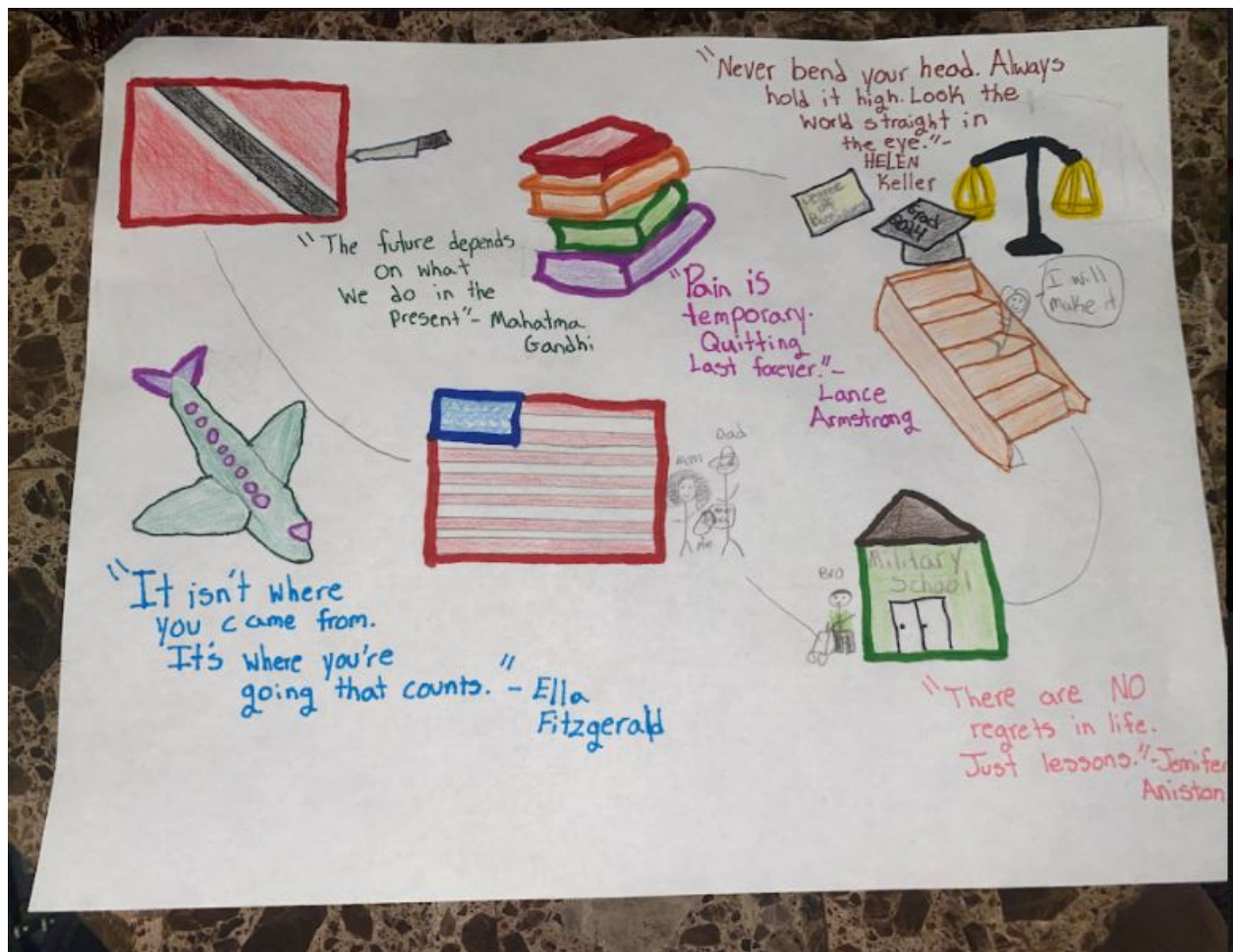
Now that I explained one of the objects I think not many people would notice now let's talk about the rest. Now let's talk about the sapling and the tree so for the sampling it shows inexperience

and not knowing as much as I do now and how I have changed from that little sapling into growing into a tree-like bush and that's why I have the glass of water which combines my mural into how my life is represented which is the glass of water being poured little-by-little, day-by-day, until my sapling grows. Now let's talk about the thought bubble or cloud, so, there are multiple things in that bubble and so time to explain. First I want to talk about my family and religion for both and they both represent me as a person and how I got this far. For my family my entire family has taught me, taken care of me, loved me, and have given me the courage and strength to make it this far. For religion me as a muslim many things have allowed me to make it this far my father and mother that have taught me and helped me when it comes to my religion what I need to do and how I need to do it and I pray and try my best to help them and my family in any way. Now for the others pieces the black fist and the heart, so both represent many things starting with the black fist that I know that many people have seen if I drew it right so for the black fist it represents, I put the word on top of it, my race and culture so many of the things that go on with colored people throughout history I have been taught that and sometimes have seen them through videos and other pieces either from inside or outside of school so this represent not just black heritage but equality and how no one can be judged or treated differently from others and some may be different and that's okay no one deserves to be treated any differently because of the way they look and we all need to be treat equally. And for the last this you see the bubble is a heart any that can represent many things when it comes to what I am trying to represent which is that it represents first love, so what I mean by love is the love of everything that is in that bubble and more (ex: my family, my religion, my hobbies, my interest, my race and much, much more) so for the heart it can be represented by everything that I love and that can also combine my mural together as it represents all the things in that bubble and in the entire art in general and all the things that I love. Another way the heart is represented is my health and well being and I hope to live long enough to achieve the goals I want to achieve, with some being to make my family proud, get a good job and have a family of my own and I hope to achieve those goal at all and that I live long enough to achieve those goals. Now. that I have represented most of these things it's time for the rest.

Finally, which is probably the most obvious and or seen in my opinion is the silhouette type of drawings of a child and a young man or teenager. So, if you didn't know this was supposed to be me, one as a child and the other as I am or would be today. Now that this pandemic is going on you haven't really seen me in the BARD uniform yet but I hope to step in front of that building proud and happy to walk in and represent this new milestone in my life. So, the child is me as a child who is experienced and doesn't know much. I would say this is me in kindergarten and how I believe I officially started school and how I have so much to learned and that this is only the beginning and kind of like today which is also the beginning as well since I haven't experience of have gone through the full aspect of life yet and even though I'm growing up I have so much to learn. For the teenager or me now it represents how far I've come from that little talkative and sometimes annoying kid to this high schooler I am now and this shows how much experience I have gained from then to now. With that it ties my mural all together and because that all represent each I put a

phrase or quote that represent this entire mural which is "WE ALL CHANGE" this phrase can represent not just my life but everyone else's because again we all change weather it be age,height,personality,anything everybody changes weather it be small or big we all do I showed that through my life and I hope it represents many others and with the entire mural explained and explaining my life now I hope that those who have seen my mural and have read this I hope that everyone understands that what I'm trying to say and represent and I am happy to share this with you all. Thank You:)

History Mural by Alisha Hamilton



In the top left corner you will see the Trinidad flag because that's where my parents were born from and that's where they met. That flag was adopted on August 31 1962 the same day that Trinidad gained their independence. The color black represents the dedication of the people by one strong bond. It also represents unity, strength, and the wealth of the land. The color red in the flag showcases a fire element and mostly expresses the country. Although it represents vitality of the land, its people, warmth and energy from the sun, and lastly the courage and friendliness of the people. The color white represents equality, purity of the country's aspirations, and the sea surrounding the island. After going to Trinidad almost every year I can say that the country has lived up to and portrays its flag in every way. However, Trinidad does have a high crime rate which leads to the little knife next to the flag so you must be careful around people but mostly everyone knows one another or in a certain type of circle which represents the color black in flag.

Next you will see a line with a plane underneath that leads to the American flag. This part is to show that my mom, dad, and sister moved to America from Trinidad to live a better life. Then on the opposite side of the flag you can see a little baby with the little Trinidad and American flag which represent me being born in America and being mixed with Trinidadian. In the next short line you see a military school with a boy who renders as my big brother going to military school to serve for America while I was born. When I grew up and found out that my brother was serving in the military I was happy because it meant that he's willing to put his life on the line to protect millions of people behind. This influenced me to become a lawyer and/or a business entrepreneur and create organizations, stores, and buildings for people in need for help. For instance, homeless people who needs shelter, food, and wants to get back on track with their lives or kids who lost their parents and have nowhere else to go so they get thrown into a mean, nauseating, unaffectionate adoption/ group homes with workers who don't even care about them nor teach them from right or wrong.

Moreover this leads to the next part of my mural which are steps to my graduation and to my college degree with my parents behind supporting me. My parents are what influence me to keep going on in my schoolwork and to work hard to become what I want to be in life which is either becoming a lawyer or business entrepreneur or I might just become both. Each of these steps represent an obstacle on my way to success and accomplish my goals. Although some obstacles I always end up failing I never give up until I succeed and it just pushes me to my limits either mentally and/or physically. Which makes me the ambitious, hard-working, helpful, adamant person that I am today. So everything I fall into, my parents always find a way to help me get back on track and the reason why I'm doing the things I'm doing now which can be beneficial for my future. This is important to me because I wanna be able to help people in need as soon as I can and better the community. To achieve that I might become a lawyer to help the people who are wrongful judges or innocent even though there will be time where I will have to stand up for the guilty but to me I feel as though there's always two sides of a story and you never know what a person is thinking or going through. On the other hand I might become a business entrepreneur and create different types of business that both benefit the community for the greater good.

The last part of my mural is different kinds of books. This is to signify that I like to read both freetime and school time as long as it is interesting and leaves me to keep reading more. Yet when I read I feel like it influences me to keep my standards high and that I should keep a blind eye on things. It also has made me become wiser than I was before and see things that I wouldn't normally see in the world. In fact reading keeps me alive and entertained with new pieces of knowledge and moral lessons that I can either teach to another or use in certain situations. To conclude, my mural is basically showing the start of me and my dreams, aspirations, and what I like to do.

My Mural by Mi'Aysia Richardson



My family comes originally from South Carolina, music helps me separate the good and the bad in my life. Music is my escape from the world, it help[s me take a breather when I need it. Some of the artists that I included have helped me build up my music taste to what it is today. Music helps many people express themselves in a way that they couldn't in words, music hnek,lps many people relax and may say it's their therapy. The water represents the barriers between my life which is reality and music. It may seem like I use music as a mask for things in my life, when in reality the music helps me deal with things that seem hard at first. It helps me let go and teaches me things in life that I need. Music helps me keep going and remember that all of this hardwork will pay off in the future, music keeps me calm and helps me complete work and keep my eyes on the prize which is my future. My mural also shows the barrier between the water and grass which is sand. The water represents my hopes, dreams and music, sand represents reality and doubt between the two, and grass represents the problem, disbeliefs and what ifs.

I wrote my inspiration three about Aretha Franklin, Barab Streisand, and the rock band Queen. They are all classified and considered musicians, they teach me and people who listen to their music to not limit themselves, live everyday like it's your last. If you want something push yourself and don't second guess, not to be distracted from the bigger picture. Let little things go, work hard and prove them wrong. Not to let opportunities pass you by. Aretha Franklin is known as the Queen of soul, unfortunately she died in 2018, it was a beautiful service for her too. She was in the Rock and Roll hall of fame in 1987 and the first woman to do so. Her genre was classical soul, she's from Memphis, Tennessee. She is a very strong role model for black women today, she had her first child at 12 years old and still was able to build up a strong career. She is one of the most honored artists in Grammy history. She had a very strong voice which encouraged many people to listen to her. She sometimes sang about black women struggles which pushed her career even more forward.

Secondly we have, Baraba Streisand the woman who helped included Broadway and originally helped form it. Barbra Streisand, she is still alive and known as one of the best Broadway actresses. She didn't go to college, she moved to Manhattan and worked as a cabaret singer. Born in Brooklyn, Streisand had a painful childhood but she later took that pain and turned it into a successful career on Broadway. She is t6he reason why I became interested in Broadway. The show "Funny Girl" in 1946, she appeared in it for more than 2 years, this was the show that landed her her first Tony Award nomination. I watched a clip of it one day on youtube and it encouraged me to watch other shows of hers and even some of them on Broadway. This sparked my interest in Broadway. After this in 1987, she not only produced but wrote music for the film and starred in the film called, "Yenti with Nuts." She went from singing in a shop, to becoming one of the best singers in Broadway history. She worked for her career and didn't let any opportunity pass her by.

Thirdly we have the rock band named Queen, Queen is a four member rock band formed in the 1970's. John Deacon left the group after 1991 because his band member, Freddy Mercury's death was too much of a loss for him. Queen deals mainly with rock and roll with occasional opera. It's partly responsible for my music taste. They have opera and rock & roll in their music. If it wasn't their music that drew me in then it was their backstories. Starting from nothing and building a career, they had ups and downs in their career and their group, but in the end they pulled together and continued their career. Their music inspires me to keep going and I believe I was introduced to them by my oldest brother. He told me to listen to their song called Bohemian Rhapsody and then I did my own research and found more. I enjoy listening to artists from forgein places also so finding this group a couple years ago was something I never knew I needed. It's hard for me to sometimes separate the artist from their music, but listening to this group I couldn't separate them because I admired this group and somewhat looked up to Freddie Mercury. He died of a disease back in 1991, it was a grave loss for his group and people who were influenced by their group, there are 3 members still alive. This group was the reason that I enjoyed listening to rock and roll.

I look up to many people still, but these are the three musicians I feel have mostly influenced my interest in all kinds of music. Even though Aretha Franklin's genre of music wasn't blues, she still influenced me to go and try to listen to some and that's how I found Etta James. I don't really listen to Arhtea Franklin or Barbra Streisand music but I know that if I heard them sing or watch something of theirs. Then I would know that it was them. Freddie Mercury had a unique voice, the same as Christina Auguleria. All of my music choices tell me how to separate reality and everything that may be bad. So that I can always make the best out of situations and if you can't then to write a song about it. These artists made a big impact on millions of people and the genres they use to write their music. Their inspiration, to keep going and put your heart into what you do, follow your dreams, live everyday like it's your last, look back on situations, and to let your music have meaning. All of these artists always teach me to put my best forward and my heart into what I do, not to let every opportunity pass you by and to not let little things distract you from, your main goal. My mural also relates to the Mexican mural because the same way that people got inspiration for their art from them, the same way I get inspiration for my love for music.

My Mural by Freya Grant



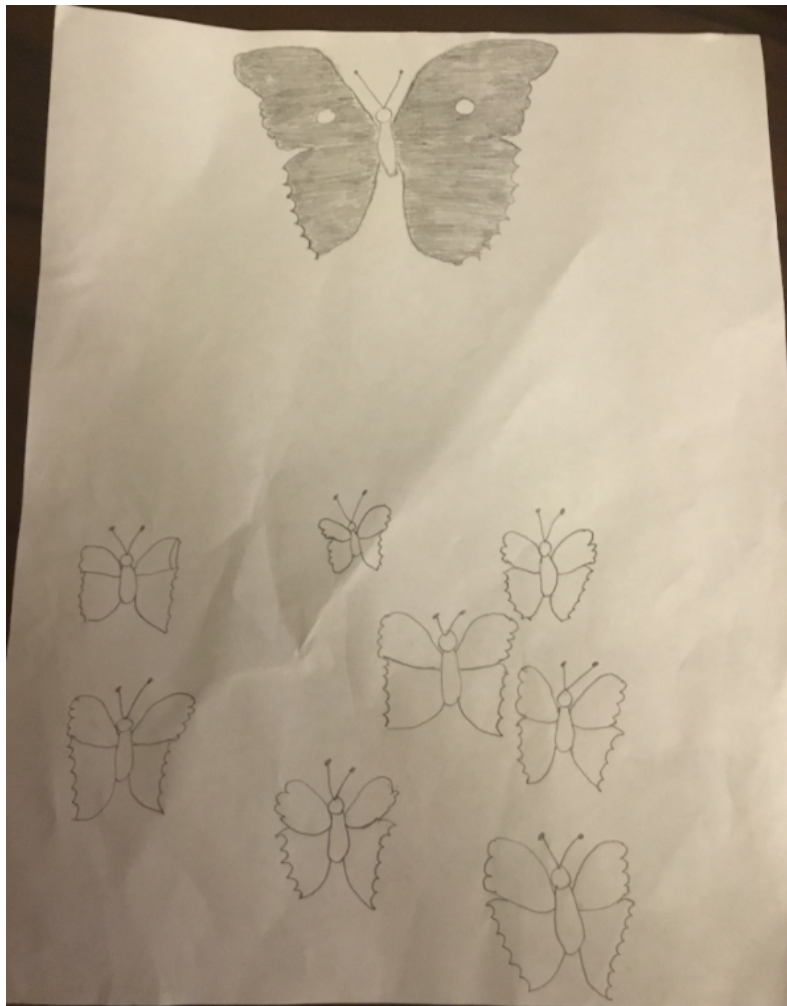
The flag on my mural is the flag of my hometown "Guyana". It is where me, my mom and most of my family are originally from. Guyana is a 3rd world country, it is rich in mineral resources and large agriculture. Each color of the flag represents a trademark about our country. The colours are symbolic, with red for zeal and dynamism, gold for mineral wealth, green for agriculture and forests, black for endurance, and white for rivers and water. Since Guyana is a place of many races it was kinda easier for me to adapt to the new environment I was in when I came to America. The first people to settle in Guyana were the Amerindians (11,000 years ago), followed by the Indians who came in the year of 1838 as sugar plantation workers and lastly the Africans were brought in by Dutch settlers to work on the plantations. The computer on my mural is to represent the education in Guyana for example chalk boards in Guyana we do not have such advanced technology so we do not have smartboards. When it comes to learning in school they do not have computers to give students, so research is done by book and not on a computer where you can search world wide in just a click of a button.

My Mural by Afolashade Adeneye



Look at this picture what do you see a head of hair,a black girl,the angle of the camera? Well I see a person. A person who struggles with a lot. Has a lot of thoughts. And is trying to find themselves. A person who struggles with religion,culture,school,and overthinking. But she is more than that. She is 14 year old Nigerian american who loves her Hair culture, God,family,and many artists for example Giveon,J cole Lauryn hill Burna Boy and many more. But would you know this by just looking at me. No you wouldn't you would need to know me to understand these things. And I think its sad that we judge people when we don't even know them.

History Mural by Cavay Pitt



My mural is a metaphor, but I can be interpreted in more ways than one. As you can see the big butterfly is different from the rest of the butterflies. You can say that the other butterflies saw the difference and were afraid of it, so they chased away the other butterfly. This can be seen in real life when people are afraid of something they offend, hide it from the public eye, or make it feel like it is less than something else... This is a bad habit that humans have acquired, we tend to make something seem not as good as something else even if we do it to ourselves. We might do this in our heads or out loud, to other people or to ourselves. When someone does this out loud this can be called bullying, it can also be intentional to bring that other person or group down, but sometimes the person may not even realize what they are doing, but that does mean it hurts the person being bullied any less. So when you see this image you can think that the big butterfly is being chased away because it's different and people are afraid of it.

Another way you can think of this is that the big butterfly is a leader, the leader that has captured the mind and souls of the people following them. The Big butterfly can be the leader that the others have been waiting for, so they are straying away from their old ways to follow the new leader. The leader has offered a different, and better way. You can see this in the real world as well when people think that they found a better easier way of life they will jump. They will jump at the chance for something new, better, simpler. For example; A man might cheat on his wife:

- 1) Found easier to put up with
- 2) Found someone he thought was better than the woman that he originally had
- 3) he wants something/someone new (maybe commitment problems)

So you see, if you offer people simpler, better, easier, or maybe even new ways they will take it. So you can think of that image as the people following a new leader for those exact reasons.

On top of that you can look at it from a protective point of view, people chasing away something that is dangerous. The butterflies can be chasing away the big butterfly because it is a threat to them, and the ones that they care about. The butterflies are the ones who are brave enough to step up and fight. While the others are safe, this applies to real life as well. Like when people sign up for the army they go out and fight so that we don't have to. They go and risk their lives so that they can protect all of ours. They are the brave butterflies going up to the front lines to serve and protect. While we stay back where it is slightly more safe, we can live life to the fullest.

Last but not least you can see the big butterfly as the one who is afraid. The butterfly can be someone who is not used to people being there for them, so when there are people there they don't know how to handle it and run away. The butterfly can be that person who has been used to handling things on their own, they push people away because it is something new and weird for them. They might run from it, simply because they may need more time to adjust. Or simply because they are the type of person who just doesn't know how to accept help from others, and just wants to do things on their own.

In conclusion my drawing is an abstract drawing, it can have one or more meanings. They can be as simply as you want, or as deep and personal as you want it to be.

my pass made me the person I am today

700

11 Yesterday was history, Tomorrow is a mystery but today is a gift

Keep going

Never Stop

Stop crossing oceans for people who wouldn't jump puddles for you

LOGIC

SGT. AT. ARM

NEWARK

I sold

These mural essays were created by Jazmin Puicon's students as part of the spring 2021 Pulitzer Center Teacher Fellowship program on Stories of Migration

The thread quoted that i follow is “yesterday was history, tomorrow is a mystery but today is a gift” I see this quote as a challenge that i have to improve my gife each day. My actions affect my gife,so if I do good today, my gife would be better than the gift I had yesterday. If i continue this process then my future gife would satire me to the fullest.

The fourth quote that impacted me is the quote “ My past made me the person I am today” people would try to put me down from things I did in the past but those are the things that made me the person I am today and I'm like who I am today.

The last quote is “ don't cross oceans for people that wouldn't jump puddles for you.” This quote made me realize that I shouldn't depend on people for everything, even the smallest things.

Religent

I don't really know too much about my religent all i know is that I am a isrealite and basically that means that i'm a chill of god.

Fun Facts

1. I do not like wearing the mask
2. I was safety protroll 6th grade through 8th grade
3. 8th grade i was given the name Sergeant at arms and was in student council
4. The 100 mean that i'm a type a person that will keep it 100 with you and i hope you would do the same for me
5. The health ket mean i like helping people
6. I box and i have been doing that since the begging of 2020
7. I like poetry and playing guitar. I even write my own poetry sometimes.

The people that influence me

Starting the first person that influenced me is rapper and influencer logic. Logic is an African American rapper that influences many people like me through his music. Not only is he a rapper, but he is also a motivator and he talks about things that he thinks people should hear to make them feel like they are not alone and that they have someone to relate to. Logic said that we as people should” get out of our comfort zones and talk about everybody's struggles so we can understand one another. Even struggles of his own.” Logic was bullied because of his race. He had a black father and a white mother, he came out with the same skin complexion as his mother but didn't have the same wooly hair as his father which caused people to make fun of him. White people called him the n-word and black some black people didn't like him because they thought he was trying to” act black” even though he was. Because of the experiences Logic wanted to make

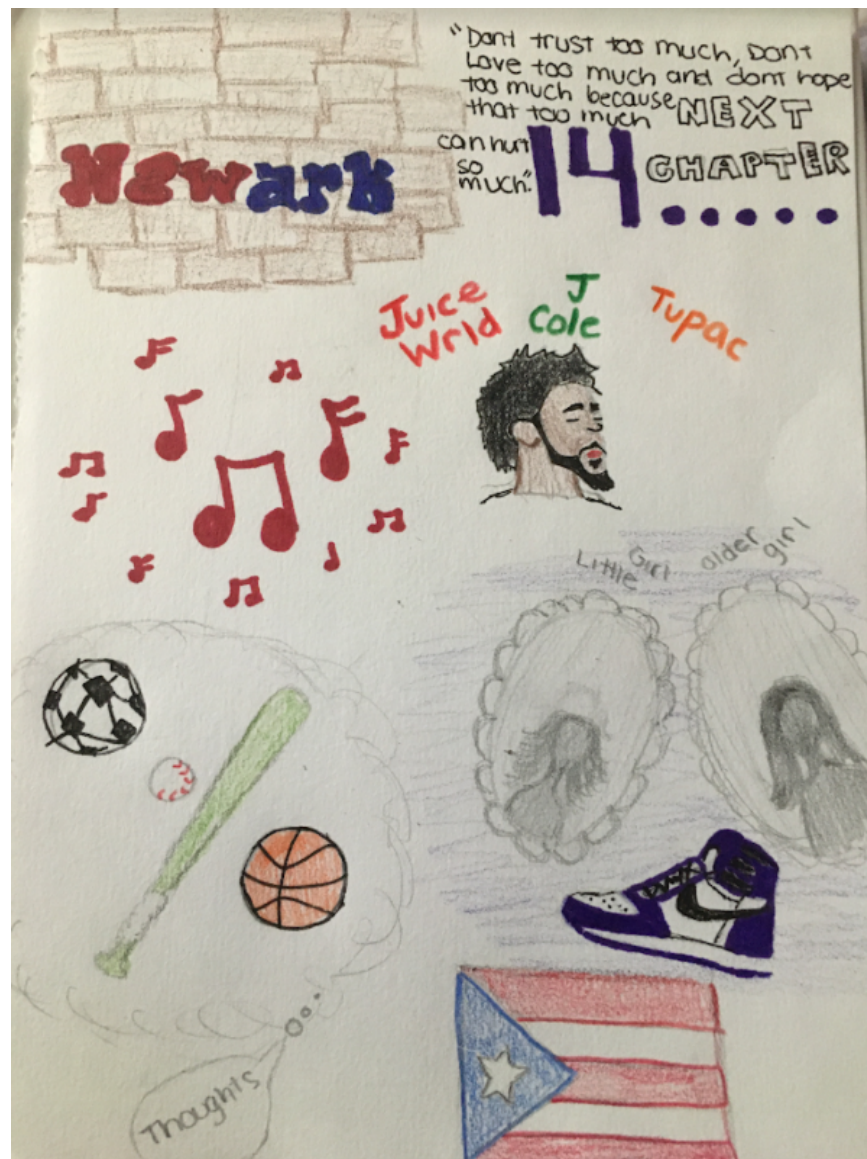
music that he thought people could relate to and to see if he was the only person that went through these things. Songs that I can relate to that he made are "Black spiderman" "Everybody" "Take it back" and "America" Hearing these songs made me think oh I'm not the only one who's thinking this, and maybe if I speak up other people can relate to me too and that is why he influenced me.

Next person that influenced me is rapper j.Cole. J. Cole influenced me to appreciate the things that I have right now. J cole is a wise rapper in my opinion.He talks about success and how it's "Never enough of success to gain in a lifetime" and that we should want more than success. He also talked about what's important in life. I remember when I was little I would always say that I would make a lot of money and be big when I'm older and do all these amazing things for my family but money isn't really important. The important thing is to "Never lose sight of the blessings you have already". You don't have to just look for success in life you should look for happiness and love and that's what j.cole taught me to do.

Finally the last person that influenced me is my 8th-grade math teacher Ms. Burton. I knew Ms. Burton when I was in the 6th grade and I would always sneak into her class and ask for help in math. She was a chill and nice teacher and was always ongoing and full of energy. She would be real with her students and talk about things we should fix in our lives so that we won't walk the wrong path. She would even be real with us and talk about things she went through in life that she doesn't want us to go through when we get older. Ms. Burton influenced me to never give up and to be persistent and excel high. I was texting her the other night and told her that I was doing this mural and wanted her to be one of the people that influenced me and she was so happy that I picked her and She gave me 5 facts about her that you guys might think this cool.

1. She a vegetarian
2. She does Martial arts: First African American female contramestra and has a 1st degree in master rank on the east coast of USA of capoeira and a first purple belt in the Elijah Brazilian jiu-jitsu Gracie system.
3. She speaks 4 languages which are English Portuguese, French, and patwa
4. She is a traveling artist (she is a dancer and musician) with west African and Afro Brazilian suites she plays the drums
5. She has been happily teaching mathematics in Newark public schools for 19 years.

My Mural by Taina Lamutt



This mural I made has many things here as you can see and some have deeper meanings and some just have general things about me. So starting off with Newark I wrote that there because I grew up in Newark for my whole life. Yes Newark is not the best place but everywhere you go it's not good. There's going to be cruel things happening everywhere and that's just something you can't run from. Next I wrote 14 because that's my age and specifically purple because that is my favorite color. My birthday is September 19. I was born early as a child making me a preemie baby. The next chapter means the next chapter of my life begins when im 15. Above that I wrote "Dont trust too much, dont love too much and don't hope too much because that too much can hurt so much." I personally learned that the hard way. Before I let many people in my life easily and trusted them

with a lot in me which is where I messed up and had many friends but you can't trust people easily. I realized that and cut many people off and that led me to have 2 friends and they are there for me through anything. We grew up together and now we are a close little friend group. Next thing is the music notes and artist names..... The artist you see there are my 3 favorite artists to listen to. Music helps me get through things. These are the three main artists I would listen to when I need to hear music. And that is me attempting to draw J cole as shown. Next I wrote the word "Independent", I wrote this because I'm a very independent person and I don't depend on anyone for anything. Being independent can be a good thing but with me I am so independent where it just becomes a bad thing. Next thing shown is 2 mirrors one says little girl and the other says older girl. What I meant by that is when I was younger I was very different then what I am now. The young me thought my life was easy there are no problems to deal with when I got older or anything. But when I got older problems started happening... life wasn't easy... and i learned that this world is a very cruel place and there are things I have to look out for. The soccer ball, baseball bat and ball, and basketball were all sports I used to play before. I'm looking forward to playing softball but I'm not sure if I'm going to be able to play again. I played basketball in 8th grade soccer in 6th grade and I don't remember the last time I played softball. Next thing that I drew was air force ones called court purples and I love these shoes... These are my favorite shoes. The puerto rican flag I had to put because I'm full puerto rican. And lastly the thing shown is "thoughts" with a bubble around in it that has a very deep meaning in my life. I'm always thinking no matter what everyday there's something to think about and it's never good. Mentally I'm not the best in my mind but I still handle it. That's where the music comes in so I listen to music to feel better.

My Mural by David Sanchez



Before I start and talk about my mural. I just want to say that making this mural hasn't inspired me to do this, but throughout my life a very few people have inspired me which is a rapper named Polo G because he is very influential in music which shows a lot of meaning to it that relates to real life situations. He shows a lot of compassion, and he has that calm tone voice that is very easy to vibe with in his music. In one of his songs "Finer Things" what he says, "Don't pay them haters no mind, you can be what you like, Tryna leave this in the past grinding for a new life." He says you can be whatever you want in life because you have potential to be anything that leads you to success. So don't pay attention to the people that are praying on your down-fall, thinking your nothing because a nobody is somebody.

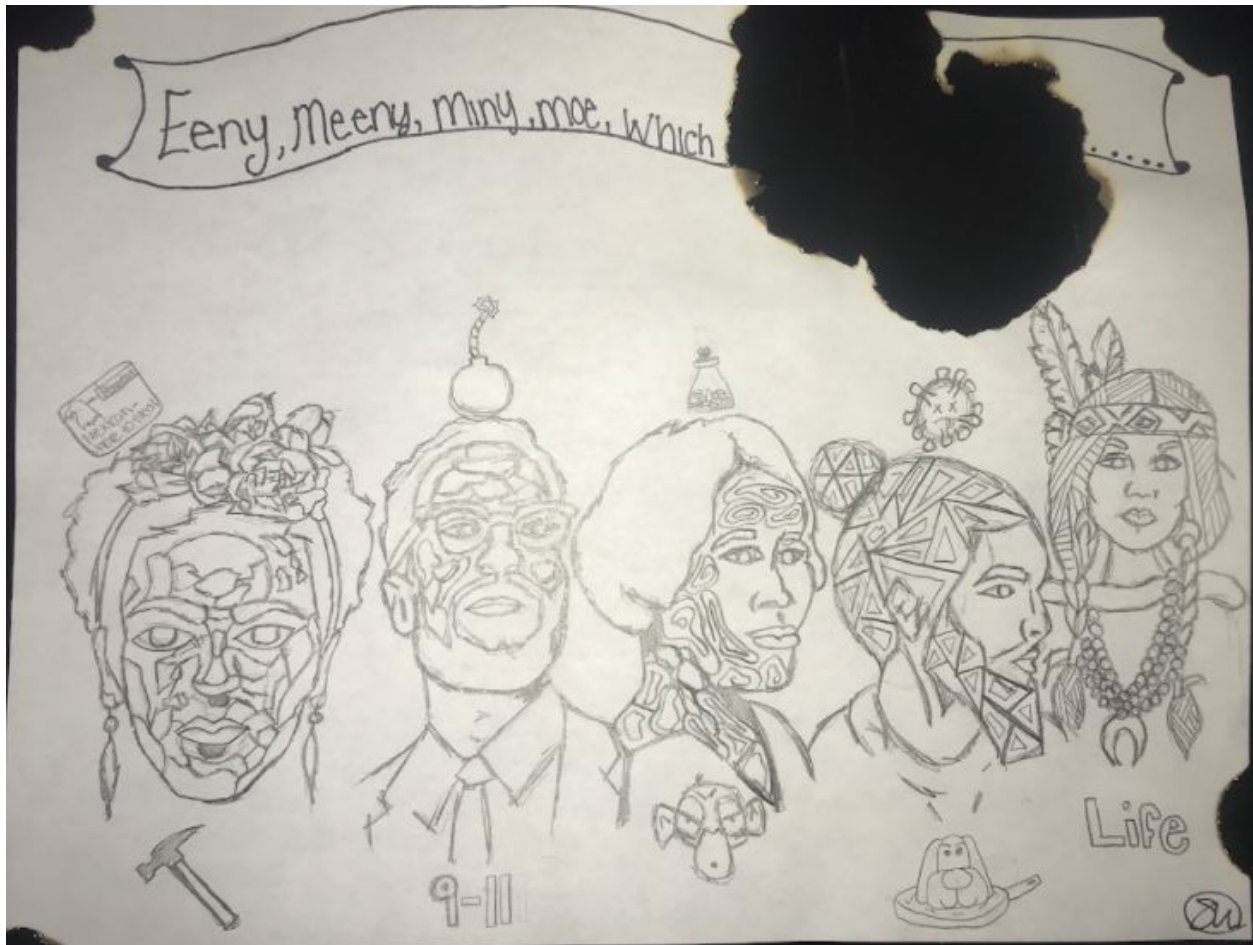
Another thing that had inspired me in life was something that I watched on youtube and it was a video of someone who just started working out at home, and as I continued watching, it hit my head, and out of nowhere I was motivated enough to start doing 100 push ups. As I finished it I felt accomplished, and started going to the gym because that's what drove me to change for the better. Also the last thing that has inspired me is myself because I keep pushing myself everyday and always try to encourage myself even on the worst days. I have to keep positivity around me, and not let negativity take control.

I am finally going to introduce my mural which is an image of a dominican flag and an Ecuadorian flag that represents what mixture I am. It also shows that I am proud of that because it's my culture and is different because I know my family were born on the caribbean islands, and I take that as a good thing. Also the flag represents it's language as well, that is a spanish speaking country, which I both speak spanish and english fluently Also the food is exquisite, which is something I love about it. This is something that I take pride in as a Hispanic/Latino person. Another image you'd see would be a car that has a lot of speakers in the back.

The thing is the car should be represented as a Honda aka hondeezy is what I like to call it. The meaning behind is that in my culture many dominicans in Dominican Republic sees as a Honda as a lamborghini because of its looks and how fast it goes. It's a luxury thing to us and the speakers in the back are amazing because a lot of people, mostly Spanish people that I know of play very loud music that is mostly Spanish music that just a vibe that gets people lit while blasting the music sounds to your ears . It makes it very enjoyable and fun at the same time. The other image that says "DEMBOW" which basically is like a style of hip hop spanish music, which I also dance to as well.

It's like when something comes for a dembow, it has to be that spicy music that gets everybody hype, like a Spanish rapper name "El Alfa, El Jefe", which is like mostly to be good when you are at parties. I listen to this a lot in my household when my brother's friends chill and mind their business. The next that you would see in the image is an emoji, but not just regular emoji. It actually represents a lot of positivity but shows like you goofy at the same time. It brings out joy out of you as a person and could be represented as a joke or when you do something that brings out the hype out of everyone especially when you're in a group. It's usually said "Shaaaaa Sheeshhh" to represent that emotion. I do this a lot with my friends, when I go outside and play basketball with them.

Armageddon by Shariah Marsden



The name of my mural is "Armageddon," and it focuses on racism, discrimination, and oppression. I named it this because it signifies that we are currently living through the final battle between good and evil before the day of judgment. The topics are critical to my family and me because we see a different act of racism, oppression, and discrimination happening around us every day. Not only to African-Americans/Black people but also to POC in general, and every day we become more and more hopeless about the fact that we protest, sign petitions, spread awareness, and yet our voices are never heard. This mural is not only dedicated to society but also to my family. The mural was largely inspired by the Big 3 muralist; David Alfaro Siqueiros, José Clemente Orozco, and Diego Rivera, the FAP and the WPA. The Big 3 painted about the truth in what they say, they exposed social, political, and economic problems. The FAP and the WPA recruited artists during the Great Depression to capture the effects the tragedy had on society. The artists did not sugar-coat what they saw; instead, they captured the essence. They captured the truth. I wanted my mural to be exactly like this; this is what I want people to notice when they look at my art. The mural consists of 5 different people, all of which are different races, ethnicities and have different beliefs;

surrounding them, we have various stereotypes that are commonly associated with people of that race. On the far left, we have Frida Kahlo; she was a Mexican artist who painted portraits inspired by the nature of Mexico and self-portraits that showcased internal problems she was battling. I included her in the mural because not only did I want her to represent the Latinx community, but because I also admire her. I love how she was not afraid to paint precisely what she felt, what she was going through, and the stuff that nobody could see. Encircling Kahlo, there is a green card and a hammer. The green card signifies the stereotype that Latinx people do not deserve the same rights as U.S. citizens because they bought their way here, and the hammer represents how people think that Latinx people only come to the U.S. to steal their jobs and their money. Next to Kahlo, we see Malcolm X, a Muslim/African-American activist and minister. He is a part of the mural to embody Muslim people, and because he greatly influenced me, Malcolm X did not have the most straightforward adolescent years, but he still managed to rise above the ashes, he fought for what he believed in shamelessly, and I admire that about him. Circling Malcolm X, we see a bomb and the numbers "9-11" These both represent how often Muslims are accused of being terrorists and are being blamed for the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001. Next, we have Madam CJ Walker, who represents the African-American/ Black race; this amazing woman has inspired me in such a fantastic way. Not only is she the first female self-made millionaire, but she is also an activist, philanthropist, and entrepreneur. She continued to persevere through all the obstacles that threatened to hold her back, and now even today, she has such a positive impact on people. In the vicinity surrounding Walker, we have a bag of pills and a monkey. The pack of pills stands for how people think that all African-Americans/Black people are drug addicts/ drug dealers that will get nowhere in life. The monkey depicts how often African-Americans/Black are compared to monkeys. It also represents the excuse people use to justify slavery; they claim that because African-Americans/Black people are basically monkeys, it was okay to torture and oppress them for centuries. Next to Walker, there is a person who represents Asian-Chinese-Japanese people; above him, there is a virus-cell, and below him, there is a dog head in a pan. The virus cell is associated with how people have been calling coronavirus the "Chinese virus" and often blame Asian-Chinese-Japanese for the pandemic from which we are suffering. The dog ties into that as people seem to think that Asian-Chinese-Japanese people eat all different kinds of animals such as dogs, cats, bears, monkeys, turtles, etc., and they believe that this is the reason the virus started in the first place. Lastly, we have a woman who embodies Native Americans; beneath her is the word "life." I put that word because Native Americans are generally treated terribly; their problems are invisible and overlooked by everybody. Hundreds of thousands of Native-American women and children go missing every year, and nobody knows about it, and the people who do know don't do anything about it. At the very top of the paper, the words, "Eeny, meeny, miny, moe, which one of us is next to go," are printed on a banner with the rest of the words and the banner burned out. The burns signify how people try to hide the deep-rooted racism and discrimination that flows throughout our country. Meanwhile, the saying represents how we are being picked off race by race, day by day; this is "Armageddon."

My Mural by Cayla Friday

