



Saint Peter's University

Spring 2020

Undergrad Senior Thesis - Visual Arts Major, Art Graphics
Minor

Broken Beauty

Yenerys Guzman

Yenerys Guzman, a painter in the truest sense. My versatility with different mediums leaves you knowing I am a master at my craft without any doubts. Whether it be for a client or my own artistic expression. My work is motivated by the painting series "*Broken Beauty*". A three-piece series of acrylic on canvas work. Female beauty inside and out, takes a huge part of the series created. As an inquiry into and intervention upon what constitutes to my paintings, how they are constructed, how they function, etc. Through an investigation of painting as a genre, I formally create artworks surrounding the field. With a major in visual arts and a minor in art graphics, I can conclude that I can create many artworks using different mediums not only on canvas or digital. My college experience taught me the many ins and outs there is to art.



















little
brown
boo











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BA Statement

I am a painter in the truest sense. My versatility with different mediums leaves you knowing I am a master at my craft without any doubts. Whether it be for a client or my own artistic expression. My work is motivated by the painting series "*Broken Beauty*". A three-piece series of acrylic on canvas work. Female beauty inside and out, takes a huge part of the series created. As an inquiry into and intervention upon what constitutes her paintings, how they are constructed, how they function, etc. Through an investigation of painting as a genre, she formally creates artworks surrounding the field.

Being very hesitant, not knowing if art is going to be just a hobby or a career, it slowly became my favorite thing to do. From my first commissioned painting to creating my own company, I have overcome many challenges. Learning new techniques and taking criticism from clients has helped me become the artist I am today and will only push me to be a greater artist.

Back to my years in elementary school, I had just entered a new school with a new neighborhood, students, and teachers. Being around individuals I was not familiar with made me zone into a more enclosed, secluded state of mind. The unfamiliarity created a negative energy that I took into account. Such negativity made me settle back into a point where I was not comfortable with showing off my creativity. I started to take a couple art classes still immensely terrified of what was to come with the environment around me. Noticing the passion that was starting to develop from painting and drawing was what inspired me to continue. I joined my

first art contest with minimal work that consisted of a couple of sketches and unfortunately did not win. But with that loss, I gained the push I needed to keep on moving forward.

Taking my first loss into account, I purchased my first sketch book and began to take numerous art classes to further strengthen my skills. Beginning middle school/high school, I began to join several art contests at a time and began to win. Winning these contests was not something I expected at all simply because I had never had the confidence to push myself to that destination. Within these academic levels, I began to push myself into taking multiple art classes at a time to become familiar with the basic skills and tools professional artists learn today.

Just the beginning of the year 2015, I have successfully finished my first painting. With that same painting, I have initially commissioned it to a client. The push I had from my teachers in school made me not want to withdraw from painting so I continuously made various paintings and began to auction them off. With social media being such an influential part of today's generation, I use social media sites like Instagram, and Facebook to auction off my paintings which has helped my client list increase.

Painting has become my main love and passion for art in my Visual Arts degree. In the many years of painting, I have gone through many different brands and materials to help me become a better painting. What I believed to be the perfect tools for me to create a painting was using the paint brands Golden Paint and Anita's Paint for my acrylic paintings . Brushes and canvases vary in sizes depending on what I would like to paint or what my client is looking for. Portraits are mainly my focus when painting with the use of oil paint for and skin tones and acrylic paint for any backgrounds.

Today, I now produce my own business, Art By Yenerys, where I commission all new paintings weekly. Currently in the process of a major in Visual Arts, I decided to pursue a minor in Graphic arts. I believe that in today's time social media has a big impact in any industry. I would post on social platforms such as Instagram and Facebook. When I post these paintings I include the name of the painting, the medium used, the size, and hashtags. I would use hashtags that relate to the painting to get more viewers to see my artwork. I have been commissioned for my art since 2015. My learning another world has been very challenging but it will only help grow as an artist learning how to bring my art alive in a digital format with the use of Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign, and Animate.

With these steps that have guided me to where I am today, I can honestly say that being the new girl, losing my first art contest, has influenced me immensely. With these steps I have taken, I have given myself the opportunity to take a step back and realize that art is something that comes naturally. In high school alone, learning that with failure comes success, failing in these contests and my abilities as an artist has helped me gain the knowledge I need to further succeed in the future.

My working process requires me going to my art studio. My art studio is located in a room in my home that I designed myself. It consists of all my favorite art pieces hung up on the wall. I have shelves on them with all my paint organized by color with about 500 paint colors of acrylic paint. All my sketch books are organized in another shelf from when I was young and I started drawing to now. These sketchbooks show my progress as an artist, art teachings, and notes. My brushes are in jars ready for me to use them to paint. I have set up my music station which consists of a record player and a vinyls for me to listen to music while I create art. The

canvases are set up on one side of the room and newly done paintings. The rest of my art supplies such as my oil paints, measuring tools, drawing tools. I made my studio so that I have access to everything I need and I have a comfortable space to work in.

To start a painting I first decide what I want to paint. These ideas can be endless. I have to after that think about how big or small I want my canvas to be. When picking a canvas size I think about how the painting would look in a room and how it would look if it was big or if I painted it in a small canvas. The bigger the canvas, the more you see the details. After choosing my canvas size, I make a grid on my canvas and on my sketch or photo that I'm using. This grid is to help me size the sketch so that it all fits onto the canvas and I don't leave anything out that I have drawn. I divide the canvas into three equal sections horizontal and three equal sections vertically. I make sure to use a ruler so that the squares on the grid come out all the same size. I sketch on the grid according to the grid I have on paper. There I have my idea of what I wanted to paint on the canvas. I repeat this process when starting every painting.

After the grid, I place my art pallet on my work desk and pick out the colors I need from my shelf and place them next to my pallet. This is so I have my materials ready to go. Now I start my painting by painting the background first. I usually start with a light layer first just to cover the canvases material and let it dry. After the light layer, I continue to build the background of the painting into detail. I then move onto the main object or idea of the painting. I also repeat this process for all paintings with acrylic paint.

For oil painting my process is a little different. After having the sketch layed out, I take out my oil paints which are all in tubes not bottles like my acrylic paints. Majority of the time I only use oil paints for skin tones on portraits. This is because I believe that acrylic paints look

better on backgrounds and everything else and oil paints look better just on skin tones and are easier to work with. After laying out my oil paints, I take out some paint thinner and pour it into a small jar. This will help me work with the oil paint to make it thinner to be easy to work with and shade. I usually give oil paint either a couple of hours or days to dry before adding more layers. I repeat this process for oil paintings. After the painting is done I give it a couple of days before I give it to my customer or ship to my customer. I make sure to photograph and sign every single one of my works before sending them off. I then get a couple of my business cards and give my painting to my customer.

To ship my painting, I wrap my canvas in bubble wrap and tape so that my canvas remains nice and safe. I then place the canvas in a cardboard box that is a little bigger than the canvas to give it some room in the box. I also make sure to place a couple of my business cards inside of the package so that I reach more of a customer base. Shipping paintings and not only having local clients helps me for the future. This not only brings me a bigger client base but also helps when looking for a job. This is my process for starting and finishing a painting.



“Broken Beauty Series” Acrylic on canvas, 17x21 canvases

Inspired by Frida Kahlo, “Broken Beauty”, which is a series of three paintings I have created. Like Kahlo’s artwork, this series shows strong autobiographical elements and mixed realism with fantasy. I have used elements in nature to express the beauty of a female not only in the outside but also inside. This explains the broken masks and body with these elements showing through. I have used acrylic paint on 17x21 stretched canvases to create these pieces of art. The dark tones of color in the mask and body express the feelings of the female and the bright colors of the butterflies express the beauty one has inside and out that one does not know of. Inspired by the country's popular culture, Frida Kahlo employed a naïve folk art style to explore questions of identity, postcolonialism, gender, class, and race in Mexican society. Beauty is integral to my practice, and I use it both as a tool to convey my ideas and as an end goal itself. This style was one of the first styles I have started with in my painting career. This had led me to opening up my mind to doing more realism and creating portraits of those around me.



“Papa Pablo y Minerva”, a 2015 painting created in the memory of my grandfather Pablo Guzman and my aunt Minerva Guzman who have passed away. I have used both acrylic and oil paint to create this painting which happened to be my first oil painting. It

measures 17x21 on a stretched canvas. I used bright colors as the scenery similar to the colors they use in the paintings in my country, Dominican Republic. This painting is so special to me because not only did my family mourn for a long time but it brought my family closer together. The passing of my two family members was so close together in time that the family did not know how much really needed each other around. "Papa Pablo y Minerva", shows vibrant colors to show how much life they brought into our lives. I wanted to express how much happiness and joy they both brought into our lives.

Vincent Van Gogh, is one of my favorite artists of all time. A Dutch post-impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. They include landscapes, still lifes, portraits and self-portraits, and are characterised by bold colors and dramatic, impulsive and expressive brushwork that contributed to the foundations of modern art. His art to me shows such expression and feeling with just one look at it. You can look at his paintings and instantly feel what he was feeling when he was creating these paintings. This impression is what I want to leave viewers with when they look at my paintings.



“Buddha” is a 2019, 30x48 canvas in acrylic paint with a brush. This painting was inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. It was created during my journey in finding myself through art and buddhism. It shows the simple message and the inner peace that the artworks inspire in the viewer. I used the acrylic paint colors; Amber, burnt orange, cadet, cadmium green, celadon blue, cobalt blue, cyber yellow, and dark electric blue. I got inspired to make this painting as my journey exploring Buddhism. It was not only Buddhism as a religion but also Buddhism art. Seeing the meanings being created behind every buddhist figure really inspired me to create this piece.

To further my career as an artist I must take risks and make big decisions. These decisions will help me grow and become a bigger artist. With my experience in different mediums of art, it helps me keep my options open with my future career. These mediums include; sculpture, figure painting and drawing, drawing basics, landscape painting, live model drawing, computer design, illustration, typography, packaging design, animation, and art history. When choosing my career, I will be open to many possibilities. My number one option is to teach art to either high school students or in an art school. Further in my career I would like to open up my own business for art classes. These art classes will include some sort of entertainment such as music and wine drinking. As a second option for my career I would like to use my graphic design minor to work for a big company designing for them such as logos or company product packaging. Of course an artist, my creativity can be expanded anywhere because art is everywhere around us.

I want to make an impact on the world with my art. Not only to have my art all over the world but show my creativity and the passion I have put in all my art works. I want everyone to see and understand the message behind every painting with no words, just by looking at it. With my business *Art By Yenerys*, I was able to have my art placed in the homes of people not only in New Jersey but in states like Idaho, Maryland and Florida. I was also able to have them placed in countries like Dominican Republic and El Salvador. I want to eventually have my art all over the world in many countries but not only in homes but in museums

In conclusion, art has become a big part of my life as a whole. My daily routine permanently consists of having art in it whether it is doing a painting, drawing up ideas, or just looking at other artists to inspire me. I want to not only become a better artist but help others around me and teach them everything I know on how to become a great artist.



“Greek God”

Greek God is a painting created on a denim jacket. Using a different type of canvas taught me how to work with different mediums. Not only is it a painting that can be worn, it is a masterpiece that can shown off everywhere I go.



“Fatherhood” 17x21 oil on canvas

“Fatherhood” is a commissioned art piece created for a first time father.



“Dining” watercolor on paper

“Dining” is a variety of objects found while sitting at the dining table.



“Wedding Proposal” 17x21 oil on canvas series

A commissioned series of paintings all showing different moments and memories in the couples life used as a display in a wedding proposal.



“Valentines Day” oil on canvas

Commissioned artwork for girlfriend on Valentine's day.