

Paula Pia Martinez Artist Statement

Why do I make art? My first real connection is coming to this country as a little girl from Chile without knowing the English language. I spent very long days in the classroom, not understanding the teacher or the students. I understood what I saw around me, all that was visual. I drew everything that I wanted to learn. I drew to communicate. Through art, I learned to communicate. This is when I began to understand the power of making art.

I learned how to utilize all types of materials because of the economic strains we had. There wasn't enough money to buy typical art making tools so I became a very resourceful child. These experiences made me curious about the inherent properties of different materials and how they could be used. Color is a significant influence in my work. I have the ability to remember through color my childhood seashore of cerulean blue, bright aqua green and bronze yellow shores. Color became a narrative for my sculptures and paintings. I use color to describe my connection to memories, places, people and life.

I have always felt like a storyteller. Narrating my experiences through images and symbols striving to connect with universal themes; love, fear, disappointment, the shared human experience.

As an artist, I believe that sensitivity to my cultural and intellectual environment is the key to artistic achievement. I think that producing art requires honesty and an element of risk taking to translate experiences and perceptions into visual forms. It is important for me to experience a variety of media, as there are unique, expressive qualities in every artistic medium. I maintain an educated awareness of the scope of contemporary art and its roots. For me, it's crucial to be an active participant through exhibitions and competition in the greater context of the art community.