DAY 1

Hello everyone! My name is Precious Romo (she/her) and I'll be taking over the Five Oaks Museum's Instagram this week! I'm a first generation Mexican-American from Anaheim, CA now living in Portland, OR. This week I will be sharing my work which consists of comics, printmaking, and even woodworking as well as give insight into my creative process.

Tuesday I will be sharing the prints I made for the Five Oaks Museum's online exhibition #StandUpFG :Latinx Youth Activism in the Willamette Valley. For those of you who have not yet visited the website and viewed the online exhibition please take a look! Wednesday I would like to prompt the followers to create their own short autobiographical comic using whatever materials they have.

On Friday/Saturday I will host a Q&A session over IG stories and encourage you all to participate! I look forward to sharing my work and thoughts with y'all this week!

( If you would like to see more of my art/doodles you can follow me at @fresh_preshed_juice )
During my last semester of undergrad I fell in love with printmaking, specifically working with rubber blocks to create prints. So, for the #StandUpFG: Latinx Youth Activism in the Willamette Valley exhibition I decided to use block printing to render the protest imagery for the mini-comic I created. Rubber blocks are an easy material to carve into to recreate the organic loose lines of my illustrations, but also add a strong graphic quality to the images once the blocks are inked up (which is very appropriate when depicting the stories of student led protests).

As painstaking as the medium of printmaking is, (sketching, drawing on tracing paper with soft pencils, transfer image to block, carve block, ink block, and finally print) I greatly enjoy the process of making just as much as the finished images themselves. In the final prints you can even see the remnants of the process, parts of the negative space that weren't completely taken away, ink not totally saturated on the paper, and parts of the image that were perhaps carved away too much. Printmaking is such a physical process and I love that the final works display traces of the human who worked on them.

I've barely begun to incorporate printmaking into my artistic practice, but I'm excited to continue learning about the process and use the medium to elevate my illustrations and comics.

#printmaking #blockprints #standupfg #fiveoaksmuseum
Above is an autobiographical comic strip that I made during my time as a student. However, these are not the final images. I made the comic in the darkroom by drawing on glass plates with whiteboard markers, placing the plates on top of photo paper and then exposing the paper to light, so the final images actually have an inverse color scheme from the plates. Though, I am showing the plates because I also love how the images looked during this temporary stage of my process.

Comics are a fascinating medium because they are not bound to any material. You can make a comic strip with pen and paper, but also some chalk and smooth pavement (and obviously glass and markers). A comic doesn't necessarily have to be fictitious or funny either. Oftentimes, I use comics as a way of preserving memories. The illustrations and dialogue combine to thoroughly recreate a feeling or scenario. I enjoy making autobiographical comics because I want to remember all the funny incidents I witness and mundane moments of happiness.

Today I would like you to create your own autobiographical comic using whatever materials you have available! It doesn't have to be fully realized either, making a comic in the margins of your notebook is completely valid! What made you laugh recently? What don't you want to forget? Or string together some random disparate moments into one comic strip!

#fiveoaksmuseum #comic #darkroom
DAY 4

No matter the medium, people are always the center of my practice. This is self-evident in the comics I make, since comics are my means of recording experiences with friends and family that I don't want to forget. However, today I am sharing my most personal work I've made, a set of linoleum prints titled 'Lotería Preciosa'. This work is an autobiographical recreation of the game Lotería, which is a game very much like Bingo that I grew up playing with my family at parties. One tabla in Lotería contains 16 images, so I chose 16 images from the game to reimage as people or items from my life. Some images I created have no parallel to the original game at all. I even created cards that I then gifted to the people in my life that inspired those images. My friends and family have a great understanding as to what each image means in relation to my life, but even strangers can get a sense of my interests and people of importance by looking at my work. 'Lotería Preciosa' shares a bit of my culture, my style, and my passion with everyone who views it.

Art is my means of sharing myself with the world, my family, and my friends. People are my inspiration, my reason for making, and I want to share my appreciation for the people in my life and myself through art.

#printmaking #lotería
DAY 5

Happy Friday! Today I will be hosting a Q&A over IG stories. I'd love to further elaborate on my ideas, process, artwork, or answer any queries you have! The IG stories will be available for up to 24 hours to participate. I look forward to answering your questions!

Above are picture of skateboards that I made as a gift for my younger sisters and myself. I created the mold two years prior by gluing blocks of wood and shaping them for a skateboard deck. Then I glued several planks of wood together and clamped them into the mold for 2 days to create the skateboard decks. The portraits are rubber block prints that I printed straight onto the wood. It was fun to mix woodworking and printmaking for this project!

Though my sisters and I are very different, we all share an interest in skateboarding, so it was meaningful to create functional art objects that tie us together.

#skateboard #skateboardingisfun #fiveoaksmuseum
DAY 6

Thank you so much for following my IG Takeover of the @fiveoaksmuseum account this week! And thank you to everyone who submitted questions for the IG stories Q&A! If you would like to continue to follow my work and progress as an artist you can follow me at @fresh_preshed_juice!

For my final post I am sharing photos of my thesis comic ‘MOTH’, both the original pages and the final comics. I had the opportunity to showcase ‘MOTH’ and give away 60 issues during the Blackfish Gallery’s Recent Grad 2021 exhibition. In the future I would love to continue this story with an issue #2!

~ photos 1-4 taken by @ninaleejohnson

#fiveoaksmuseum #comics