

2013/14 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Coyne Family Foundation Award



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My life as an artist began in the confined Children's Hospital, a place where needles and face masks penetrate the room that is considered to be a child's home. With no escape from reality, I found myself lost and confused through the cancer that approached my Hispanic body in a continuous matter. Small and defenseless, without strength, I saw myself struggling on the reflection of the tears that ran across my parents' face as they looked down upon my delicate body.

Unlike Frida Kahlo, I didn't always know I'd be an artist. Where I found my hidden talent was in a perfect room that created a boundary between creativity and sickness. I remember the cold breeze that whispered across a germless ambiance, which was called the playroom. My earliest memory of this is looking around and finding myself in a world of color and joy. No one in the room was aware of their sickness but instead everyone was focused on the nonexistent world of Nintendo, the distraction of squishy, soft play dough, and creating macaroni collages. The one-of-a-kind essence of crayons caught my attention, as it was being used on bristle board. What I didn't know was that that moment would define what is now considered to be my artistic potential.



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I prefer to remember pain in an artistic way. Cancer to me is like Frida Kahlo's suffering that took over her soul. Likewise, Leukemia changed the course of my life forever. As Frida once said, "I felt I still had enough energy to do something other than studying to become a doctor. Without giving it any particular thought, I started painting." I see myself pursuing a career in the arts that has been greatly addressed through the cancer I once had. My accomplishments have been defined by a series of unfortunate events. Not only has cancer inspired me to become successful but it taught me to take advantage of every available opportunity. I manage to keep my deepest, darkest memories alive. The disease that once infested my body and my soul somehow created the person that I am today. I should never regret anything I do because in the end it makes me who I am.

The role of an illustrator is to convey a message or idea through their recognizable signature style. I hope to gain a role as an illustrator to collaborate with a more diverse community and create a more diverse artistic style. Furthermore, the underlying issues that have yet to be portrayed will finally emerge.

Every story has an ending, but in my story every ending is a new beginning waiting to seek new opportunities in becoming a better artist. It is my job to have a unique artistic style that will make me stand out in today's world. I make art because the process itself becomes an art form. It is my own personal journal and it will help me strive for the career I want as an illustrator. I am a young adult with a voice that will one day be heard worldwide through my art.

