

2009/10 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships

Mohawk Fine Papers Honorable Mention

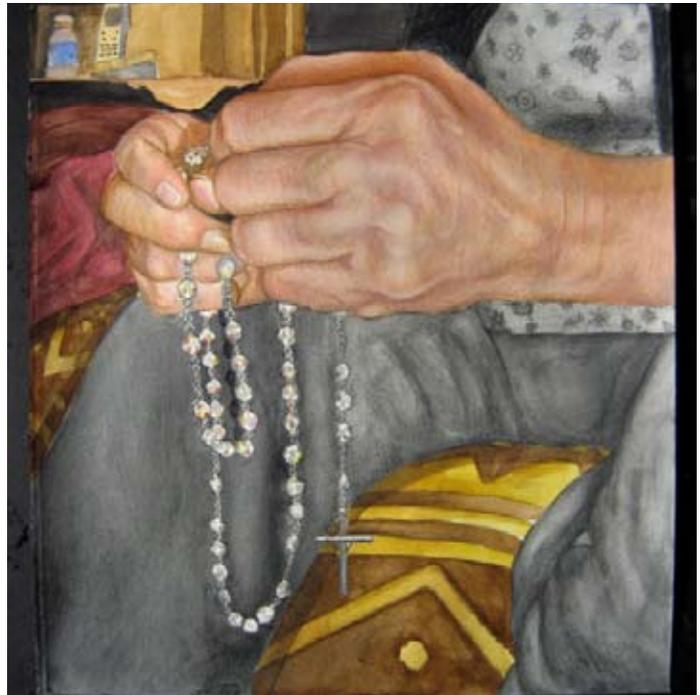


BIANCA DIAZ
Illustration
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"Service is the rent we pay for being—it is the very purpose of life, and not something we do in our spare time."—Marian Wright Edelman

I read this quote every day as I walk up the stairs to my second period psychology class. I read it, repeat it in my head and focus for a moment on what it means to me. I have read it so many times that I have committed its truth to my heart. Service is not something I do in my spare time, because truth be told, I have no spare time. I make time to volunteer because I love making a difference in other people's lives and because I believe in using my talents to give back to a world that has given so much to me. As I learned in psychology, I am an Extraverted Sensing Feeling Judging type, otherwise known as "The Caregiver." For me, service is not a choice. It is a necessity, the very purpose and fulfillment of my existence.



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BIANCA DIAZ

Illustration



It wasn't until I started volunteering at Marwen that I realized how much I enjoy it. Marwen is a nonprofit arts organization that is dedicated to providing free art classes for children grades 6-12. In my junior year, I was accepted as a member of Marwen's Student Advisory Board (SAB). As one of the six members on the SAB, I feel a commitment to the student body to make sure their voices are heard. The SAB plans special events for students every year, such as gallery walks, that allow children to become more involved with art in their communities and other aspects of Marwen. For the past two years, we have hosted a workshop called "de-Construct," where students come in to Marwen for an entire day and create art on blank gallery walls in response to whatever social issues they are most concerned with. This is my favorite event of the year because although it takes a lot of planning and hard work, it is so rewarding to see children as young as 10 expressing themselves artistically and speaking to an audience of all ages about what's important to them. This Saturday, I will be speaking about my experiences at Marwen to almost one hundred children and their parents. My greatest hope is to be able express to them the countless opportunities—not only in service but also in art—that Marwen has given me.

In addition to the work I do at Marwen, I have also worked on several murals within my community and neighboring communities. My first mural was at the YMCA in my neighborhood, and I loved it because I got to teach other people about the importance of family, community and our Mexican-American heritage through our art. I volunteered to help finish two other murals as well: one at St. Anthony's Hospital and one at an elementary school as part of the Urban Gateways program. In the next stages of my life, I plan to get my bachelor's degree in illustration and to acquire a master's degree. With these degrees, I will pursue a career in children's book illustration. I believe in helping others to learn and grow, and I think that teaching children through stories and images is the best way to do that. I will also be heavily involved in nonprofit arts organizations like Marwen that foster in children a desire to think creatively. As long as I can be involved in helping other people in any way that I can, I will be content with my life.

