

2010/11 Worldstudio AIGA Scholarships Kraus Family Foundation Award



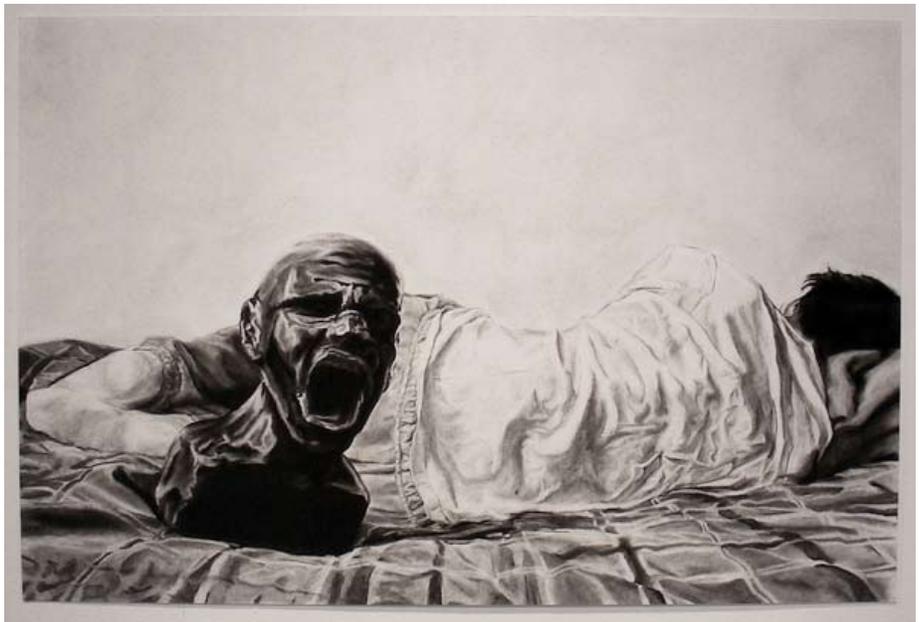
CHRISTIAN HINCAPIE

Fine Art
Sophomore
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I make art because it is a practice through which people become acquainted with culture. Through the lens of art, culture becomes diaphanous and can be dissected and analyzed in order to better understand its construct and composition. Through these dissections, the artist informs his audience of cultural experiences unique to the world we live in. As an artist, it is my responsibility to take part in the dialogue between an artist's role in society and society's role on art. I make art to directly account for these subjects, with the hope that progress and transcendentalism is provoked by a perpetual need to analyze and critique the cultural configuration of our society.

For me, a studio practice encourages and demands interdisciplinary activity. I find myself working without restraints, rejecting theoretical basis in favor of a complete openness towards materials and processes, as well as methods and forms of execution. I find it is important to astonish, seduce and confront my audience in order to



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the professional association for design

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place the viewer in the middle of an experience that constitutes the dialogue between themselves and my intentions.

My work employs a range of devices such as the figurative and representational, the abstract and relational, as well as the contextual and conceptual. Pieces in which the psychological aspect of the self is explored through self-portraiture are connotative of an internal dialogue. Lately, my practice has extended towards the conceptual where a performative method of execution has taken a prominent role. More specifically, in "\$" (2010), a piece performed in Washington Heights, Manhattan, I address my role as a Hispanic man living in a society where cultural assumptions and notions directly involve my identity. The dollar sign shaved onto my head is used as a symbol to emphasize the cultural associations connected with the actions and representations of the Hispanic male in the context of the urban environment.

At the Cooper Union, I have an enormous opportunity to work with very talented and knowledgeable individuals. Working for the Saturday Outreach program lets me extend my education to talented high school students who merit an intensive program where their potential to create is nurtured and stimulated. I hope that my role as a teacher's assistant helps these motivated individuals by giving them the resources and tools they need to become powerful artists.

Presently, my plans include further investigation into my artistic practice. I wish to explore the cultural notions of identity and hopefully, this will help me better understand my role as a Hispanic artist in the greater network that is the art community in the context of contemporary art.

