

VIRTUAL FAMILY OPEN STUDIOS-Mixed Media: Watercolor & Paper Embroidery

PROJECT TITLE: Coloring our World

THEME: *Juried Biennial 2021* (A Cannon Art Gallery Exhibit) & artist Griselda Rosas

AGE RANGE: All Ages

INSPIRATION ARTWORK: Griselda Rosas' *Baile de Colonia*, 2020, Embroidery over paper, watercolor, collage



VOCABULARY:

Mixed Media- refers to a visual art form that combines a variety of materials or art processes in a single artwork

Icons/ Iconography- icons are a visual representation of something; in the context of art, iconography refers to the images and symbols used in a work of art, which can be literal or metaphorical and provides insight into the cultural and historical context of a work of art, as well as its symbolism and theme

Embroidery- the art of stitching raised and ornamental designs in threads of silk, cotton, gold, silver, or other material, upon any woven fabric, leather, paper, etc., with a needle

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Griselda Rosas is a local San Diego artist and art educator from Tijuana, Mexico, whose artworks have been exhibited in the United States and internationally in Mexico, Italy, and France. Rosas' mediums are varied and layered. The art inspiration from the Juried Biennial, *Baile de Colonia*, is a mixed media collage of iconographic imagery, watercolor, paper and embroidery. In addition to this style of artwork, Rosas creates sculptures, installations and curatorial projects, while also teaching in San Diego and giving speaking presentations world-wide.

Rosas' mixed media collages use vivid watercolors, the layering of drawn or found icons or symbols, and brightly colored embroidery to encompass various themes including explorations of identity. Many of the supplies Rosas uses are bought in her hometown of Tijuana, Mexico, bringing a bit of her personal history into every project. Rosas says, "Art is like a process, I can't think about my life without doing it. It's the only thing I know how to do."

LESSON PLAN

ART PROJECT INTRODUCTION:

Participants will consider ways to represent themselves in a work of art through the use of icons, symbols, colors and embroidered or drawn lines on hand-made watercolor paper, inspired by Griselda Rosas' brightly colored mixed media collages that combine painting and stitchery to represent themes of identity, symbolism and heritage.

THE CANNON ART GALLERY JURIED BIENNIAL 2021:

The William D. Cannon Art Gallery opened in 1999, and since then has hosted Juried Exhibits first yearly, then every two years, with the intention of being an accessible place for local artists to showcase their artwork. A juried exhibit is one where jurors, who are local art professionals, "judge" and select the artwork that will be exhibited.

This year's jurors, Sonya Sparks (Owner of Sparks Gallery, San Diego) and Andrew Utt (Executive Director of Lux Art Institute, Encinitas) viewed about 600 artworks submitted by 149 artists before deciding upon 43 artworks for the exhibit representing 30 different artists. Selected artists have their artworks shown in the Juried Biennial 2021 and are eligible for awards with prize money chosen by the jurors.

To be considered for the Cannon Juried Biennial, artists pay \$35 per entry, and may submit up to 5 artworks per entry. Artists must be 18 years or older and currently work in San Diego County. There is never a theme for submissions, but the artworks must be created within the last 2 years. There are a wide range of mediums in the submissions, from sculpture to photography, abstract painting to traditional painting, pencil drawing to watercolors and mixed media.

Perhaps one day you'll submit your artwork!

PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever mixed mediums in your artwork before? What mediums have you combined?
2. Have you seen mixed media artwork before? In-person or in a photo?
3. How does creating an artwork in layers and phases work? How can you envision the steps you will be taking?
4. How can you challenge yourself to think outside the box and test your comfort zone by painting over your drawing, and then stitching over both your drawing and painting?
5. What are some images and symbols that can represent something about yourself? What do these icons mean to you?
6. Have you ever embroidered or sewn before? How do you think stitching on paper may be different than sewing on fabric?

ART PROJECT MATERIALS (provided in art kit):

- Printed Art Lesson Plan
- Watercolor Paper (Q:1)
- Watercolor Brush Markers, Dual Tip (Q:5 various colors)
- Black Ultra-fine Sharpies (Q:1)
- Color Ultra-Fine Sharpies (Q:3 various colors)

LESSON PLAN

- Watercolor Brush (Q:1)
- Embroidery Needle (Q:1)
- Needle Threader (Q:1)
- Embroidery Floss (Q:4 various colors, 1 yard each color= 4 yards)
- Pin Cushion (Q:1)
- Parchment Paper (Q:1)
- Griselda Rosas Artwork Example Sheet
- Carlsbad Icons Inspiration Sheet

AT HOME MATERIALS (participant provides):

- Small container of water
- Cloth Rag or paper towels
- Scissors (Optional)

ART MAKING INSTRUCTIONS:

****NOTE:** This project involves drying time in between art making steps. The project will likely be worked on at different times and not completed in one sitting. The instructions below are organized into Parts 1 & 2.

Planning and Envisioning your Artwork:

Look closely at the Griselda Rosas Artwork Example Sheet (page 11) provided in the art kit, to get ideas for composition, color layering, and ways to use imagery in your artwork. Think about what images you'd like to use, or how you'd like to represent yourself in this artwork. Refer to the Carlsbad Icons Inspiration Sheet (page 12) for symbols or come up with your own. Choose one symbol or several. Envision the different elements of your artwork and what they may look like; the icons or symbols drawn on your paper, the colorful watercolor background, and the places you will want to add stitch lines (either embroidered or drawn) to emphasize parts of your art's surface. Even if your artwork ends up looking nothing like you envisioned, this will give you a starting point that will help inspire your art process.

Preparing Your Workspace for Part 1: (FIG.1)

- Unfold the brown parchment paper to cover and protect your work surface. Place your watercolor paper on top of the parchment paper either horizontally or vertically.
- Next to your work area, lay out the art materials from your art kit that you will be using for this part of the art-making process: watercolor markers, black Sharpie, colored Sharpies, and watercolor brush.
- Place the Griselda Rosas **Artwork Example Sheet** and the **Carlsbad Icons Inspiration Sheet** where you can easily see them while working. For now, the remaining art supplies will be left in your art kit.
- From home, get a bowl or a plastic container and fill it halfway with water. Place that next to your work area, along with a cloth rag or some paper towels.

Step 1: Draw Your Icon(s) with Sharpie

LESSON PLAN

Use your black Sharpie or any one of your colored Sharpies to draw the icon or icons of your choice onto the watercolor paper (**FIG.2**). The symbol you choose should represent something specifically about yourself. The drawing style should be bold and linear. To create areas of visual interest, add width to some of your lines, and a few small details. If there are any areas that you want to have color in without the spreading effect of watercolors, color those areas now using the colored Sharpies. Sharpies are permanent ink and will not bleed when adding watercolor over them. (**FIG.3**).

Step 2: Adding Watercolor to Your Paper

Once you've drawn the images that you want in your composition, you are ready to add more color. Start by removing the plastic cover from your watercolor brush, then wet your brush and gently rub the bristles with your fingers to soften them.

Use the watercolor markers to add small areas of color to your paper (**FIG.4A & 4B**). Then, dip your brush in the water and blend the watercolor marks. (**FIG.5A & 5B**). (It's best to work in small areas so the watercolor markings are moist enough to spread with water. Some colors are easier to blend than others, which is normal for this medium.) Blend different colors together or have large areas of the same color. Experiment! If there are areas on your paper where the water is pooling, use your paper towels or rag to gently dab away the excess water. Don't feel like your colors have to stay within the lines you have drawn- let the watercolors spread across your composition (**FIG.6**). Throughout your art making process, dip your brush in the water to clean it and dab it on the rag to dry it.

Add color to your iconography and also to other areas in your composition- fill every part of your composition with color or leave some areas blank (**FIG.7**). Let paint bleed together and go right off the edges of the paper if you'd like. Enjoy the freedom of adding water and color to your artwork!

Step 3: Let Your Watercolor Paper Dry Completely

While your watercolor paper is drying on the parchment paper (this may take 30 minutes to several hours, depending on how much water saturates the paper), wash your brush by rinsing it under water and gently rubbing the bristles. Dry it by softly holding the rag or paper towel on the brush for a moment to soak up excess water. Leave it out to air dry. Dump out your water bowl, as you won't need it any more for the project.

Preparing Your Workspace for Part 2: (FIG.8)

- Already laid out next to your work area (for Part 1) are your watercolor markers, black Sharpie and colored Sharpies.
- Now, from your art kit, get your embroidery needle, needle threader, embroidery floss and pin cushion.

Step 4: Adding Additional Areas of Color

Using either your watercolor markers or your colored Sharpies, decide if you would like to add any areas of additional color to your composition (**FIG.9**). Use the brush tip of your watercolor markers for larger areas or thicker lines. Use the fine tip end of your watercolor marker, or the colored Sharpies, to create smaller, more detailed areas of color on your composition.

LESSON PLAN

Step 5: Adding Stitch Lines to Your Artwork (artist's choice: either drawn lines, sewn embroidery, or both)

Consider the various layers of your composition, and how the watercolor background works with the icons and symbols you have included. Notice the effects of the different colors you have added on top of both the watercolor background and your icons. Think about how to create points of visual interest with stitched lines: areas of unexpected lines and colors, adding an additional layer of emphasis to an area, showing feelings through the types of lines used. Consider the following techniques:

Drawn Stitch Line Technique:

Begin with your black Sharpie and draw a series of dots on your artwork in areas where you want stitched lines (**FIG.10**). Use a colored Sharpie or the fine tip end of your watercolor marker to create the "thread" lines, connecting the dots (**FIG.11**). Add these dots and thread lines in different colors and varying types of lines throughout your artwork.

Embroidered Stitch Line Technique:

Take out your needle, threader and embroidery floss. Unravel the color of embroidery floss that you would like to start with. Thread your needle and tie a large knot (or several knots in the same spot) at the end of the floss (See attached photos for how to use the needle threader **FIG. 12 A, B, C, D, E**). Use your small pin cushion throughout the project by poking your needle into the cushion while you are not sewing- this way you will always know where your needle is and you won't drop or lose it. Decide where you want your sewn lines on your artwork and poke a hole from the backside of the watercolor paper (**FIG.13**). Begin stitching lines throughout your artwork (**FIG.14**). Be careful of your fingers, it's a bit tricky to sew through paper, but you can do it! Leave space between the holes you poke- if you poke them too close to one another, the paper may rip or create too big of a hole. When you finish with a color of the embroidery floss, tie a knot at the backside of your paper. If you have scissors at home, you can cut the thread, or you can leave threads dangling off of your artwork as part of your composition (**FIG.15**).

Step 6:

Look at your artwork as a whole composition and add any small colors or lines that will give it its finishing touches. When you think your artwork is complete, enjoy seeing the art that you have created (**FIG.16**)!

POST-PROMPT QUESTIONS:

1. How does your artwork relate to Griselda Rosas' art?
2. What do the icons and symbols you chose tell the viewer about you?
3. What challenges did you encounter as you worked with such a large variety of mediums? How did you work through it?
4. What other combinations/ mixes of mediums would you like to try?
5. How did you feel about representing something about your own identity in your artwork?
6. What is your favorite thing about your art project? Why? Did you get a chance to try a type of artmaking that you have never done before? Would you like to do more mixed media art in the future?

LESSON PLAN

ART PROCESS PHOTOS:

FIG.1

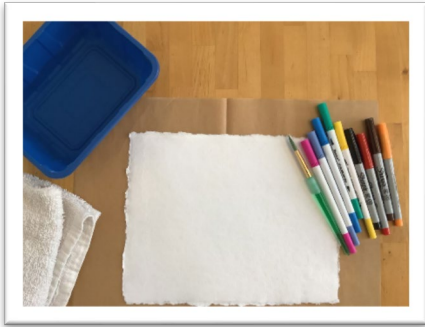


FIG.2



FIG.3



FIG.4A

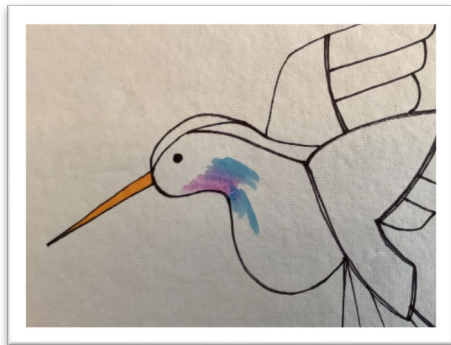


FIG.4B



FIG.5A

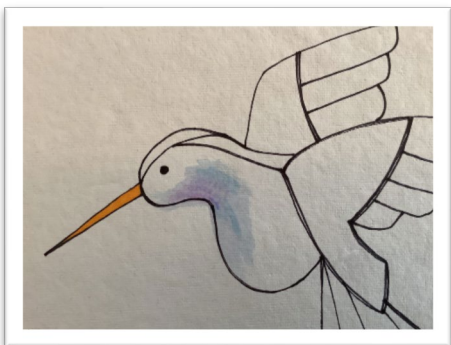
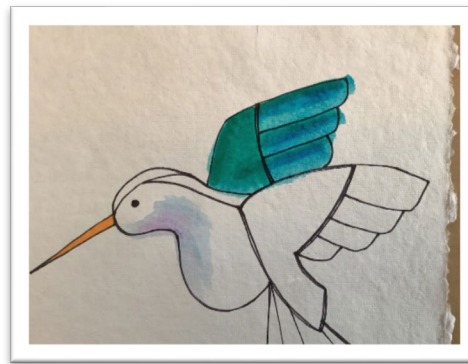


FIG.5B



LESSON PLAN

FIG.6



FIG.7



FIG.8

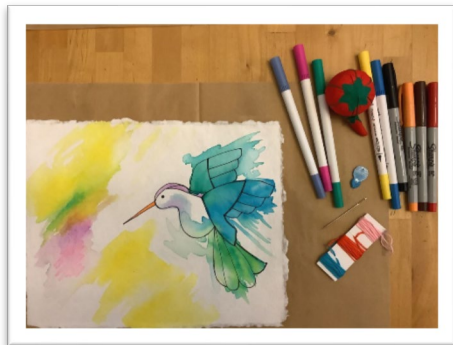


FIG.9



FIG.10



FIG.11



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FIG. 12A

Slide wire portion of the threader through the needle's eye

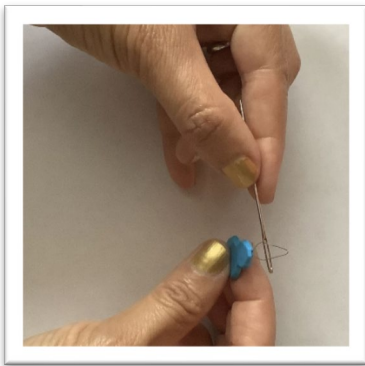


FIG. 12B & 12C

Thread floss through the thin wire eye of the threader

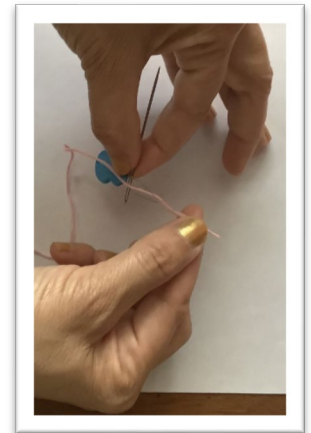
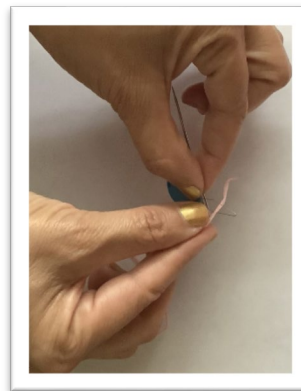


FIG. 12D

Very gently pull the threader back through the needle's eye

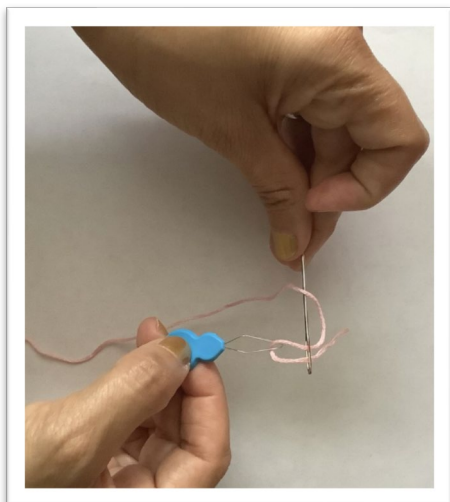
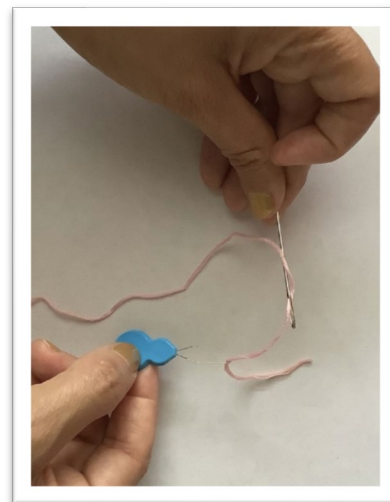


FIG. 12E

Slip the floss out of the threader, you're ready to sew!



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FIG.13



FIG.14



FIG.15



FIG.16



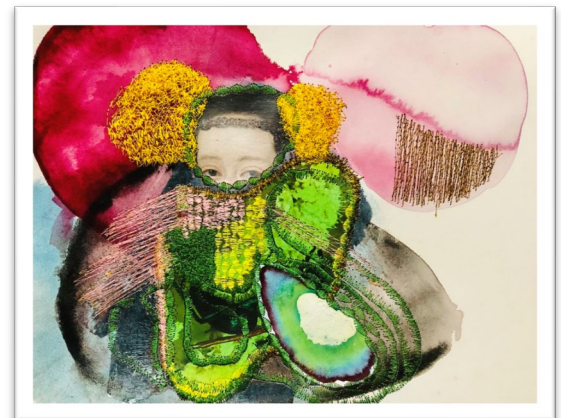
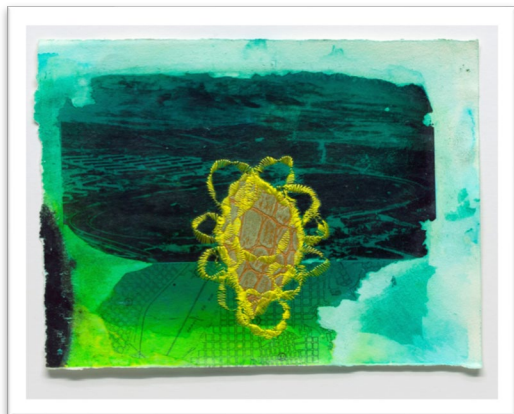
LESSON PLAN

ART SAMPLE PHOTOS:



Artworks by Griselda Rosas

Mixed media collage and embroidery work on paper

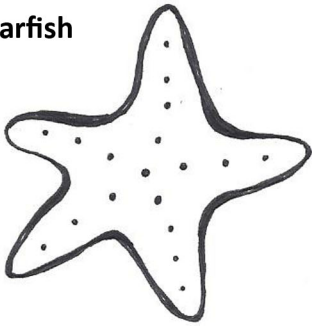


Tijuana Cartographies, 2020, Quarantine Series
Stitching over paper, Tijuana map collages & cartographies

De-colonial series, 2020
Stitching over paper, collage, watercolor & oil paint

Carlsbad Icons & Symbols

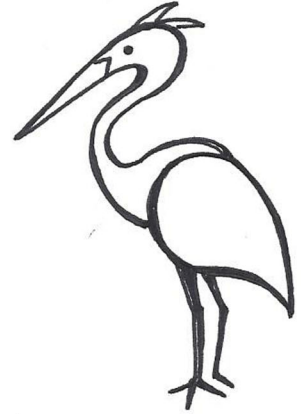
Starfish



Peacock Feather



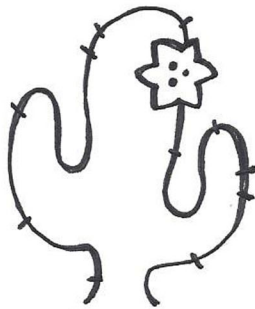
Heron



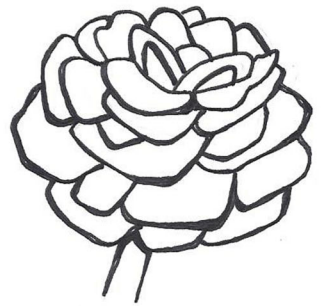
Wave



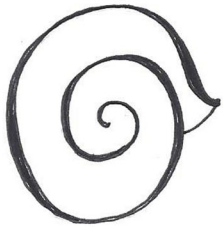
Cactus



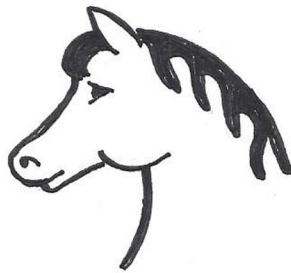
Rannunculus



Seashell



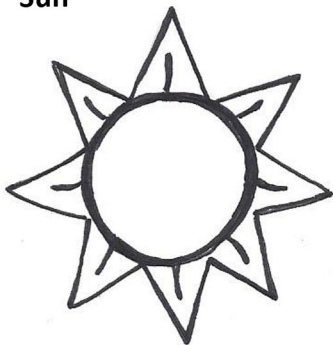
Horse



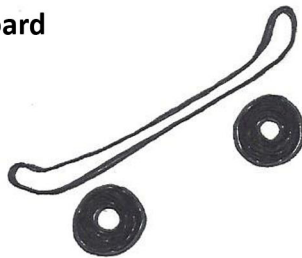
Hummingbird



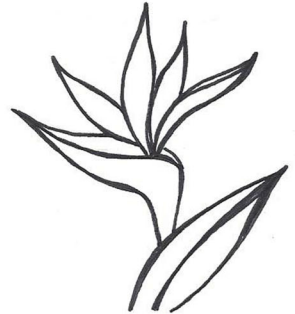
Sun



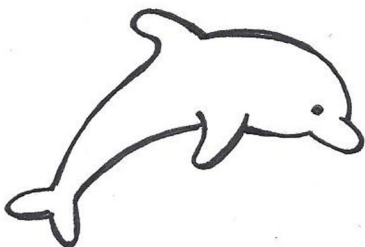
Skateboard



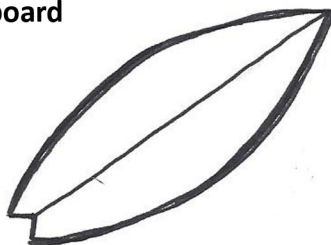
Bird of Paradise



Dolphin



Surfboard



Butterfly

