

Verdad Asimilada (2021)

This work is inspired by my view of religion, Catholicism specifically, and how intertwined it is with my culture. Many seem to forget, or ignore, the brutal legacy of assimilation and the inquisition.

The influence the church has over Mexico and the rest of Latin America is disgusting to say the least. I witnessed first hand how opulent churches can benefit from the blind devotion of small poverty ridden towns.

This urn has a base composed of different dismembered body parts, representing the genocide of the natives and the destruction brought by colonization. The body of the urn is composed of skulls superimposed onto a cage symbolizing both enslavement and assimilation.

The lid is a representation of both the death of native beliefs and deities, and their subsequent use as tools of control and assimilation in front, while having the seal of the Spanish Inquisition hidden behind it. I purposely put a golden crown and pattern around the skull that mimics that of the guadalupana, a symbol that continues to represent the forced assimilation of my culture.

Lastly, the halo is covered in cacti thorns harvested by hand. The halo is a play on the crown of thorns worn by Jesus during the crucifixion and the death of the natives since cacti are native to the Americas.

Nard Hat (2021)

I spent the majority of my childhood and early teens in my native Mexico City, moving to Oxnard at the age of 15. One of the very few things that helped me get through the assimilation process and culture shock was punk rock, as it's a genre that expands the globe and it was my home and comfort zone through those rough years.

This piece is inspired by one of my own hats I made and wore through my high school years. The process of making it took me back to making things for the sake of making them, those late nights making custom hats and clothes.