

**Title:** Friends

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Acrylic on canvas

**Size:** 2 x 2 ft

This painting represents the importance of friendship to me and how empowering it feels. Inspired by Leon Zernitsky, I represented a small group of people that I consider close friends of mine and how I take comfort in them. I am represented in the middle and although I am representing specific people in this painting, I did not create the surrounding faces based on any specific person. The many colors used in the background represent the diversity of backgrounds between us that I appreciate.

**Title:** "Built for Success"

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Cloth, coins, electric tape, wire, and metal on wood

**Size:** Height - 16 cm

Width - 8 cm

Depth - 6 cm

This piece expresses the work someone puts into themselves to build their success. To make this piece mixed media I included the materials of scrap metal pieces, wire, electrical tape, fabric, coins, and wood. I wanted to convey self appreciation and pride to crediting your own success, with multiple sculptures to further enhance the concept. Following the inspiration of Andrew Myers, I incorporated the use of metal scraps for sculptures in the style of Rene Magritte and John Singer Sargent.

**Title:** "...and then there were butterflies"

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Block Print

**Size:** 18 x 15 cm

This piece was created to display the relationship with my father. Using inspiration from Van Gogh, I created wilting sunflowers to represent the sunflowers that my father and I attempted to plant in our backyard this past summer. The planting ended up failing and which made us pretty upset, until we found that the flowers attracted many caterpillars that we then observed turn into butterflies.

**Title:** The Color of Community

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Acrylic on canvas

**Size:** 2 x 2 ft

With this painting I conveyed the concept of community being a diverse mix of people from all different kinds of background and stories. My purpose of this painting was to capture the beauty of community and the different colors that the many people bring into life, following the inspiration of Laurie Justus Pace.

**Title:** "Family to Feminist"

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Acrylic on canvas

**Size:** 2 x 1 ft, 3 canvases

My piece is intended to tell the story of the sport of wrestling in my family through my uncle, dad and me. I wanted to portray the reasons for my interest in the sport now; my family. I also intended for this piece to take a stance for feminism, as I am the only female wrestler in my family's history and one of the first in the history of Ronald Reagan High School. I followed the style and technique used by pop art artist Roy Lichtenstein.

**Title:** Waltz

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** acrylic on canvas

**Size:** 2 x 1 ft

The purpose of this painting is meant to express love and the grace and elegance that comes with it. With the theme of relationships between people, romance, in my opinion, is the strongest relationship you can have with someone. Mainly following the inspiration of a shot from La La Land's Planetarium scene, I incorporated the techniques of Olga Shvartsur's galaxy painting, I created a piece capturing the feeling of getting lost in space with the person you love.

**Title:** Migration

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** acrylic on canvas

**Size:** 2 x 1 ft

I created this painting as I wanted it to capture the beauty of the many people around me changing and soon parting ways. As a senior in high school, I've spent the past four years with those around me as we've all seen each other change. Now this upcoming May, I'll be separated from these people and possibly never see them again. It's a bittersweet thing and I wanted to convey that in my piece, following the inspiration of Marcia Baldwin.

**Title:** "Myself"

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Acrylic on canvas

**Size:** 3 x 3 ft

This piece was created to express the strongest feelings and emotions that I experience daily. Inspired by "Melodrama" album cover artist Sam McKinniss and Pablo Picasso's cubist paintings, I created a self portrait that depicts the way that I feel about myself in my most vulnerable state; alone in bed. This painting was meant to express the feeling of comfort in being alone and acceptance of myself and my surroundings.

**Title:** In My Own Skin

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Block Print

**Size:** 18 x 15 cm

I chose to create this piece to once again portray a feeling of self acceptance by including nothing in the portrait rather than myself. I feel that the neutral pose that I am in for this piece contributes to the concept that I am comfortable in my own skin, no matter what position I am in and that I do not feel the need to do something such as pose for me to be comfortable with the way that I am. For this piece, I was heavily inspired by the self portraits of Vincent van Gogh.

**Title:** The Butterfly Effect

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Watercolor on cardstock

**Size:** 8.5 x 11 in

For my last piece, I wanted to create something that reflects myself without the need of a self portrait inspired by Ursula Doughty and Kit Sunderland. This piece has meaning in every element; the butterfly for personal growth, vibrant colors for good mood, and the background song for the most personal touch to me; a song that I deeply associate with my character development. I wanted to portray the concept of growth over time by expressing who I am now and the confidence I now have in myself.

**Title:** "Optimist"

**Artist:** Natalia Ramirez Vang

**Medium:** Photo Manipulation

**Size:** 61 x 91 cm

"Optimist" resembles my mindset paying attention to the beautiful in life and focusing on moving forward to greater things, no matter where I grew up or live. This piece represents Milwaukee being an unhappy place, as the most segregated city in the United States. It shows how I overcome the negativity that surrounds me everyday by having a positive attitude. Using Rene Magritte as inspiration, I followed the concept of covering my face to give the piece a sense of flourishing and positivity.