

Artist Statement and Bio – Made in California

I am a Mexican-Japanese American non-binary painter and illustrator from Long Beach, California whose work centers multicultural identity and queer visibility. My work is often a reflection of my community and response to my environment. Painting, printmaking, digital media, and collage are some of the ways I explore portraiture in my art practice. Currently, my paintings depict how I navigate vulnerability, nostalgia, and empowerment.

I received my B.A. in Studio Art from California State University, of Long Beach, with an emphasis in Illustration. My work has been exhibited in Sur:biennial's 2019 *Generational:Local Latinx LGBTQIA Artists* group exhibition at the Long Beach City College Art Gallery. I was a featured artist for Long Beach Artwalk, OUT LOUD LB Fest, and RAW Los Angeles Presents REFLECT showcase. I am a visual artist for the Arts Council of Long Beach and LA Metro's Artist Pool. Currently, I am creating new works for my upcoming solo show, *Tough to Be Tender*.

Tough and Tender is a self-portrait that describes the experience of my non-binary identity. Crossing my arms while nude represents strength in vulnerability and the dysphoria I have with my breasts. My figure gazes directly at the viewer while standing in front of hanging passion flowers against a colorful abstract background. Because the flowers are double-sexed and typically yellow, white, and lavender in appearance, colors associated with the non-binary flag in the LGBTQ community, I included them to symbolize this connection. My portrait rejects the gender binary by allowing myself to exist between what is considered feminine and masculine while also embracing the notion of where I am both tough and tender.

Victoria L. Maldonado

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INVOLVEMENT

2020 March–Present – LA Metro Artist Pool 2020 – Accepted Artist; artwork integration within the built environment and short term exhibitions

2019 March-Present – RAW Natural Born Artists – Visual Artist – Featured and sold recent works in a showcase highlighting Los Angeles based visual artists, photographers, musicians, and performers; RAW alumni artist

2018 September-Present - Arts Council of Long Beach – Member: Visual Artist – Involved with Long Beach’s Arts Council projects that focus on Long Beach based artists who specialize in visual, performing, and traditional arts. Showcases and sells works among other vendors/artists during Long Beach Art Walk

2018 June-Present - Pow! Wow! Long Beach – Mural Assistant – Pow! Wow! Long Beach is an annual week-long event that features various visual artists painting murals throughout all of Long Beach; I assist local and international artists with painting murals, providing supply runs, and collaborating on projects.

SHOWCASES

(Postponed due to COVID-19) 2020 July 25 - *Loud and Queer*, Hosted by Ashley August featured with Poetic Moment - Presented by Get Loud Movement

(Postponed due to COVID-19) 2020 April 24 - *Beyond The Binary: A Spoken Word and Art Show*, Hosted by Fei Hernandez - Presented by Get Loud Movement

2020 February 8 - *From Me; To Me: A Self Love Group Art Show* - Confidential Coffee - Featured Artist showcasing work based on self-love.

2019 November 2 - *When I See Myself: A Solo Show* by Las Chicas Peligrosas - Hands Up Gallery - Featured Artist vendor for closing reception.

2019 June 29 - *Queer Futures*, art show by OUT LOUD LB – Hosted by The Hangout –
Featured artist in an annual LGBTQ+ art show festival

GROUP/SOLO EXHIBITIONS

(Postponed due to COVID-19) April 25, 2020 - June 19, 2020 - *Made in California*: City of Brea Art Gallery's 35th Annual Juried Exhibition

(Postponed due to COVID-19) April 10, 2020 - May 8, 2020 - *Tough to Be Tender*: A Solo Exhibition by Victoria Maldonado – Hosted by Flora Y Tierra

February 8, 2020 - March 2020 - *From Me; To Me*: A Self Love Group Art Show – Presented by Tania Negrete, Hosted by Confidential Coffee - Featured Artist exhibiting work based on self-love.

September 19, 2019 - October 12, 2019 - *Generational: Local Latinx LGBTQIA Artists* Co-curated with Lisa DeSmidt of Long Beach Arts Council, Presented by Trevor Norris - SUR:biennial 2019 - Long Beach City College Art Gallery

June 29, 2019 - July 7, 2019 - *Queer Futures*, art show by OUT LOUD LB – Hosted by The Hangout – Featured artist in an annual LGBTQ+ art show festival

PUBLICATIONS

Cerritos College Art Gallery. "The 5th Los Angeles SUR:biennial." Mar. 03, 2020.

Yeovanna Sandoval. "Latin Artist Portrays Life Through Paintings." Long Beach City College Viking News. September 16, 2019. "<http://lbccviking.com/2019/09/latin-artist-portrays-life-through-paintings>"

Beyond The Commons Magazine. The Pride Issue. Aug. 17, 2019.

"https://issuu.com/beyondthecommons/docs/btc_summer_issue_final"

OUT LOUD LB. “Queer Futures Curated Art Show.” OUT LOUD: A Cultural Evolution.
[“https://outloudlb.com/queer-futures-2019/art-show/”](https://outloudlb.com/queer-futures-2019/art-show/)

Paris, Melina. “Random Happening OUT LOUD Festival 2019: Queer Futures Celebrates LGBTQ+ Culture.” Random Lengths News. June 24, 2019.
[“https://www.randomlengthsnews.com/2019/06/24/random-happening-out-loud-festival-2019-queer-futures-celebrates-lgbtq-culture/”](https://www.randomlengthsnews.com/2019/06/24/random-happening-out-loud-festival-2019-queer-futures-celebrates-lgbtq-culture/)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Art: Studio Art, Emphasis in Illustration
California State University of Long Beach, California
August 2016 – June 2019