

Maritza Diaz Artist Statement

Maritza Diaz is a painter and printmaker from Delhi, CA whose work involves altering Archie comics and repurposing them in a painterly form and recreating the comics through CMYK screen-printing. Through these new forms, the Archie comics appear to have their usual happy bright appearance, but once read, the viewer realizes that the artwork in fact brings up the discussion of issues that are heavily integrated in our society today.

Some major issues include the unjust treatment upon women, various ethnic groups, and the continued mistreatment of the environment despite concerns of climate change. In this coming of age, we realize how cruel the world can be and Diaz chooses to personify this innocence being lost through imagery of various well-known characters society grew up with, either committing the pernicious act, or being blighted by the other. Within Diaz's new Archie comics, these characters have to face racism and the normalized unjust treatment of women that goes unopposed in our society while through a comical exaggerated implication of sexual harassment.