

Paola Segura Artist Statement

My name is Paola Segura and I am a multimedia artist from Oakland, California. I recently graduated from UC Davis where I received a B.A. in Studio Art and Chicana Studies. I use art as a form of teaching others about my culture, in addition to depicting my identity as a queer Chicana. Each art piece conveys a message and shows an important part of me. My goal is to highlight, celebrate and represent those often overlooked or forgotten. I hope that through my artwork I can change people's perspectives on my community or educate them on new topics.

My piece "Simplemente Amigues" is based on Ana Gabriel's song "Simplemente Amigos." The song discusses being confined to love as "simply friends" due to it being seen by society as a forbidden love. In the song, Gabriel longs for the ability to love a partner openly without repercussions. This is something many queer people, specifically in the context of queer Mexican people can sympathize with. It evokes a sense of familiarity to the ideologies of machismo and homophobia present in Mexican culture. Mexican media, like most dominant media, lacks representation for queer couples. "Simplemente Amigues" depicts a familiar image of a couple in love. By not choosing to assign any gender to the figures in the painting, it allows the viewer to insert whoever they identify with represented in the figures. The ambiguity allows for the viewer to create a narrative for the two figures hidden behind a wall in an embrace of love.