

“My name is Nancy Graeber and I am a 37 year old artist from Carmel CA. I am Mexican American first generation and I have lived in the city for 12 years. I started doing art when I was in middle school but I didn’t really start doing art seriously until I transferred to San Francisco State University. I switched my major from special education to studio art. My hope for today and for my future is to bring diversity to the art world and to help future artists be seen and to find their voice.”



Our returning summer intern, Cynda Holt has interviewed Nancy about her inspiration, mediums, and exposure as an artist.

Nancy draws inspiration from the environment as well as things in her personal life. She states: “I often find pieces of myself in the landscapes around my home that I try to show through my art.”

When experimenting with a new, unfamiliar medium, Nancy reveals “The way I approach a material I am not used to working with is to just do it, even if the finished result isn’t what I expected. The best way to figure something out is by trial and error, as it allows you to understand the medium even better through the process.”

Art influences society and each individual in significantly different ways. Nancy believes that “art is a record of what was happening in a moment in time. Even before we even had the written word, we had art. It is a record and perhaps at times even a prediction for the future, and in some ways can even influence what trajectory our future can take.”

“My greatest achievement to date has been earning my bachelors degree. Growing up, I’ve had to hear from many people — even those I respected — tell me that my time was wasted with art.” She shares that “earning my degree has not only helped me take pride in my art and myself, but provide hope and inspiration for others who may face similar criticisms.”

Many people have something that helps them decompress, for Nancy, this is art. “Art really helps me destress and it also helps me look at things differently. I believe an artists’ eye is more observant than the average person.”

When asked about her exposure as an artist at the SFWA gallery, she expresses “showing my work at the gallery has truly made me feel like an artist, and it lends a level of credibility to my work. It has also helped me to meet other artists and learn from each other.”

“What I enjoy the most about being an artist is sharing my skills and passing on my knowledge to raise others up. I have taught art to children both in and out of school, and nothing has

brought me joy like seeing children create their own art, and feel empowered by their blossoming artistic talent.”

“While I feel like everyone should be free to have their own interpretation of my art (or any art) without any bias, I would like people to see the effort and time I put into my work.” Most people only see the finished product, they do not see all of the effort that was put into the piece. “I often hear people compliment artists by trying to make their talent seem ‘natural’, but the reality is that an artist of any skill takes a great deal of time and perseverance to achieve, and I hope that more people come to understand this.”

When asked about her dream project, Nancy explains, “my dream project would be a very large scale collage, full of countless shapes and movement. I have often worked with smaller scale collage projects, but I would be very excited to see what I could create by expanding the limits of a canvas.”

Nancy expresses that “one talent that I wish that came easier to me is socializing — of working a crowd, putting myself out there, and networking. As an introverted artist, fighting an imposter syndrome can be difficult, and I must remind myself that I am talented enough to stand with my art among my peers.”

