

How to be Creative as a Marginalized Individual

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Pull Quote: “While art doesn't necessarily need a purpose, I try to make my work represent who I am: a voice for the social issues of self-identity.”

As defined by Google, art is, “The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.” For me, art has been a form of **expression** but, more importantly, a form of *resistance to the standard norms of society*. Being different in a marginalized community has raised many new challenges. The biggest obstacle I faced as an artist was not accepting myself for who I am because I could not receive the validation from the ones I loved the most.

But this blog isn't a sob story, nor is it going to continue like a dramatic personal statement. Rather, I want to think about how to be creative as a marginalized individual.

Well first things first, what influences creativity? How do you become original in 2019 when almost everything has already been made or thought of?

Everyone has different aspirations. We are influenced by the people around us and the environment we live in. As we get older and experience new things, our perceptions change. We begin to meet new people, we begin to like new things, and we begin to have a better understanding of life in general. Not only do our perceptions change, but also our **emotions**. Many great artists say that pain stirs up the greatest ideas, but I think otherwise. I personally believe that emotions stir up our greatest ideas; for me, my emotions are my biggest influencers.

I am capable of transferring my emotions to different platforms of media. I use photography to evoke moods and capture the authenticity of my friends and family. I use my designs to captivate something powerful while exploring new ideas. I use fashion to express who I am, constantly changing my style like I am constantly changing myself. And I use my words to speak for those who aren't able to do so.

Being original doesn't mean you have to think of something completely new that no one has ever done. Rather, just do something that everyone has already done, differently. Being different is being original.

So that's where being marginalized comes in to play. You may ask, “How hard is it to be different?” Well for a lot of us, it isn't that hard. But for myself—someone who has lived in a very closed-minded, traditional community—I would say it's pretty hard.

As I previously mentioned, my emotions are my number one source of inspiration. But as a young Latino male in this society, showing emotions is taboo and in many cases "wrong."

With new challenges comes new ideas. This obstacle that we must face ultimately makes us stronger and more creative. While art doesn't necessarily need a purpose, I try to make my work represent who I am: a voice for the social issues of self-identity.

Author Profile: My name is David Castillo, and I go by "Chito." I am a first year studying sociology and Chicano studies. This piece was inspired by my personal struggles of identifying as an "artist."

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My full name is David Castillo, and I go by "Chito." I am a first-year studying sociology and Chicana/o studies. This piece was inspired by my personal struggles and insecurities about identifying as an artist.