

REVEALING BORDERLAND IDENTITIES: DIASPORA, MEMORY, HOME, AND ART

This creative thesis project theorizes, illustrates, and synthesizes my identity. The narrative of an East Coast Mexicana/American/Chicana/Multiracial/artist blossoms from these introspective efforts and a unique imaginary is revealed. I have metaphorically and physically sewn my fractured Coyolxauhqui-self whole from the displacement of diaspora and the disorientation of a multipositional identity. Inspired by my family photographs and saved objects, I use lovingly soft and colorful thread juxtaposed with honest truth and a sharp needle weaving writing and artwork, embroidering vivencias. My memories, my homes, my identities are entwined joining paper, thread, photography, and drawings in a truthful and inclusive project that intertwines a personal narrative into a thesis. I have sewn together what I thought was lost, but was only buried.

This project has become my way of uncovering and re(membering). It is my bridge 'home'. This project is about having the courage to tell *my* truth, to cross monoracial boundaries, and develop a voice outside of monoracial normativity – to be bold enough to *atravesarme* with wisdom.

This project is about a little girl the color of café con leche and her Brown and White family, her many homes and homelands, and the vivencias which created her.

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