

Kat Ortega

ANTH 4980

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Final Project: Artist Statement

Textiles are a medium that have always inspired me. It is a tactile process that comes very easily to me. Of course, I will always find projects that will challenge me, so I made this piece to challenge more than just my sewing skills. I have never quite fit into what society calls ‘normal.’ I am a second-generation Mexican American, but white passing. I am non-binary but am perceived as feminine. These are experiences that combine uniquely to create me, but I know that feeling like an outsider is not an independent experience. I chose a variety of symbols to represent acceptance of oneself over time. The book displays societal barriers, a reclamation of symbolism, and radical acceptance. This project was an exploration of my own self-reflection of my identity, and I hope it encourages someone else's. By reflecting on how we view ourselves, it opens the door to reflect on how we view the world.





