RENÉ TREVIÑO

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Artist Statement

History is subjective; there are many blurred lines and so much distortion. Context and point of view are very important. One person's hero is another person's villain…it depends on who tells the story. As a gay Mexican-American I have always felt excluded and under-represented by history. My work attempts to make our already complicated history even more complicated. The more layers that I present, the closer I can get to something that might resemble truth.

I am combining imagery from ancient Mexican codices and pre-Hispanic sculptural objects with popular culture references such as Wonder Woman and Oreo cookies to create a new, queer world that speaks to the future as well as our past. The work is hand-painted/handmade and meticulous, the labor of the work speaks to the generational labor of my Mexican forebearers.

Throughout my work are themes of identity; I am interested in challenging traditional ideas of race, love, history, and sexuality. I feel compelled to make thoughtful and beautiful work that confronts societal assumptions and gives new insight into our human experience. My artwork addresses a personal quest for heroism and bravery as well as a need to define my place in the world.