INTERVIEW

BFA Senior Thesis Conversations
featuring Shanti Moreano Freire

Questions by Daniela Segovia

Shanti Moreano Freire is an undergraduate student working towards her BFA in Textiles at California College of the Arts.

See more of her work on Instagram @saturated.colores or visit her website www.shantimoreanofreire.com.

What is your thesis investigating?

My thesis investigates the colors that have been passed down generationally from my grandmother, mother, and sister. Growing up in the whitescapes of Minnesota rewired my brain to only accept sanitized forms of seeing the world, exiling the existence of the brown women in my life. After discovering the invasion of white in myself and deciding to unearth the beauty of colors I have inherited, it was urgent to collaborate with my lineage because they so generously passed down colors to me. I wanted them to see that their insistence in bringing pieces of Ecuador with them so that I could know my roots was valued. They warmed me when I was frozen.

Shanti Milena Moreano Freire

Alicia del Carmen Freire Yagual

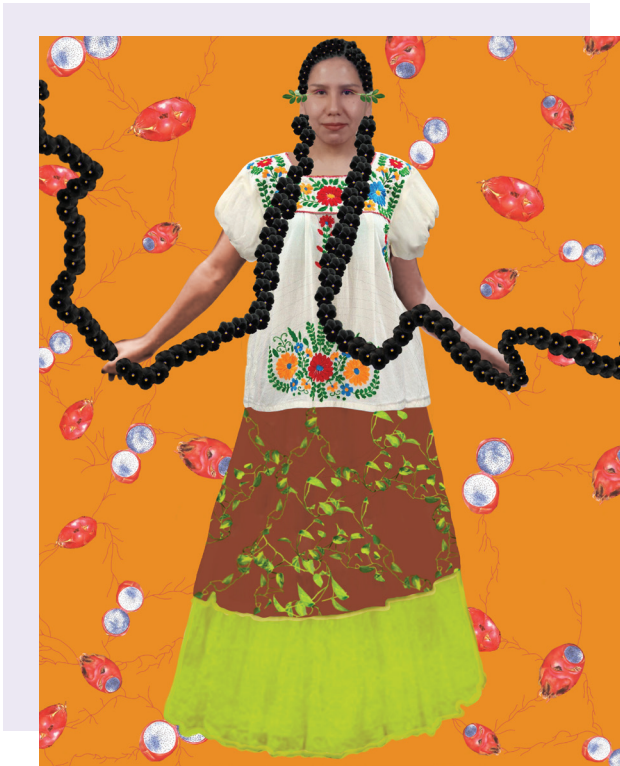### What is your major influence at the moment?

Influences in my process at the moment are the familial stories I have uncovered along the way, as well as music ranging from Ruben Blades to Residente.

Rupi Kaur has also been an influence. This poem has accompanied my making the last two years and I hold it close to keep me centered.
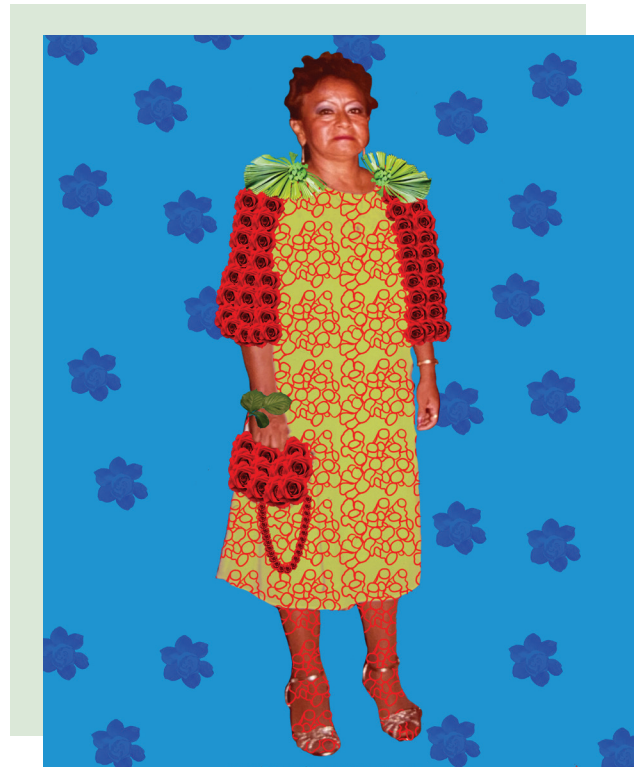
So how dare you mock your mother
when she opens her mouth
and broken English spills out.
Her accent is thick like honey,
hold it with your life,
it's the only thing she has left from home.
Don't stomp on that richness.

What's next for you?

The next steps are to make these portraits physically. Due to the limitations of the last year I began working digitally. Having completed these rich blueprints, I will incorporate tufting, dyeing, and painting to execute these pieces.

Francisca Leonor Yagual Alejandro

Maria Gabriela Moreano Freire