Raul Gonzalez| Artist Statement 2020

Back in 2016, I started my Artist-Parent painting and mixed-media drawing series. My focus was to capture the efforts and labors of my daily life as an artist and stay-at-home parent. Through painting and drawings, I have shared personal images of myself alongside my two young daughters, June and Cecelia.

The work draws attention to how we parse the minuets of our day and balance our roles, responsibilities, and multifaceted personalities. Whether it’s teaching my daughters to fold laundry or showing them how to properly hold a power drill, the works highlight the social and economic dichotomy between domestic work (“women’s work”) and manual labor. They bring to surface the values assigned to labor in different spheres, their gendering, and possible cultural shifts.

Additionally, alongside this body of work I have continued to pursue my interest in abstraction using versatile methods of painting, drawing, performance, and dance. By creating colorful modular and portable installations made of cardboard and duct tape, I have been able to transform spaces into places of fun and whimsy. Within those spaces I create, I perform acts of dance, domesticity, and parenting. The installations become a place where all my inspirations can come together. Specifically, I have used the installations to perform choreographed dances and have read children’s books to kids.

The two bodies of work allow me to show all aspects of my personality. In the paintings of myself alongside my daughters, I show myself as nurturing and serious. In the abstract installations, I create a space where I can be silly, fun, wild, and entertaining. As a stay-at-home parent, utilizing all these traits comes in very handy.

My motto is Werk. Hustle. Sleep Repeat.