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Develop New Art, incorporating augmented reality and animation skills (Summer 2022)

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University of Mississippi

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Frank Estrada, Visual Resources Specialist and Gallery Curator, Department of Art and Art History, developed augmented reality and animation skills.

For a week in June, I focused on creating animations and finally took the opportunity to create 3D models. With the stipend, I purchased programs needed to create artwork in a three-dimensional space. There is still a learning curve, but having a week devoted to learning and experimenting with new techniques has helped me grow as an artist. With what I learned and gained from this experience, I plan to incorporate more Augmented Reality (AR) & 3D art into my art pieces. As a traditional relief printmaker, I want to push the boundaries of my skills. I now consider myself an interdisciplinary artist at this stage of my art career.

And because of recent life experiences, I created artwork focused on self-identity, identity crisis, melancholy, and anxiety. The imagery consists of hands stopping and pointing at me. 3D renders of those hands mimic the surrounding aura I feel constantly. I used imagery to represent the stigmatization of being Mexican-American, Latino, and Hispanic. Life can be stressful at times. Finding the right words to express yourself can be challenging. So, creating artwork is my form of self-expression. With many interpretations, I want my audience to connect to my artwork in various ways, whether with a 2D relief print or immersed in the augmented reality portion of the art.

Shortly after my residency, I got invited to participate in a group exhibition consisting of contemporary Chicano artists for 2023. I was also nominated to submit work for a Southeastern Contemporary Art exhibition called southXeast. The stipend will also help purchase new frames for forthcoming exhibitions.

Thank you to John T. Edge from the Mississippi Lab, Afton Thomas from Southern Studies, Andrea Jekabsons from Human Resources, and Provost Noel Wilkin for this opportunity. It allowed me and other staff members at this university to develop and share our talents.