Five Works

Ira Mahadeokar

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About the Artist

My name is Ira Mahadeokar. I am a humanities student from Maharashtra, India currently studying sociology. Expressing myself through colours and drawings has come easily to me since the age of 5. Although I am familiar with several painting and drawing techniques, I prefer working mostly with the art styles of illustrating and doodling, since I find them easier to work with. Some of my inspirations are Indian Artists like Alicia D’Souza and Bombay-based illustrator Priyanka Paul as well as Hawaiian Queer illustrator Cheyne Gallarde. I have always thought of art as the best source to come to terms with reality, and personally, it allows me to express myself and the world like no other medium. Living in an age where injustices and infringements occur all around us, and being a Gen-Z kid, I tend to wish that I could bring about some form of change in the world. So, I decided to combine fields and figured that where words fail to make an impact, art might do the trick. Email: imahadeokar@gmail.com

About the Paintings

1. Justice for our Sisters and not Just our Cis-ters: This piece urges for the inclusion of LGBTQ individuals while advocating to end violence against women. While making this, I wanted to challenge the basic notion and misbelief that trans-women aren’t women. Trans folks, non-gender-conforming people—or more specifically non-cisgender persons—face shocking amounts of violence and discrimination on a daily basis. There is injustice at every turn on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identities. These individuals experience domestic violence in 25-35% of relationships—the same rate as the general population. Here I have highlighted some of the key figures in the LGBTQ community such as Marsha P. Johnson and the recently deceased Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells’ and Riah Milton who fell victim to an act of hate crime. Size: 210 x 297 mm or 8.3 x 11.7 inches (A4 size sheets used). Materials used: Basic watercolour paints on drawing paper.
2. **Hands of Hell**: Depicting society through a crimson storm, this piece tries to detail the various forms through which women face violence and injustices. Here, making use of doodles, I have tried to emphasize the ever-increasing incidences of injustices against women. Size: 210 x 297 mm or 8.3 x 11.7 inches (A4 size sheets used). Materials used: Watercolour paints on hot pressed-drawing paper.
3. **A Cry for Help**: This piece portrays a timeless cry of distress. Violence against women and girls has existed for generations. It is rooted in the gender inequality that women face throughout their lives, from childhood to old age. It is also one of the most widespread violations of human rights in the world. It is time that women be put out of this misery since very little is done to terminate this issue. Size: 10” x 12”. Materials used: Acrylic paints on rough drawing paper.
4. **Veiled Love**: Portrayed in this picture is an Indian bride with the underlying message of abusive marriages, emphasizing how behind closed doors lies a completely different story than the one that meets the public’s eye. Women are often told to endure domestic violence in the name of God, since the husband is supposed to be worshipped by the wife. The idea of a loving marriage is crushed under the horrors through emotional sabotaging and assault in an abusive marriage. Size: 8.3” x 11.7”. Materials used: Acrylic paints used on rough drawing paper.

5. **Los Zapatos rojos**: Inspired by the movement started by Mexican artist Elina Chauvet, “Zapatos rojos” expresses women taking a stand against femicide and violence. The red shoes are symbolic of liberty and strength. Shoes, in this specific situation, represent the path that every single woman makes towards freedom from violence. Red, on the other hand, is the controversial element; on the one hand it represents love and passion, while on the other, unfortunately, blood, violence, and morbid possession that too often becomes a deadly trap. It is a calamitous celebration of some aspects of a grave issue. Size: 8” x 10” Materials used: Acrylic paints used on canvas.