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Artist Statement

My art engages with mythology, mortality, and identity in order to reconcile with the circumstances of my existence. These circumstances which I refer to encompass matters of human evolution, religion, culture, and lineage. Human civilizations came about in the way they did, formed the religions and cultures that shaped our societies today, and people were born and gave birth to more people; somewhere along this network of interactions, I came to be. I have come to associate this network as a visualization of the human experience. I am fascinated by how we as people cope with our existence, and through my artistic process I am contemplating and reconciling with my own existence.

Eyes are a prominent motif in my artwork as they represent seeing and being seen, and sometimes, even knowing. They frequently appear in my work as disembodied icons rather than representational features on a subject. Often, the eyes are indicative of a metaphysical presence. In addition, many of my subjects are engaged in eye contact with the viewer. The use of eye contact allows for a variety of tones of engagement, be it a beckoning glance or an accusatory stare. Many of the portraits I create depict myself or my loved ones as translucent or transparent, like a ghost. I superimpose my ghost portraits onto photographs that feature plant life at varying stages of growth. This emphasizes the cycle of death and rebirth. By foregrounding it, I invite viewers to contemplate their mortality. Through my digital collage work, I find there is opportunity for both wonder and despair amidst the unknown. Sometimes I create a setting of

another world or history to reflect on the passage of time. I am committed to depicting surreal landscapes as a quiet manifestation of infinite potential.

The culmination of my desire to reconcile with my existence through art is to create myths. Mythology, however fantastical it may be, was once how people conveyed their deepest experiences to one another. I became a mythmaker because I needed to communicate my experience: my efforts to reclaim my indigenous Mexican heritage, my anxieties about surveillance and judgment, and my belief in preserving the lands I live on. The myths I create are mashups of the cultural influences in my life with the intent of understanding my identity and positionality in contemporary society. PRIMORDIAL is a collection of my work as a mythmaker and artist.