

# ABOUT THE ARTISTS

of Coast Salish tribes. They live and work in Seattle, WA.

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## **Xio Lugo** *she/they*

My name is Xio Lugo, and I am a visual designer based in Seattle, WA. In my personal and professional time, I treasure opportunities to make art that can make an impact. I come from a family of immigrants, as do we all, because immigration is a universal human story. The families currently being separated and detained at the US/Mexico border and other Immigrant Detention facilities are being robbed of their dignity, safety, and their right to be with their families. Drawing inspiration from artists like Lila Downs (listen to her cover of Manu Chao's *cong Clandestino*), the woodblock prints of Käthe Kollwitz, and the milagro charms from my childhood, this piece is meant to unambiguously address the injustices going on in our country right now. I hope the image I've created reminds you that this is not a political issue, it's a HUMAN RIGHT.

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## **Zahyr Lauren** *they/them*

I create multi-dimensional works on paper that honor the truth that life is at once a precisely organized experience and a chaotic mess. Expressed through my use of saturated and imposing color, repetitive shapes, and the illusion of perfectly symmetrical composition, my drawings grapple with this difficult reality.

I use sacred geometric forms in my artwork to acknowledge that this, and duality in general, is beyond a human experience. It is seen in all of nature and the universe. Though I am particularly interested in how duality is uniquely experienced by Black folks. Through a visual language of symbols, color, and geometry, my art creates space for the expression of Black pride, power, and regality, alongside pain and grief.

I draw with a variety of materials, including marker, paint, metallic calligraphy pen, and ink. I am often not intentional about the orientation of a piece, and as I create, I draw from all angles of the paper. My academic background in mathematics deeply influences my approach to artmaking. I draw lines with triangle squares, shape templates, and rulers, approaching each drawing as an architect models space. While the two-dimensional worlds that I create are abstract, they often contain concrete references to the natural world. I research and map out sacred geometric patterns, from the structure of bee communities, to the physical form of pineapples. I listen to repetitive, ambient music while I draw, creating from the space where art and science (or chaos and order) meet.

Drawings are sites of connection. Whether in the interaction of shapes and colors on paper, or in how viewers interpret my work through the lens of their own experiences and cultural references. My drawings are an exploration of the universality of color and shape, and ultimately, the basic commonality of human and non-human experience.