



## Cover Art—“Corona de Rosas Espinosas”

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This piece is a stance against Machismo Culture, another name for Toxic Masculinity, that is prevalent in Latin America (as toxic culture is a part of all cultures). As a biracial Latina woman who grew up in the border town of Chula Vista, California, and later Portland, Oregon, I saw a lot of toxic behaviors from both Latino and White men. Simply existing as a female meant that catcalls were very common, whether while walking at night or being out in general. Thus, I had to grow to be hyper-aware of my surroundings. This piece lets me reclaim some of my own space, and the horns and the flower crown are reminders that people can be feminine, strong, and tough. We don't need to be told to smile, we don't need to be soft and approachable, we can be tough, neutral-faced, and spiky. We can wear jewelry, we can wear makeup, and we don't owe strangers our time or conversation.

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\* Isabelle Amezcua, is a Philosophy and History double major at the University of Oregon. Born in Washington D.C., she later moved to California, where she spent the first part of her childhood in Chula Vista, a ten-minute drive from the Mexican border. She attended her first year of school in Tijuana before moving to Portland, where she spent her formative years. Inspired by her grandpa, who is an artist himself, Isabelle spends a lot of her free time painting and drawing. As her grandpa still lives in D.C., they stay in touch by texting each other random doodles and paintings. Her grandpa is the one who started her passion for art, although its therapeutic effects and her own vested interest in it keep her creating whenever she can between school and work. Please direct correspondence to [iia@uoregon.edu](mailto:iia@uoregon.edu).