

Marie Liza Manigat

Artist Statement for *Reconnection*

In the portrait, I wanted to convey that I am reclaiming something that I had disconnected myself from in the past. My aspiration was to reconnect with my cultural identity because for a long time I had to hide in order to fit in the Americanized bubble to please those around me. I also wanted to create something that included my culture but modernize it a bit with little additions of the things that make me who I am.

I incorporated elements of Haitian culture into my portrait through my outfit. I'm wearing a bright blue dress with a white skirt with patterns under it to make it look somewhat similar to Haitian traditional clothing, as well as bead bracelets and a chaplèt (a prayer rosary bead). I added my own style through pieces that make me feel like myself: the modern-day white platform boots and thrifted jewelry. The objects that surround me also represent my own experiences and connection to my authentic self. I included artwork I made at Haystack during my residency, which were encaustic graphics made with beeswax, pigmented paint, and collage. I also incorporated some of the religious sculptures my mom had in her room, which were two mini statues of Virgin Mary and one of Jesus. Bringing these objects together, I am connecting myself with the part of me I had hidden away.