

Karen Perez
“¿De Donde Eres?”
“Where are you from?”

My art work is revolved around being able to define my own cultural identity, I have always been asked the same question on where I am from, I have always had a hard time being able to respond to this question. That is why my title is exactly that, asking “where you are from?” My culture is very important to me, but it is hard to be accepted in the country where my parents are from, and where I currently live. I was born in Houston, Texas, I am American but sometimes it feels like I do not belong. When I go visit my family in Mexico, I was always treated a bit differently because I don't permanently live in Mexico. I was told that I will never understand truly what it means to be Mexican. I find myself asking why is this important? Why focus on Identity? It's important because how many Karen Perez from Houston attending Lycoming College do you know? It is a personal series focused on the question that many people in my position face or have had a difficulty answering at one point in their lives. I wanted to focus on Identity, because it distinguishes character or personality of an individual; individuality, that is something that should be easy to have and define but because it comes with labels, can be taken away or placed on yourself, it is hard to have. Along, with it changing as we grow older and gain further knowledge ourselves to be able to define who we are as individuals. For that reason, it is important, and I am focusing with my label as Karen Perez and hopefully be able to answer the question with ease one day.