

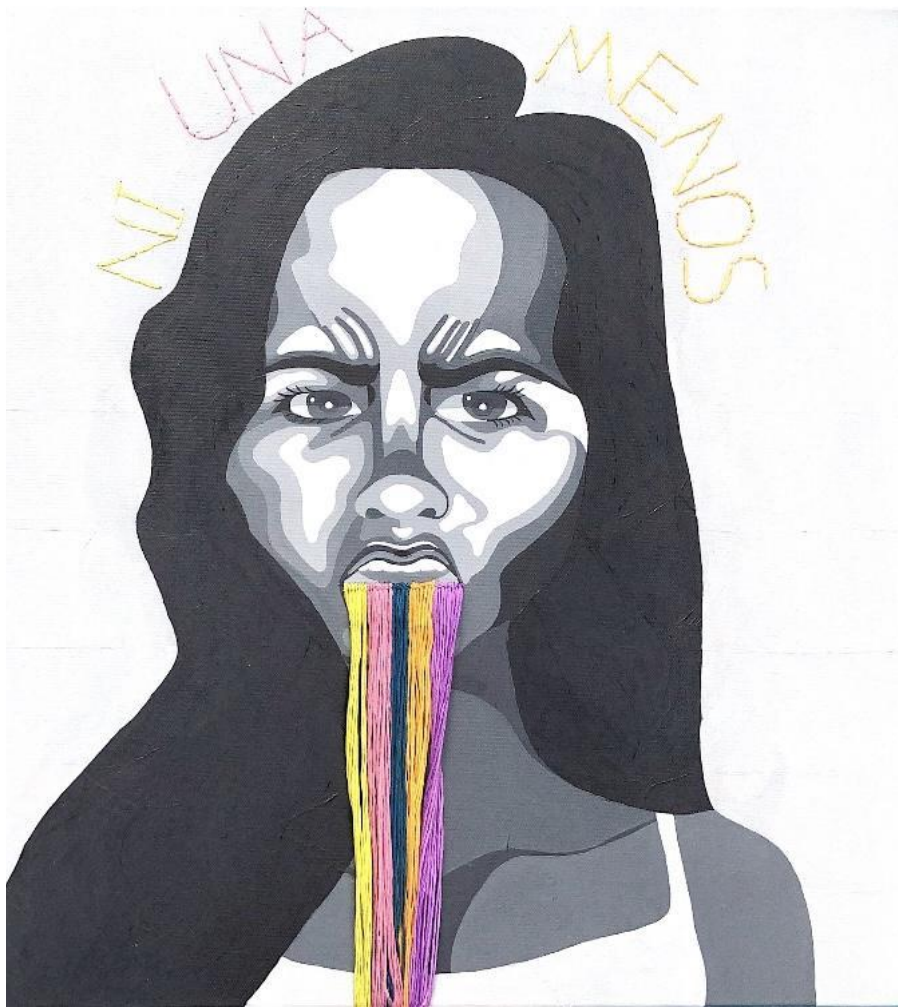
My name is Faye Buckenmaier and I am in year 11 at the Europa School. We are studying for the International Baccalaureate and from year 10 to 11 are working on a personal project. For my project I have chosen to research women's rights in Iran and Argentina and have expressed what I have learned through a collection of two paintings. Additionally, I have set myself the challenge of taking inspiration from a female artist for both pieces. These artists are Simin Keramati and Victoria Villasana.



In the Pahlavi Dynasty in Iran (1925 - 1979), there was a significant improvement to women's rights, however, since the dynasty sought to create more similarities between the Iranian and western societies, one change that was made, was a ban on wearing the hijab in public. Women who rebelled were hit, had their hijabs ripped off and their houses searched. Although for many women this period symbolised the movement towards a more equal society, women should not have to sacrifice their religious freedom or freedom to self expression, in order to obtain the most basic rights. Immediately after the Iranian Revolution, also known as the Islamic Revolution, in 1979, any woman who refused to wear the hijab would be arrested or sentenced to death. This piece of art shows the similarity between the two very different periods in the history of Iran: that women do not have complete freedom.

Simin Keramati was born in Tehran, Iran in 1970, where she lived and worked for many years. Three years after the presidential elections in 2009 she moved to Toronto as the elections were having a negative effect on her mental health. She is mainly known as a painter and filmmaker. Common topics in her artwork are: the killing of Iranian writers, the Iran-Iraq war, the "Arab Spring" (a group of uprisings against the governments in the Middle East in the 2010s), the death penalty, women's rights and immigration. In my painting I have tried to achieve the sharp lines, the strong colours and the technique of recreating the facial structure and lighting with blocks of colour, which are common characteristics in her artwork.

To look at Simin Keramati's art: <https://siminkeramati.com/paintings-mixed-media/>



Machismo is a concept describing what it means to be masculine, deeply integrated into Latin American and Spanish culture. It celebrates bravery, dominance, aggression, sexism and emotional reservation and goes against feminine attributes, thus creating the belief that women are inferior to men. Machismo is one of the main causes of the extremely high rate of femicide in Argentina. In 2015, a large movement was born, in which women originally protested against this aggression whilst holding signs reading Ni Una Menos, or Not One Less. In 2018 the movement transitioned from its original purpose and started to call for the legalization abortion. This painting represents the positive change achieved by the protests. The messages of the protesting women are displayed by colourful strips of thread, pouring out of the woman's mouth, and spreading across the country and eventually the whole of Latin America. The themes of the protests became large topics of discussion, leading the government to implement important laws to prevent violence towards women, including the Micaela law and Brisa law. The Micaela law makes training on gender and violence against women mandatory for anybody in the public service and the Brisa law guarantees financial support for the children of the victims of femicide. Furthermore, in December 2020, Argentina relaxed its abortion laws, now allowing any woman to abort a pregnancy for the first 14 weeks.

Victoria Villasana a mexican textile artist born in 1982. Although she is inspired by traditional Latin American textile techniques, she uses threads to embellish portraits of icons in her own way. Often she sews flowy, frehanded patterns onto the pictures, drapes thread from the eyes or writes quotes around the head. Often the thread flows off of the canvas, symbolising the importance in accepting imperfection.

To look at Victoria Villasana's art:

<https://victoriavillasana.com/portfolio-category/portfolio/>