

breaking the 5th wall

Navya Thakkar - Artist Statement

Something that has become abundantly clear to me since becoming an artist is that I am obsessed with details. Whether I am creating or consuming art, I am focused on noticing the intricacies that make our world go round, and for a long time, I have been trying to convey this in my art. In the last year, I have encountered a lot of stories - in people, in places, and in art. But the ones that stood out to me the most were the stories told by ceilings. Now, every time I enter a room, my instinct is to look up. Beams, domes, mosaics, paintings - I began looking for the patterns in each one. What I found was that every single wall held a whole world within itself.

Breaking The 5th Wall is an exhibition that has a two-fold meaning to me. The ceiling of a room is affectionately referred to as the “5th wall,” encapsulating the main character of my exhibition succinctly. However, in addition to that, it holds another meaning. “Breaking the 4th wall” means breaking character to talk to an audience. “Breaking the 5th wall” refers to both breaking character and acknowledging its fictional existence, and having a conversation with the artist themselves. This exhibition is my way of conversing with the art that I have experienced and the artists I have come to admire. I wanted to capture their work in mine, and represent it in the way I experience it - through my art.

My pieces exist as linocuts. I was drawn to this form of printmaking mostly because of ease - something I could create on the go, something I could handle printing in my NYC apartment. The ceilings chosen range from large cathedrals, to my classrooms at Pratt. Other prints in the exhibition are of details that stood out to me from other artworks, buildings, and experiences.

This exhibition is my ode to the art I have been able to experience in the last year. Through the process of creating my work, I was able to pay my respects to the artists that have come before me, and participate in the stories that they created, albeit in a small way.

Lastly, I just want to thank my mother, Archana Thakkar, for teaching me how to notice, understand, and document the world around me. While I may miss the bigger picture once in a while, my mom is the reason I will always appreciate the little details.