

## 1. Contact information

Missy “MJ” Hart (Infinite Mentality)

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2nd-year Transfer, Graduation Fall 2020

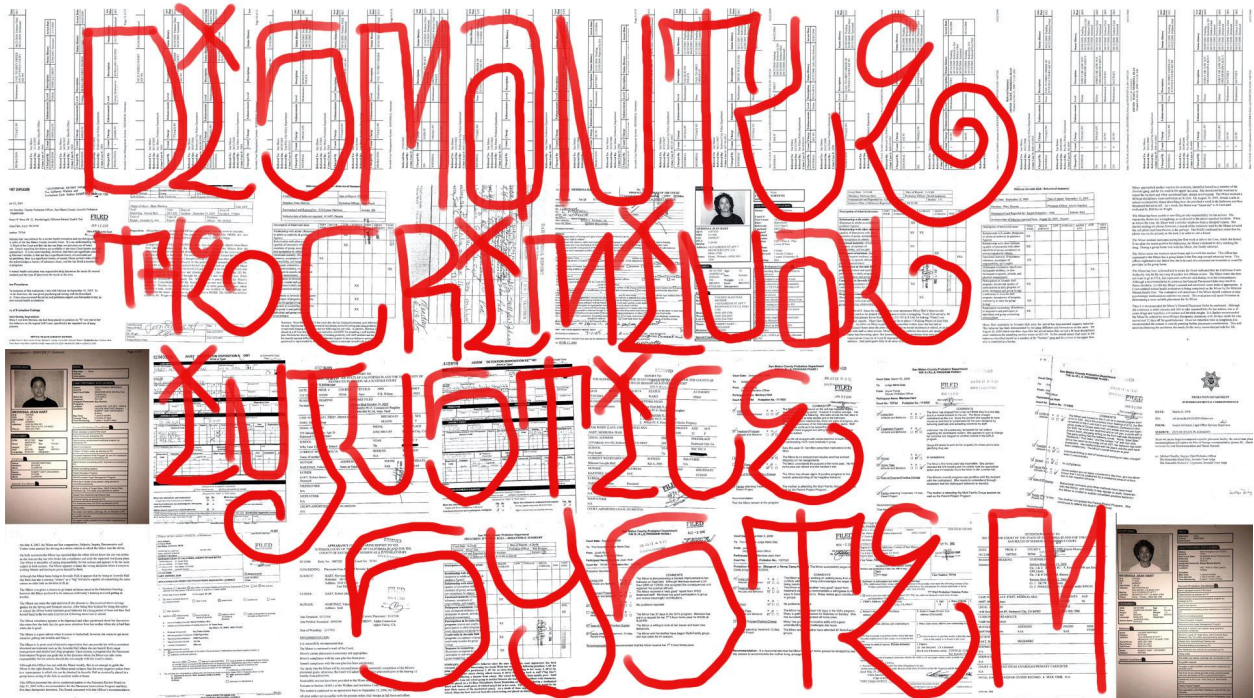
## 2. Mural Design #1 Location (Elena Baskin Art Center, F101 Print shop wall.

Dimensions: 115” x 252”

or

Mural #2 Location (Elena Baskin Art Center, North wall of Building L101 Painting Studio)

Dimensions: 108” x 384”



## 3. Material description of mural:

“Dismantle the System” Wheatpaste Photo Collage

Dimensions can fill the whole space or can be scaled smaller. If in Location #1 can be 115” x 245” or in location #2 can be 100” x 375” I am flexible on the size. I can print out the photo collage and install directly using wheat paste or I can print on a board or canvas and install it so it can be removable.

4. **Concept:** The abolition of the criminal injustice system is at the root of designing this mural. Now more than ever the deep wound inflicted upon the oppressed is showing face in a magnitude of ways. The prison industrial complex is the beating heart embedded deep within the mechanisms of these systems of oppression rooted in white supremacist politics.

As the University community returns to school this Fall 2021 it is my intention with this mural to spark a deep reflection into an experience many in this community never have come to live themselves.

This work is a compilation of pieces of my “jacket”, my file, my “criminal history”, it is my adolescence growing up institutionalized all on record. A tangible history of being a child enduring the horrors of the criminal injustice system. Atop my record is a screaming statement to dismantle the system. A system which statistically keeps the oppressed disenfranchised from generation to generation evolving with the times.

Within the blank spaces are my personal annotations; the space to finally tell my personal narrative. To finally express the truth of the horrors of my experiences within the criminal injustice system. A privilege I was never afforded while incarcerated. A time when every aspect of my being was being controlled and manipulated by the P.I.C and those working within the system to uphold the P.I.C and the injustices we endured. My annotations are a reflection of my journey to reclaiming my personal narrative, honoring my mother, my ancestors and all our loved ones we lost to the streets and the system. Expressing the process, impact and importance of developing a critical consciousness and the work I do now in my community and beyond rooted in my lived experiences, my healing, all that I have overcome and my intention of manifesting a future that is free from the P.I.C and white supremacist politics.

We are living in a pivotal moment in history, one in which the masses are becoming increasingly aware of the discrepancies between a system that claims it is just while keeping Black and Brown bodies at the mercy of unimaginable atrocities while the privileged continue to benefit from such systems.

A system which thrives off the criminalization and imprisonment of children who grow up to become broken adults; bodies to fuel the prison industrial complex.

Is this not a system rotten to the core? Is it not designed to be such?

Ask yourself what kind of system would imprison an 11 year old child in solitary confinement, pump experimental psychotropic drugs into their young minds barely starting to develop, and steal children away from their families to become trapped in a contribution to the biopolitical dynamics of the AmeriKKKAn society.

I implore you to allow the unmasking of such oppressive systems to move you to develop a critical consciousness so that you may not be neutral in times of injustice. Let this piece move you to action, to stand up for our Black, Brown, LGBTQ+ community, and if nothing else let this piece move you to no longer be complicit to a system which thrives off the pain and misery of the most vulnerable; the marginalized, the forgotten.

Even if you have never experienced these atrocities yourself you have the power to manifest transformational change. It begins within yourself when you make the decision to consciously do so.

5. **Artist Statement:** MJ Hart is an artist and abolitionist born and bred in North Fair Oaks, Redwood City, CA. Gang member turned activist after growing up criminalized, institutionalized and surviving the horrors of the criminal injustice system.

In rebuilding their life, MJ learned to transmute the negativity of their past into seeds of positivity for the future through developing a critical consciousness, weaponizing their mind, and putting in the work to manifest transformation healing.

MJ is a Workshop Facilitator, Columnist and Creator of “Rozes Among Thorns” with The Beat Within, a San Francisco based non-profit providing incarcerated youth and adults with a weekly writing, art and conversation workshop that gives them a safe space to share their ideas and experiences while promoting literacy, expression, critical thinking skills, and supportive relationships with the community.

After recently earning their BA in Psychology and History of Consciousness, MJ is striving to put that knowledge into action by organizing with various grassroots orgs in their hometown and surrounding communities. Advocating for real systemic changes radically watering the seeds of the revolution while pushing that hard line to collectively heal the hood.

Through their art and poetry MJ strives to inspire folx to take action in their own lives by getting involved in social justice advocacy and beyond. MJ believes there is a power in creative arts that can move folx to go outside their comfort zone, outside of their fears,

and to break free from complacency to no longer conform to a system that contributes to the redistribution of wealth and power to the privileged at the expense of the oppressed.

MJ believes that change begins within the individual first and foremost in order to flourish on a collective level. Igniting that spark is what MJ strives to create with their art.

6. **Qualifications:** I am a UCSC student, Underground Scholar, activist and an artist. I have been personally impacted by the criminal injustice system. I have contributed to a mural project in my hometown and I just genuinely care about the people. I care about inspiring folx to get involved in social justice issues and to take action in standing in solidarity with each other, together contributing to the elevation of collective consciousness manifesting justice for all. Fall Quarter is also my last quarter here at UCSC and I will be living on campus so I will be able to construct and install the mural with no problems.

7. **Portfolio:**



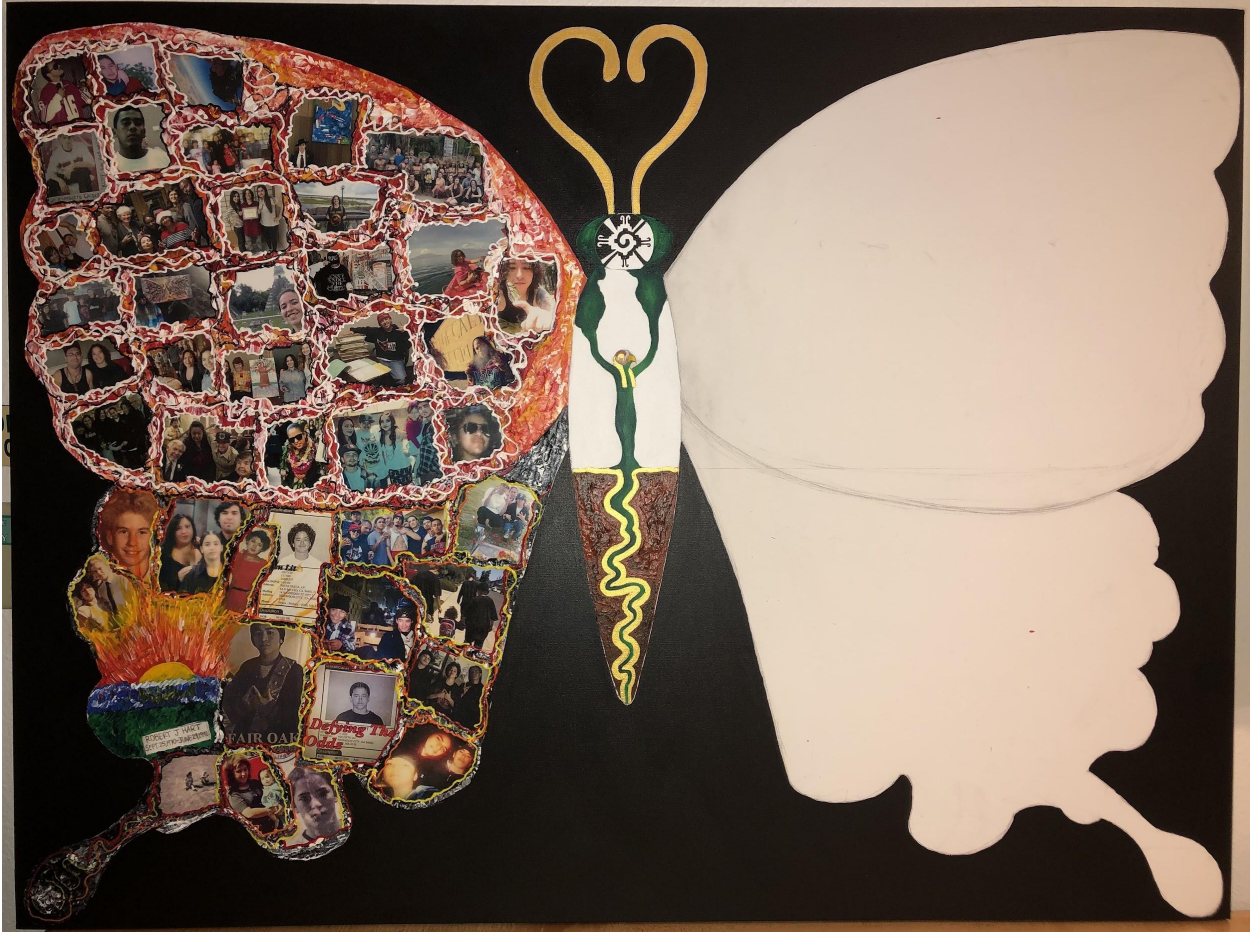
“Redwood the Lost City” (2016) this piece was inspired by both the destruction of my hometown from the drastic effects of gentrification and the creation and beauty that still stands embodied by the people and the neighborhoods that remain thriving among the struggle. (acrylic paint and fabric paint on canvas)



“Viva la Educación” (2017) this piece was created for the Latin Heritage Month celebration at Foothill College. In this painting I strived to honor our ancestors native to this land and Latin America who worked hard in the fields and the streets to create the opportunity of education for us. (acrylic paint and fabric paint on canvas)



“Burning Through Among the Chaos” (2018) this piece was inspired by my journey at UC Santa Cruz and the struggle/growth of transitioning and learning in a place where I am misrepresented in a system designed for people of a more privileged background. Learning to grow through what I am going through. (acrylic paint on canvas)

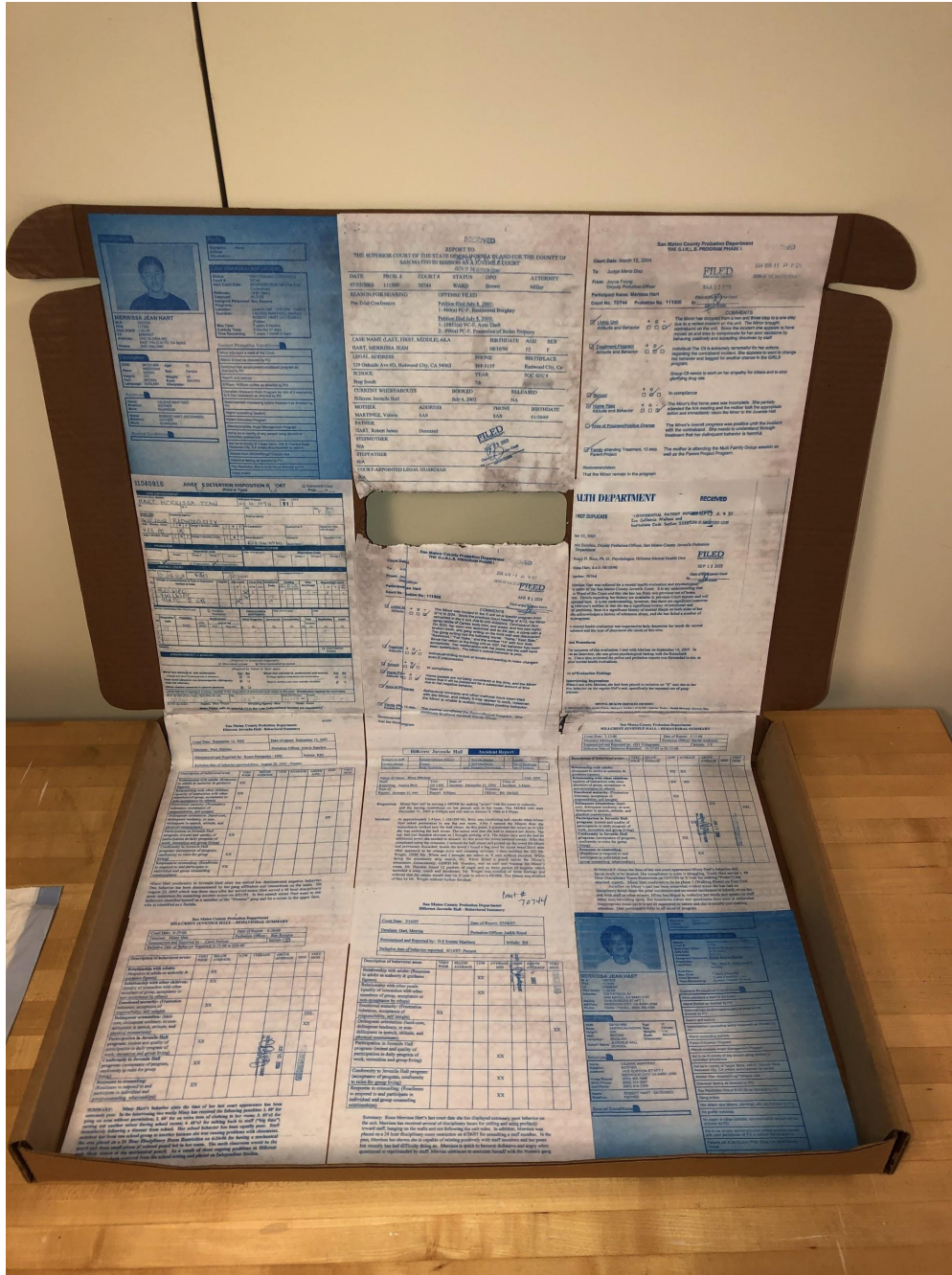


“Metamorphosis” (2020) this piece was inspired by the current time point in my evolution, my Saturn Return, this piece was featured in the Underground Scholars Initiative’s Just Culture event 2020 (acrylic paint and fabric paint on canvas)





“Rise from the Ashes” (2015) this piece was inspired by where I was in my life, in my healing journey at the time. This piece marks the beginning of my transformation from violent felon, gang member, ex-con to the scholar, leader, healer I am today. This painting also marks the beginning of my identity as Infinite Mentality (acrylic paint, Redwood Tree Bark from the Big Basin Redwood Forest in Santa Cruz, CA on canvas)



This is a current piece I am working on surrounding my experiences of being a young child in solitary confinement.

8. Budget: I plan to use the budget to print out the photo collage and to purchase the wheatpaste and materials needed to install the mural. If requesting it be removable then I

will use the funds to print out the photo collage on board or canvas and materials to install.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Love, Blessings & Solidarity.