



Studio Art Contest:

Title: n/a

Student: Marceli Miranda

Artist Statement: My work begins with the tension between what is built and what becomes. In this piece, I shape clay into a form reminiscent of coral rising from stone, a living architecture emerging from a foundation older and heavier than itself. The rock-like base symbolizes the bedrock of America: the ideals, contradictions, and histories that form the ground we stand on. It is solid, immovable, and marked by time.

The coral form grows upward and outward, branching in unpredictable directions. For me, it represents the ongoing evolution of the American identity, a collective structure built not by a single hand but by countless small lives, stories, and struggles. Coral is both resilient and fragile, capable of astonishing beauty yet vulnerable to imbalance. In that duality, I see the truth of this country.

By merging geological weight with organic growth, I explore how a nation is never finished. It is always accreting, always adapting, always shaped by the living. This piece is a meditation on inheritance and possibility: what we build from, what we build toward, and what we must protect if we want the structure to endure.