

Michael Velasquez

Bio

Michael Velasquez was born in Newark, New Jersey in December of 1997. Being born in Newark, Michael knew this place as his home as that is where he grew up. Bouncing around in places such as East Orange, Bloomfield, and the nest of busy cramped streets that is Newark. He lived with both of his parents and his younger brother. Growing up, Michael was always surrounded by family and was always gifted with doing family events. He would play with cousins and hang out with the majority of his family members. At the age of 4, he attended his first preschool where he met his first teacher, Ms. Read. Preschool for Michael was exciting and he learned so much to explore and play and make his first friends. Michael's family was very centered around art and education. His mother was learning to be an architect, one aunt was into creating fashion, one was an art teacher, and another was all into creating unique make-up and hairstyles. Being surrounded by all this energy for creativity and the drive to create new things, Michael was shown what an artist can do. Michael began a small journey into fulfilling his goal. Graduating from 8th and heading into Marist high school in Bayonne, Michael picked and aimed to focus on the Visual Arts. Taking as many art classes allowed, he further ignited his passion for art. Around sophomore year, he transferred to a high school in Budd Lake, Mount Olive Highschool. This move was a very important one, as this is where the doors truly opened for Michael. With higher quality art classes, Michael was given the tools to further develop his love for creating art pieces. Constantly trying and failing with all the different mediums and styles he could think of, he continued to persevere and keep making art. At the end of senior year, being in the AP studio art show, Michael finally was able to achieve something to reassure him and give that small confidence boost, being awarded 2nd place among many students and artworks. Moving forward from high school, Michael enrolled in CCM to major in Visual Fine Arts and continue his search for being a great artist.