

Artist Statement

Montserrat Rubio '25 (L&S Art, Printmaking and Sculptural emphasis)

2025 UCSB Alumni Awards Gala

While I wasn't aiming for hyperrealism in this project, I did want to make proportions accurate to the human form. The heart itself is 12cm for it to be as accurate as possible. The two part title is simply because I had a hard time deciding what to name it. "My Sacred Heart" is both a nod to the sacred heart of Jesus as well as referencing my own heart and how I view it. The sacred heart of Jesus is said to be His endless and passionate love for mankind; I named it "my sacred heart" as I am presenting my heart to the viewer, this viewer could be considered my lover, as I am bearing my heart to them within my own hands. I made this connection due to how vulnerable and terrifying it is when entering an intimate relationship. Speaking about my feelings about someone is a hard thing to do, especially when those feelings revolve around love. I wanted to showcase that feeling in a physical form. Bearing your heart to someone is a very vulnerable state to be in but it's something I love to do, even if I get hurt at the end of it. The second title is in reference to the song, *Devuélveme el Corazón* by Julio Jaramillo, where he sings about giving his heart to a woman after spending one night with her, and telling her at the end of the song that he doesn't want his heart broken, so he'll leave his heart with her. I have the belief that when you interact with someone and allow yourself to be vulnerable with them, there is a transfer of energy that remains within the both of us. This is

symbolized through my hands presenting my heart as an offering. The plaster is intentionally untouched, stark white compared to the bright red of the PLA, forcing the heart to be the center of this piece, leaving the bearer to be an afterthought.