

West Hollywood Artist Profile 2013

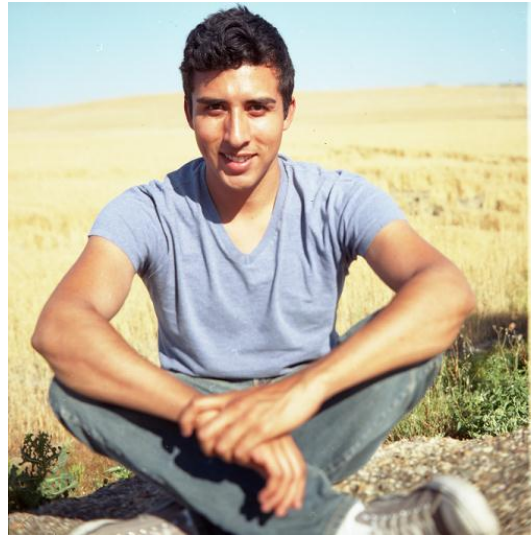
Name: Ramiro Gomez

City of Residence: West Hollywood

Age: 27

- 1) **Tell us about you. Who are you? Where are you from originally? How long have you lived/worked in West Hollywood?**

My name is Ramiro Gomez and I am an Artist. My family emigrated from Mexico to the United States, eventually settling in the Inland Empire. I was born and raised, along with my two younger sisters, in San Bernardino, CA. I moved to West Hollywood for a job as a live-in nanny that lasted from 2009-2011. Currently I've been living/working in West Hollywood with my partner of 7 years, David.



- 2) **How does living or working in West Hollywood affect your artwork, if at all?** I see the city as a diverse blend of people from many different ethnic and social backgrounds. Because of my job as a nanny, I see and connect specifically with the many people who commute into the city for the various domestic and service-oriented jobs the city provides. I am constantly walking or driving around, for both work and leisure, observing



and finding inspiration in the various, brief situations I come across, such as seeing a nanny pushing a stroller, a housekeeper waiting for the bus, a gardener trimming a hedge, or a valet waiting in front of the many restaurants and stores around Melrose Place.

These seemingly unremarkable scenes of people who work here are in actuality significant representations of the labor that enables this city to operate. There is glamour and luxury in West Hollywood, but there are people who are needed to maintain that luxury and glamour.

3) **What is your favorite thing about West Hollywood or what is your favorite place in West Hollywood?** If I had to choose a favorite place in West Hollywood it would have to be Irv's Burgers. Sonia and her family, along with Fransisco the cook, are examples of the hard-working individuals that are an important part of this city. Sonia's warm greetings and creative, hand-written personalized messages have always made me feel welcome and nurture my own creative spirit. They've been struggling lately to maintain their burger stand that has been a significant place for me and it is my hope that they remain a part of the community I call home.

4) **What if anything does the City motto, The Creative City, mean to you?** West Hollywood provides an invaluable amount of inspiration for me. Coming from a creatively starved city like San Bernardino, here I can simply go for a walk around my neighborhood, or venture along Melrose Place and find something to paint about. The Creative City motto means that I also can find the essential support as an artist to pursue my creative efforts, such as my current work up at West Hollywood Park, to help bring a new perspective to the city and it's residents.

5) **Where can we see your artwork in West Hollywood?**



The Caretakers (or Los Cuidadores) mural West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069, can be found between the basketball courts and the tiny tots building.

Opening reception September 21 from 4-6pm in front of the mural