

IJANIA CORTEZ

Ijania Cortez was born July 31, 1990 in Detroit Michigan. At an early age she was encouraged to pursue art from her early teachers, and began to study on her own. Though she lost touch with her craft in her high school years, with encouragement from peers, she began to create art again in 2012. Rediscovering her passion, she began teaching herself through strenuous study. She hosted her first solo exhibition, A Summer Nativity, in July 2017.

Focusing on portraiture, the artist's work uses vibrant colors and scale to evoke a sense of divinity in her subjects. Handcrafting customized canvases from salvaged wood and building material, her pieces have been described as soulful, provocative, and indicative of the beauty of the human spirit.

In January 2018, Ms Cortez participated in a fundraiser for COTS, Coalition on Temporary Shelter. They described her and her work in the following tribute:

[“Ijania Cortez](#) is an experienced fine artist and painter whose work is known for its ability to capture the raw emotion and vulnerability of human nature. Influenced by the emotions of her subjects and the stories behind them, Ijania is a much-sought-after local artist with growing following of fans across the world. Ijania's latest gallery showing, “A Summer Nativity,” launched last June closing with a private auction of her most exclusive pieces and the creation of the Ijania Cortez library.

Ijania's beautiful work is featured on our Soup City 2018 materials. We appreciate her willingness to be part of this artistic experience!”