

DNA: Disability Not Ability

Program Descriptor

DNA: Disability Not Ability

Choreographer:

Vanessa Hernández Cruz

Soloist:

Vanessa Hernández Cruz

Director, Producer, Videographer, & Editor:

Vanessa Hernández Cruz

Digital Artist:

Kianna Peppers

IG: CrystalK25

Mixed Media Art/Collages:

Vanessa Hernández Cruz

Music: [Ordered from beginning to end]

"Mesa" by Benjamin Wallfisch & Hans Zimmer

"Mariage d' Amour" by Chopin

"A Message" by Cities Last Broadcast

"She Saw God Watching Through Her Window" by Arigto

"Isolation Journal" by In Quantum

"Odyssey" by In Quantum

"I Will Go to War" by Tessa Thompson

"DNA (Remix)" by Kendrick Lamar

About:

This dance film is a personal abstraction of Vanessa's journey as a disabled artist and person. The poem spoken throughout the piece draws from elements of Vanessa's dreams, aspirations, & struggles that occurred throughout her life. It is divided into three chapters that are: Decoy, Glitch, and Roots. Each chapter symbolizes a specific moment in time of Vanessa's journey, and this includes the

style of dance in each chapter. This piece is in essence about taking ownership of her identity as a Disabled Mexican American. It is also a celebration of oneself despite the struggles of navigating an ableist society.

Environment:

*The entire piece was filmed in the same room. Each section is designed to resemble the theme within the poem and dance.

Chapter Decoy:

-Parts where she is lying on the ground: the tiled floor is a beige yellow color. Around her are gears and metal pieces scattered. There is a white door a bit visible in these scenes. There is a tapestry that is visible that has an abstract city as a design. On the corner of these clips there is an ocean wave that is gently moving.

-Dreamlike Ballet Dance: the door is adorned with vines that have purple flowers. There are starry lights on the ground that are slowly fading on and off through this section. The inside of the tiled floor room is now covered with the same vines that are on the door. The lighting is a pink/purple color creating a dreamlike atmosphere. In this room the countertop is visible, and the backdoor is also visible. There are up close clips of Vanessa's face with pink lighting in a mirrored effect, a monochromatic light pastel filter, and under red lighting casting a dark shadow.

Chapter Glitch

-Parts where she is lying on the ground: the tiled floor is a beige yellow color. This time there are no gears or metal pieces scattered. There is a white door a bit visible in these scenes. There is a tapestry that is visible that has an abstract city as a design. On the corner of these clips there is an ocean wave that is gently moving.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in natural lighting: The tapestry she is leaning up against is visible. There are various shapes that look like buildings and people. The colors range from dark yellows, browns, and blacks.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in red lighting: She is sitting towards the back corner against the back door and tapestry. The cabinet doors are visible. The lighting is red. She is sitting with one leg brace to the right and the other to the left. The gears and metal pieces are in front of her in a messy pile.

-Closeup clips of Leg braces: There shots of her leg braces with many gears around and inside them.

-The abstract modern experimental section: The closed door has black burlap (a woven lace) shaped into a circle. To the side of the door are small pentagon mirrors. The lighting throughout is a retro yellow color. There is a shot of the inside of the room that is empty. When she is in the room there are various strings and lace tied around making feel escapeless. Behind these clips is the constant moving graphic of the ocean swaying slowly.

Chapter Roots

-Parts where she is lying on the ground: the tiled floor is a beige yellow color. Around her are gears and metal pieces scattered. There is a white door a bit visible in these scenes. There is a tapestry that is visible that has an abstract city as a design.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in natural lighting: The tapestry she is leaning up against is visible. There are various shapes that look like buildings and people. The colors range from dark yellows, browns, and blacks.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in blue lighting: The wall is plain, and she is leaning against it.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in blue lighting further back in the room: The back door and cabinets are visible. There are abstract canvases that have neon colors that are glowing with the blue light. Her arms are inside the leg braces.

Parts where she is lying on the ground with canvases scattered around: the tiled floor is adorned with various abstract pentagon canvases. Each canvas is unique with different spiraling designs on the. There are also small rectangular canvases with similar designs. Her leg braces are beside her.

-The abstract Hip Hop dance section: The lighting is a neon green color. The closed door has the same burlap string, this time with a canvas with a bunch of pyramid studs aligned into a “V” with paint dripping down. The next clip pans to a purple lighted room with various pyramid studded art pieces aligned against the wall. In this section Vanessa dances with her walker named Pluto, she is adorned with spike studs in the colors blue and pink.

Costume/Makeup/Hair:

Chapter Decoy

-Parts where she is lying on the ground: She is wearing a long white skirt and underneath she has her leg braces on. She has back leggings underneath her leg braces. She is wearing a black long sleeve crop top with silver holes on the sides with a black string in a crisscross design. Her long dark brown hair is down and messy. She is wearing no makeup.

-Dreamlike Ballet Dance: She is wearing a black sheer shimmery long sleeve shirt under a beautiful lilac leotard. The front of the leotard has a velvet black floral design going down. She is wearing a layered tulle light blue skirt that has starry glitter all around. She has her leg braces on and has her dance shoes on that is adorned with white rhinestones. Her hair is in a high ponytail with some shiny hairclips. Her makeup looks ethereal. Her eyeshadow is shimmery and has long glittery eyelashes that look like spider webs. Her lip color is a dark shimmery blue.

Chapter Glitch

-Parts where she is lying on the ground: She is wearing her black leggings, socks and her leg braces. She is wearing a black long sleeve crop top with silver holes on the sides with a black string in a crisscross design.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in natural lighting: Her black long sleeve crop top is visible. She is holding one leg brace that has black straps. She has her hair down and has no makeup on.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in red lighting: She is wearing the black long sleeve crop top. She is wearing the long white skirt and does not have her leg braces on. She has her hair down and has no makeup on.

-The abstract modern experimental section: She is wearing a long cutoff sleeve dress. It has tiny floral designs and it a light purple color. She has black burlap lace wrapped around her dress like a belt. She is wearing her leg braces. She has her hands entangled by the lace and strings in the room. She has a side ponytail with a small butterfly clip; the other half is down. She has a neon yellow eyeshadow on with eyeliner and has a dark lip color.

Chapter Roots

-Parts where she is lying on the ground: She is wearing a long white skirt and underneath she has her leg braces on. She has back leggings underneath her leg braces. She is wearing a black long sleeve crop top with silver holes on the sides with a black string in a crisscross design. Her long dark brown hair is down and messy. She is wearing no makeup.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in natural lighting: Her black long sleeve crop top is visible. She has her hair down and has no makeup on.

-Parts where she is sitting on the ground in blue, pink & natural lighting: She is wearing a black shirt that has moon zipper. She has a holographic colored belt across her upper body. She has a holographic skirt on. Her arms are inside the leg braces. She has neon colored nail polish that is glowing. She has long rhinestone earrings on. Her makeup feels futuristic. Her blush is a bright yellow & orange neon color. Her eyeshadow is a bright yellow neon color with black eyeliner. She has a side ponytail with a small butterfly clip; the other half is down.

-The abstract Hip Hop dance section: She is wearing a shimmery sheer black long sleeve shirt with a bralette that is covered with white shiny rhinestones. On top she is wearing a black denim long sleeve jacket. The jacket sleeves are covered with pyramid studs. She is wearing a mid-length handkerchief skirt that has silver studs around it. She is wearing her leg braces and rhinestone shoes. She has hoop

rhinestone earrings. Her makeup gives off cyberpunk vibes. Her face has pyramid studs on her forehead. Her eye makeup is asymmetrical. On one side is a robotic design with pyramid studs accentuating the design. The other side her blush is shaped into tiny squares. The color palette has various neon colors and glitter. Her lips are a dark blue. Her hair is in a high ponytail.

Digital Art by Kianna Peppers

Title: DNA



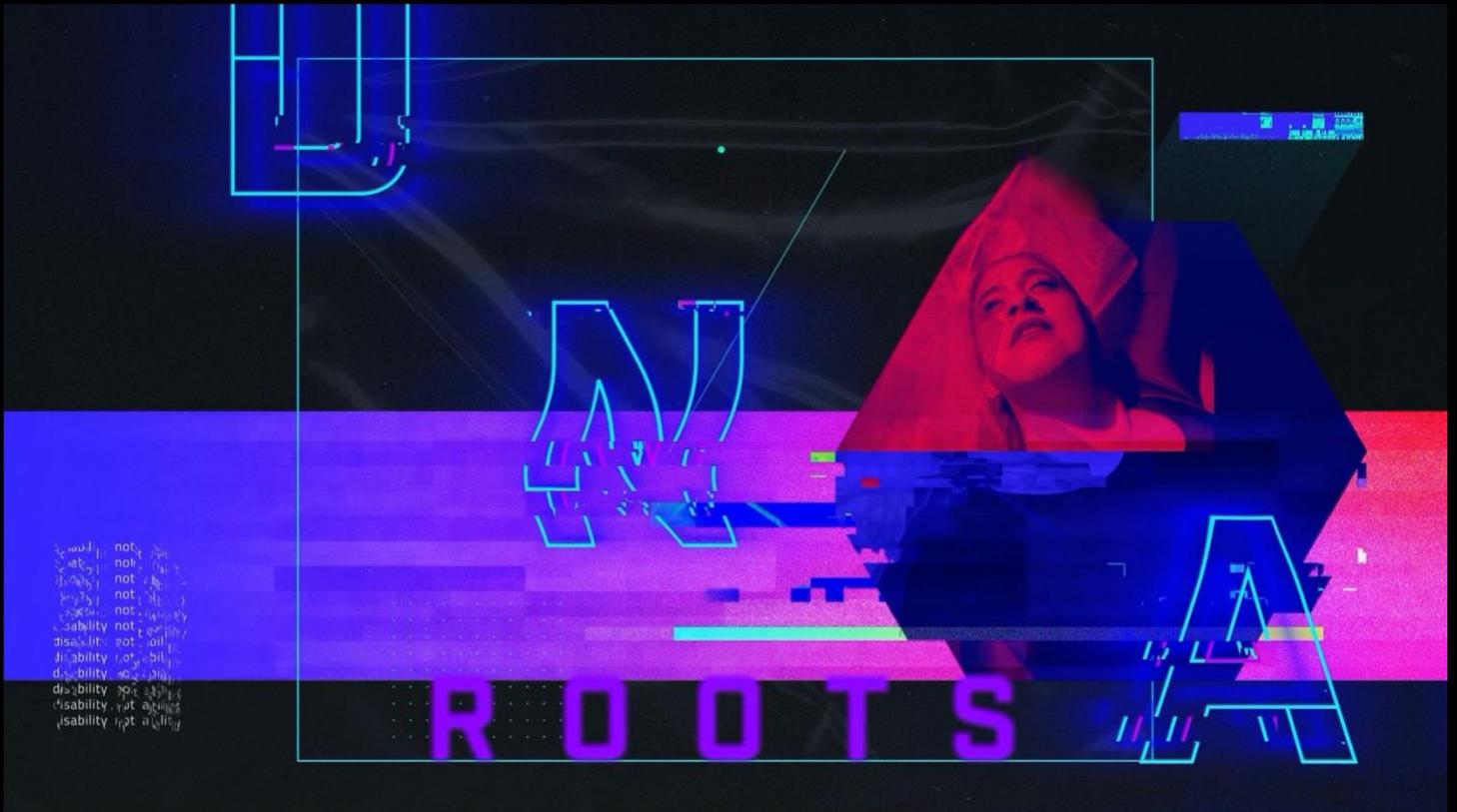
[Image Description: graphic main title DNA in a green neon font. An image of Vanessa is to the right in a distorted diamond shape. There is textured silky black background. There is a neon thin box outlined in the middle. there is an ombre banner going from purple to pink. to the left are glitched out words that read: Disability not ability]

Chapter: Glitch



[Image Description: graphic with main title DNA in a neon pink font. The chapter title displayed at the bottom in a neon pink font reads: Glitch. An image of Vanessa is to the right in a distorted diamond shape. There is textured silky black background. There is a neon thin box outlined in the middle. there is an ombre banner going from purple to pink. to the left are glitched out words that read: Disability not ability]

Chapter: Roots



[Image Description: graphic with main title DNA in a neon blue font. The chapter title displayed at the bottom in a neon purple font reads: Roots. An image of Vanessa is to the right in a distorted diamond shape. There is textured silky black background. There is a neon thin box outlined in the middle. there is an ombre banner going from purple to pink. to the left are glitched out words that read: Disability not ability]

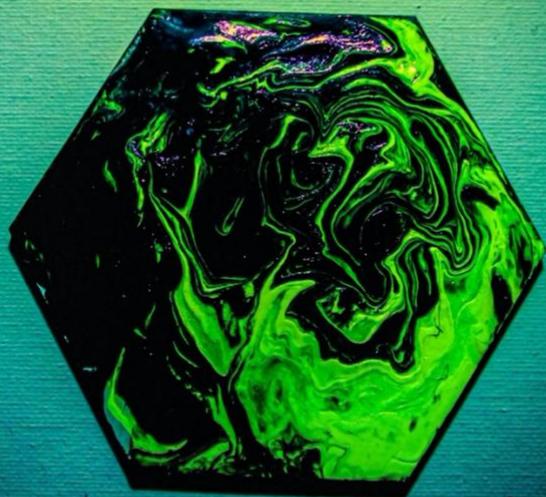
A couple of the Mixed Media Art/Collage

by Vanessa Cruz

Pentagon Canvases in Various Designs through Acrylic
Paint Pouring



[Image Description: Photograph of 12 pentagon canvas all aligned together. There are various colors and designs.]

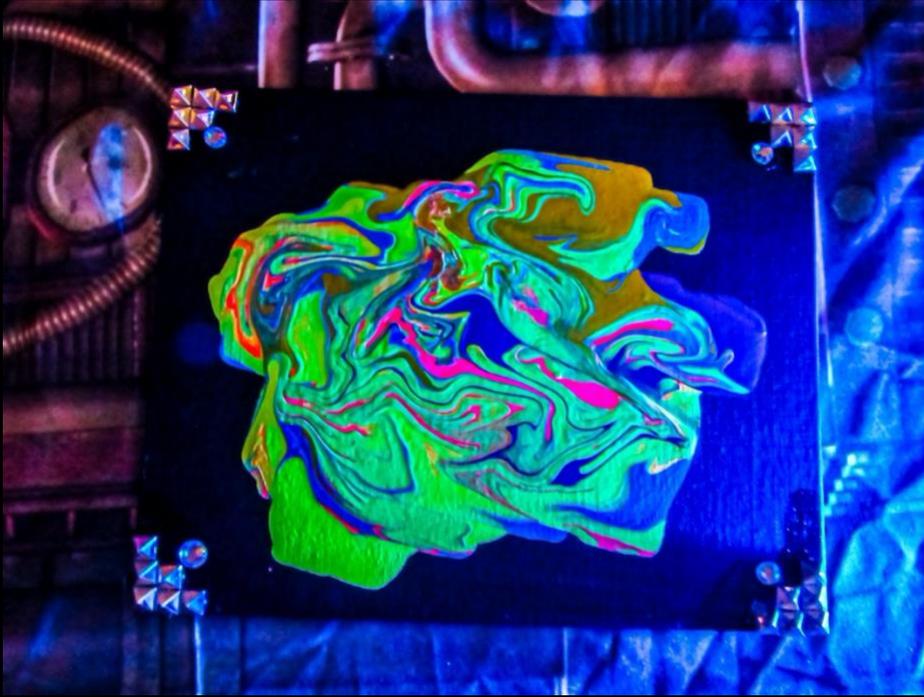


[Image Description: Top: A singular Pentagon canvas with neon green and black spiraling designs. It is spotlighted in a green-yellow light.]



[Image Description: Bottom: white background. two pentagon canvases. The top one has blue, shimmering pink and black spirals. The bottom has neon green, pink, shiny pink, and dark blue spirals.]

Pyramid Studded Collage Scheme Collection



[Image Description: Top: a rectangle canvas with pyramid studs in each corner. It has an abstract acrylic pour design with the colors: blue, pink, green and gold.]



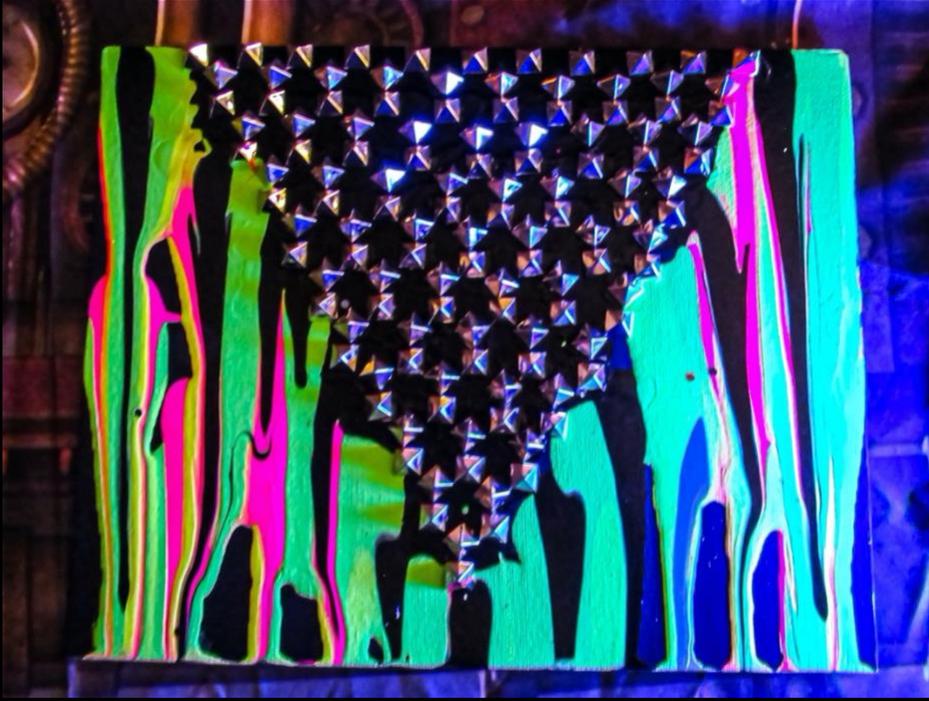
[Image Description: bottom: a rectangle canvas with paint dripping down in the colors: neon orange, pink, yellow, blue. There are various gears shaped into a "V"]



[Image Description: Top: a rectangle canvas with paint dripping down with the colors: neon yellow, orange, green, pink, metallic purple. At the bottom are gears, and two small TV wooden cutouts. Inside there are pyramid studs, glitter, rhinestones. In the bottom corners are studded pyramids stacked together.]



[Image Description: a red lit rectangle canvas. there is red and black paint dripping down. There are circular designs done with the pyramid studs. At the bottom of those designs are a bunch of gears.]



[Image Description: a rectangle canvas with a filled out letter “V”. It’s filled with a bunch of pyramid studs. Around the shape of the “V” is paint dripping. the colors range from neon pink, green and yellow.]