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## *Artist Statement: SELF*

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While considering “self” and what makes me who I am, I began remembering many things relating to how I grew up. I remembered things that happened when I was a child growing up in a single parent household. I thought of my grandparents, my mother’s parents, because they were such a massive part of raising me & helping my mom. I considered what makes me the woman I am: friends, experiences, etc... I was a dancer for about 10 years, I was a soldier in the US Army, I have been a teacher & a nurse. I have lived many lifetimes within this one. It has been an interesting ride!

When I considered all that made me who I am and all I’ve experienced and come through; I came to the conclusion that the most important and rewarding thing I have ever been or become is a wife and mother. I feel that our family dynamic is fully focused on creating and growing together as a family.

If you study my image of “self”, you will notice that my eyes are cutting through from the background of the image. Layered on top is my husband and then our two sons. I layered them all on top of myself intentionally. I am the heart of our family, when things are going crazy, I can usually get us all pulled back together and I spend most of my time watching and taking care of them.

Behind us all is another image, this one of a swirling Galaxy with all of its explosions, expanding, contracting and marvelous colors... I felt that this galaxy was a commentary for my family because even though we pull apart, explode at each other and have our differing interests and loves we are all part of one another at the end of the day. They are who I am, and I am part of who they are and who they will become. We are becoming together and I feel that is what is beautiful about who I am.

