Vanessa Maciel was born in Ocotlan, Jalisco Mexico and moved to Las Vegas in 2016. She studied the folk-art tradition of Cartonería at the Instituto Cultural Cabanas in Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico. Cartonería, known as paper mâché, is passed from one artisan to another using the traditional materials of paper and engrudo (glue of flour and water). She created a Catrina (a skeleton recognized as a symbol for Day of the Dead) and entered it in Winchester Dondero Culture Center's Life in Death Festival. She won best of show. Since then, she has taught many workshops including how to make traditional masks, traditional kites and pinatas.

Vanessa’s passion for art began in her hometown where she learned folkloric dance at the age of 10. She studied the dances and learned about they represented different states in Mexico and their meanings. From that time forward, she wanted to learn more about her culture and traditions. Her desire to learn more about the traditional arts of Mexico led her to the mixed media artwork she creates today.

School & Community Workshops
Traditional Mexican Mask
Catrina Workshop
Class on Traditions in Mexico "Day of the Dead"
How to build a traditional Kite
How to build a Piñata and a snowman from paper
Avatar Yourself Afterschool program
How to build a Grinch from paper mâché
How to Build a Jack Skellington
How to create a Luchador from an eggshell and toilet paper roll
How to Build a Mask for Halloween
How to build a Coffin for Day of the Death
Mini Tecuani Mask