

## **ISABEL CRUZ**

DIASPORICAN POET / PROTOTYPE UNIVERSITY COORDINATOR

Currently a full-time college student earning her B.A in American Studies and English Creative Writing from Smith College in Northampton Massachusetts, Isabel Cruz is a poet, singer, and all around writer. She is a Paterson native and her upbringing in the Silk City as well as her Puerto Rican identity heavily influence her work. She has been a featured poet in venues such as The Newark Arts Festival and The Paterson Poetry Festival.

In 2020, Isabel founded a social justice oriented gallery event and poetry reading for her alma mater Lacordaire Academy in Upper Montclair, NJ. She served as the Curatorial Director and Event Manager for the program from 2020-2022.

At Smith College, she currently works as an intern in the Boutelle-Day Poetry Center where she deals directly with communications, graphic design, and event coordination for readings featuring poets such as Jericho Brown, Aimee Nezhukumatathil, and Hanif Abdurraqib.

Outside of her work as a poet and curator, she has produced and directed several staged readings of her original stage and screen works and is working toward completing her second feature length screenplay entitled “Double”. She has an extensive background in stage acting as well as 4 years of experience assistant directing the works of William Shakespeare.

Isabel’s primary focus is the completion of her untitled freshman chapbook—a work of up to 40 pages of poetry.

In collaboration with fellow Prototype resident, Ben Pergament, she produces our Prototype University Show, which highlights college aged performers from both Paterson and beyond.