

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall is a collaborative artwork created by Zen Zainab and I. Over the years, I have seen her post about sexual awareness month and her experiences as a woman of color. I was, and continue to be, inspired by not only her beliefs but her actions. She works hard to raise awareness and to live by her beliefs. We agreed to collaborate on a painting in which we jointly picked a photograph of hers that she felt represented her well. After I completed the painting, she came over and wrote her own personal narrative in chalk on the artwork. It was an amazing visit, and I feel so privileged to have shared this experience with her.

Read her complete statement below:

“It’s not about vanity, it’s about visibility. Every Sexual Assault Awareness Month I adorn my lips with red lipstick as part of an awareness and action campaign to demonstrate solidarity and support for all victims and survivors of sexual violence.

**[#redmylips](#)**

One of the big reasons that I got pulled into social justice work was largely due to my own struggle with understanding my identity. I am a proud woman of color yet it took a lot of work to get to that place. There is such a lack of representation of communities of color in our society and as South Asian woman, I can’t think of a single person I could look up to in our media and pop culture as I was growing up. I am so grateful for the incredible friends and role models I have found that have made me learn to love and appreciate the things society always pushed me to hate. I got into this work because I wanted to help people, however a huge reason I got into this work was to strive to be a role model for other Brown women and girls who, like me, struggled and continue to struggle with their sense of self. I’m not a perfect role model, but it definitely gives me something to strive towards knowing that I can touch other people’s lives.

**[#browngirlmagic](#) [#selflove](#) [#representation](#) [#socialjustice](#)**

To all survivors out there, I believe you! It is not your fault. There is no excuse and never an invitation. I am in awe of the strength of survivors. It’s time we fight against the victim-blaming in our society.

**[#consent](#) [#believesurvivors](#) [#endrapeculture](#) [#empower](#) [#savetheworld](#) [#warrior](#) [#badass](#) [advocate](#) [#desi](#) [#visibility](#) [#raiseyourvoice](#)**