

MY STORY

I Announce to Denver

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Since I was a kid, I have disliked my eyebrows. They are sparse, and

spread out across most of my upper face. I wasn't allowed to tweeze until I was 13 years old. I proceeded to tweeze them where they were very thin. This was the trend, but I felt like a woman and beautiful. I proceeded to grab my camera and take selfies where I then took them to get developed to see the new me. As I have grown older, more hair has popped up all over my face. I have a long black hair that grows on the side of my face, my upper lip has more than peach fuzz, and my chin now grows little black hairs. I feel embarrassed when I see that I missed a hair or let them grow too long. I hide behind my glasses when my eyebrows are grown out.

**A WOMAN
SPOTTED
SHOWING
HER FACIAL
HAIR! GASP**

**“I’M CELEBRATING
MY FACIAL HAIR!”**

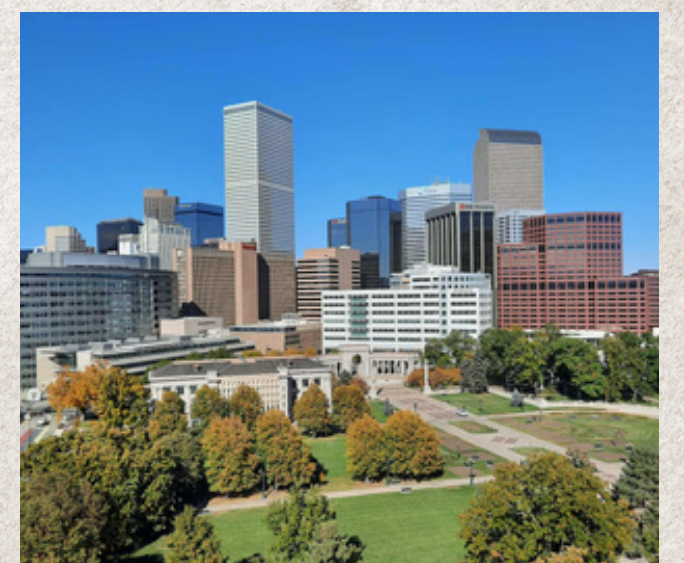


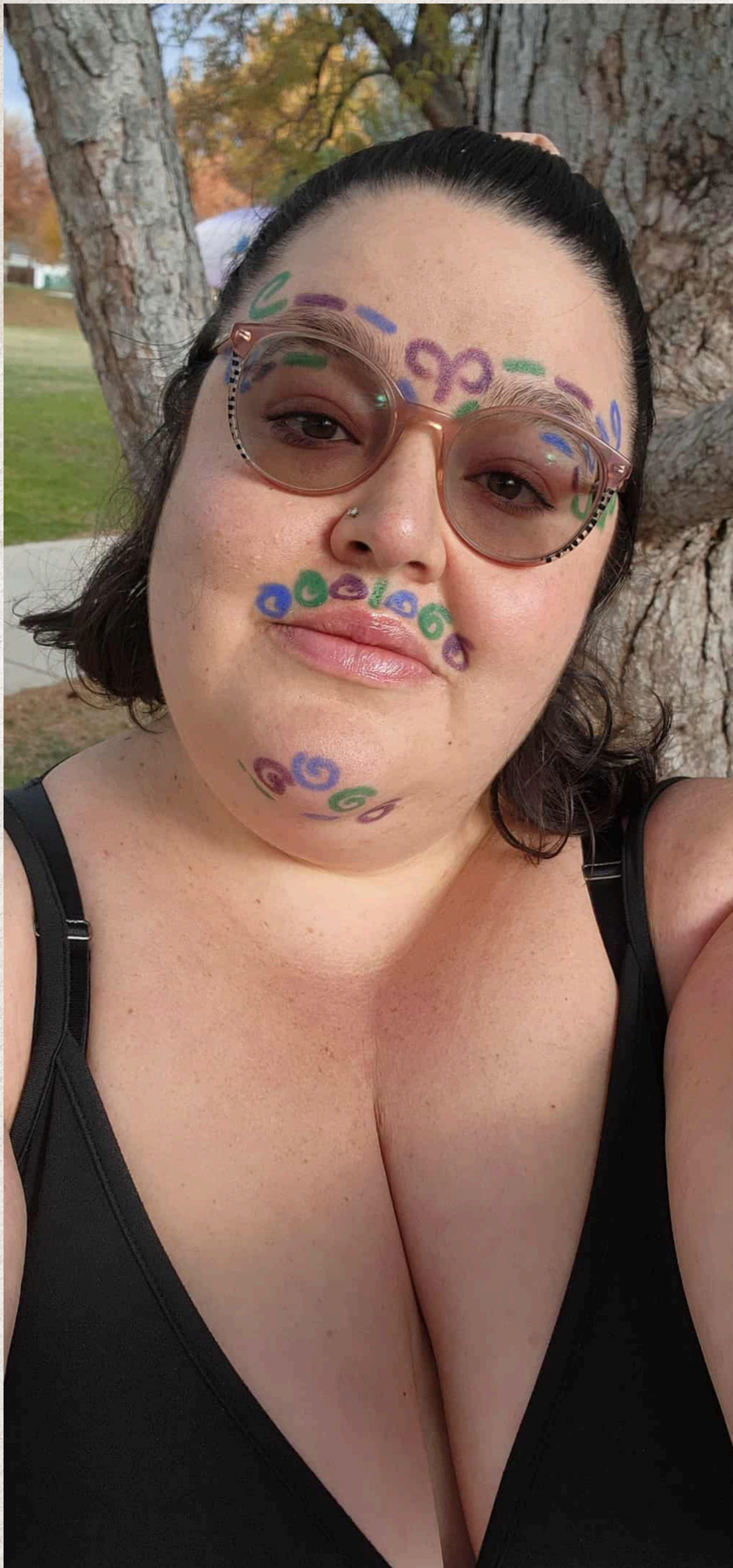
“I STOPPED HIDING AND SHOWED PEOPLE MY FACIAL HAIR THROUGH ART.”



I left my apartment and walked to my local park. At first, I put my head down, embarrassed by my upper lip and chin makeup. My thoughts were, What will strangers think of me? Will someone take my picture, or take a video and post it? I haven't cared what people thought or took pictures for years.

As I reached the park, I felt more at ease. I was actually proud to look like that. People were walking by, and I no longer turned away from them; I stood there taking my pictures. I held my head high and was proud of the confidence I had in my mustache and chin makeup.





“I was celebrating ... **MY ESTROGEN AND** *MY TESTOSTERONE.”*

Here at the park, I wasn't just me in one of my many looks that I have. I was outside of my comfort zone, celebrating both my estrogen and my testosterone. Instead of being ashamed of my testosterone that I have in me, I was now saying to the public, I am a woman, and I grow hair on my face and will not hide behind my glasses or wax and tweeze my facial hair. I am colorful, feminine, beautiful, and I have facial hair! I actually think I will wear a version of this next Pride Festival or any expressive event. Who would of thought that I would love this. I actually kept most of it on my face when I came home. I think these might be the best pictures I've taken in awhile.

I have always taken pride in my so called masculine qualities and personality traits, but I have been embarrassed of my masculine physical features since I can remember. I have been called a man by many people, and it causes me distress as I am not a man, but a strong woman who knows who she is and what she deserves and will not stop to get what I want. I think that is feminism in it's finest form, but people equate that to me being a man. I have large feet and hands and have been likened to having “man hands.” It bothers me the amount of hair I grow as a Hispanic woman, and getting older, I can see my hormone levels changing by the hair that used to not exist on my face. Today was not about hiding, it was about celebrating my body and face outside for the public to see. I was completely outside my comfort zone, but I actually liked it and I have to say, I look amazing in these pictures. This is the happiest I have seen me in awhile. I felt like myself instead of the shell of myself I see looking at myself in the mirror. In a very wierd way, I felt even more feminine by having makeup accentuating my upper lip and chin hair. I felt like me and the longer I sat in the discomfort, the more confident and happy I became. This project was for me to get points for my grade, but it ended up being therapeutic and needed in a time where I feel exhausted and not fully myself. I don't know if next time I do this for my own enjoyment if I will add the upper lip makeup, but I will be seen in this again and I can't wait for it!

“THIS IS THE HAPPIEST I HAVE SEEN ME IN AWHILE.”