

1. What did you create to bring the idea of your superhero, Selena Olivianora Serpentine, to life?

To bring the idea of Selena Olivianora Serpentine to life, I crocheted a simple pair of gloves as part of her costume/ensemble. For a character like mine, she has a very modern way of seeing this, but her purpose is so deeply ingrained in human life and existence, her outfit is a bit old-fashioned, but still very relevant today. As someone whose main superpower is to embody the dead (she can only transform and inherit someone's abilities if they're dead), I wanted her appearance to be that of one of the more macabre periods - the Victorian era. During this era, the celebration of styling the color black became a common aspect of fashion and in addition, the fascination with the dead was at its all-time high. I was also deeply inspired by her origin story around being the daughter of Loki from a universe that is more traditionally following the strict mythology of Norse culture (the whole world is still worshiping the deities of Norse mythology) and how advanced the impact of gods is that they have no need or lack of need to evolve fast like many modern day societies in Earth-616 (Our realm). The gloves represent a multitude of ideas that I wanted to incorporate in the little details. As said prior, these gloves were inspired by the Victorian era, but specifically, I wanted to highlight the incorporation of lace which is created through the art of crochet. Specific to the Victorian era, lace was used as a way to make money for poor workers especially in Ireland as this was the time of the Great Irish Potato Famine. This was the era in which crocheting had helped families survive during horrendous times. Other than the simple style and little history of the gloves, the personal and relevant touch of the character especially was the red bows. The little ribbons of red adorned on the gloves are used as a nod to her brother, Fenrir bound by. According to Norse mythology, Fenrir was the son of Loki and the brother of the World Serpent Jormungand. Fenrir was bound twice with huge chains of metal by the Gods, however, Fenrir was able to break free both times. The Gods had finally ordered the dwarves to create a chain that was impossible to break. With this, the dwarves fashioned Gleipnir - made from the sound of a cat's footfall; the beard of a woman; the roots of a mountain; the sinews of a bear; the breath of a fish; and the spittle of a bird. The biggest and most interesting aspect of the chain was its appearance - it was a red silken ribbon. It was said to have held Fenrir until Ragnarok when Fenrir would finally break free and devour Odin. The very important thing about Selena is that she has the same need that her father has - family. All of them are the descendants of a black sheep and their whole family was ostracized for being different and not having the typical appearance of a god. Selena's whole purpose is to avenge the family she was stripped of at a very young age and she wears aspects of her family with her as her armor. She is cloaked in love that she was never able to appreciate as they were all punished for the crimes that were invoked by the family she was bound to. Her whole purpose is to avenge her family and bring together the family that was never supposed to be.

2. What aspects of yourself do you see in the character Selena Olivianora Serpentine?

The one characteristic I see in my character or the broader sense of the Marvel Cinematic Universe is a character who doesn't hide behind their power/gifts. Though this may seem

contradictory to the whole purpose of the superhero idea, I have seen a lot of characters. The only reason why they believe themselves to be superheroes is because of their gifts rather than their character. Specifically, I look to those that were born with a supernatural gift and how it was something that they have just used to a point that it's almost abusive. They have developed a longingness and dependency on their powers that they lack any humility and grace. In my character, their powers are something that they had to earn to get there, it's not something that was injected into them or they had inflicted on themselves. My characters' powers are something extremely dangerous, but something that the character handles with proper training and exercising their powers to kind of stand down to become fluent with who they are but not has a crazy dependency on them. With my character having supernatural origins but not having the privilege that other characters of supernatural origins have, my character has a different direction to how they approach their powers. My character still has this wonder and a passion to discover her abilities further rather than accepting just a baseline experience of her powers. I do feel like having a person who has this privilege just given to them and trying their best to earn it even though in some cases they could be considered a villain of sorts, has that Humanity aspect that makes people want to favor the villain even though they shouldn't. My character's powers are to the extreme already, but my character remains a person with brilliance which is the thing I respect the most in a character. When a person can outwit somebody and take that risk, it's one of the moments where you can only applaud the audacity that the character took - even if they're the villain.

3. How do you see your future self in the character?

I see my future self in the character as I see someone who can laugh in the face of danger. As my character is a culmination of some of my favorite characters including Loki, Wanda Maximoff, and Tony Stark/Iron Man, they all have this calm, but cold aura around them that I like. Especially in the character Iron Man, even in the face of danger, he is never one to lack wit or charm as a way to rub it in his opponent's face that he almost doesn't care, but he does. My character does have this wit that all good characters have, but she also possesses the flow to how she acts, almost going through the motions of a battle as she fights. With her powers being so dangerous, she never lacks the understanding that she isn't normal and can do normal things. She has abilities that can leave people fearing her or celebrating her, but she doesn't let her pride that I feel a lot of characters have, get in the way of her purpose. She is so dangerous that as soon as she sees someone and makes contact with them - she can see their weakness and she never needs to go the extra mile to inflict so much damage as simply transforming into a dead person - especially if they were loved by her opponent - can send paralytic shock waves to that person. My character possesses control which I hope to inherit with my future self, but Selena also carries a strong idea of who she is and doesn't let that stop her. Selena understands her limits and the amount of damage she inflicts on people, but at the same time, she is also a goddess who has earned her titles and her scars. In short, I want my future self to understand control, confidence, and limitations. Control is something that right now, I am having the struggle to grasp the idea of

control and order, but I want my future self to look back and see how far I've come to understand where my control comes from and understand what I can't control and come to terms with that. Confidence is something that I also do not possess strongly right now - I am currently a pretty good pretender at going with the flow, but it gets tiring when you have to keep pretending and pushing yourself to fit this quota of pretending each day. I want my future self to acknowledge that Selena is our dream at the age of 18 and be able to almost be able to possess this confidence at the time I look back. Lastly, limitations are something I want my future self to acknowledge and be able to fully comprehend the subject. Currently, I struggle with how much pressure I put on myself to be good to others rather than how good I am to myself. In that same vein, I inflict more damage to myself and others than help as the balance is never truly there. I want my future self to possess the balance and the strength to understand limitations and be able to put some barriers and be strong to push back when others try to inflict on myself their perceptions of me that can cause damage to what I've worked so hard to build.