

Art has been many things to me over the years: a passion, a hobby, a way to bond with loved ones, and an aspiring career. But most importantly, it has been a form of therapy for me. My artwork makes people, including myself, feel things. It sparks both good and bad emotions in viewers. With my art, I express my struggles and feelings in a way that is both digestible and interesting for the audience. Creating art helps me to process my past, present, and future. But I also like to create work that caters to other people and their struggles. I create art to honor people that feel unheard, giving representation to marginalized groups and bodies. I want people to look at my art and see part of themselves in it. That is why I include topics of different social issues in my art, such as ableism, body image, sexism, etc.

To achieve these aspects of my art, I mostly make figurative work. I love the individuality that comes with it. The idea that I could depict an infinite amount of bodies and they will all look different is fascinating to me. I like depicting bodies that are not the mainstream standard of beauty in the most beautiful ways, while still showing the struggles that marginalized people, especially disabled people and women, go through.

I tend to work with paint, sculpture, and photography. To me, painting is cathartic and calming. It relaxes me. I like acrylic paints the most because I enjoy making the medium do anything I want it to do. And the quick dry time allows me to create multiple layers on the canvas and build it up over time.

Regarding sculpture, I use plaster, air-dry clay, and metal the most. I like the rigidity that sculpture brings in contrast with the free-flowing movements of paint. Sculpture requires problem solving and working with what the material wants to do rather than making it do what you want. It is challenging but very enjoyable during the process and rewarding once a piece is done. When it comes to photography, I have worked with digital and analog photography. I enjoy the realism and, therefore, the added emotion that comes with portraiture. I like being able to make the people I photograph feel beautiful in their skin by showing them what they look like from an outsider's perspective, while also normalizing any 'flaws' they may feel like they have.

Overall, art is many things to me. But more importantly, it has given me a lot of things: peace in my darkest times, a voice on social issues, and the ability to provide representation for some of the groups that need it the most. As I continue in my creative endeavors, I hope my art proceeds to bring me happiness while still inspiring others.