**HOMEPAGE:**

Emerald Art

Emerald K. Smith

**BIOGRAPHY/ABOUT PAGE:**

**My Life:** I was born and raised in Colorado, spending much of my childhood hiking and camping in the Rocky Mountains. I began drawing at a young age, creating characters and imagining unusual worlds to sketch. I am now a student at the University of Colorado Denver, studying Illustration and have turned my love of drawing into more than a hobby. I take much of my inspiration from the world around me, especially when I’m far away from the city, hiking and exploring. There is something about waking up on a chill, misty mountain morning or a walking through dusky woods that makes me want to paint the scene and capture that feeling forever. Through my illustrations, I try to create portals to other worlds, each with their own memories and their own histories.

Being a lover of history, I also take a more traditional approach with my artwork, using mainly traditional media. I’m always experimenting with new media, and I use digital programs as an extension of the traditional work. I enjoy the textural quality that is achieved from brushstrokes on paper or canvas, and strive to emulate a somewhat Impressionistic style into my illustrations. Detail is incredibly important to me, especially when aiming to tell a story through a picture. Despite generally working on a smaller scale, many of my illustrations include tiny, sometimes hidden details that add more background to each story.

**How I Make My Illustrations:** I always start each illustration with pencil and paper, scrawling down notes and thumbnails until an idea clicks. I like to experiment with different materials; however, I always start off with traditional media, drawing out a final sketch and then working with any assortment of acrylic paints, ink, colour pencils, watercolours, or gouache. Everything ends up being scanned and touched up in Photoshop.

**My Favourite Illustrators:** I’ve always been very impressed with the painters of the 15th and 16th centuries, such as Albrecht Durer and Caravaggio. I love looking at old paintings and seeing the history that is depicted behind each one. The Impressionists are probably who I draw most of my influence from though. As for modern illustrators, I am a huge fan of John Kenn Mortensen and his sticky note monster series, as well as Jim Kay’s beautiful work on a *Monster Calls* and the *Harry Potter* illustrated books. Pascal Campion is another of today’s illustrators who I admire greatly. His work with lighting is simply brilliant.

**CONTACT INFO:**

Email: [emeraldksmith@gmail.com](mailto:emeraldksmith@gmail.com)

Phone: (303) 669-3551

Instagram: @emerald\_kristina