

A large-scale mural featuring the words "sugart" and "sugart" in a stylized, hand-drawn font. The letters are primarily a vibrant green color with a thick purple outline. They are positioned over a textured, layered background of various colors, including shades of purple, blue, and orange. The overall composition is dynamic and expressive, with visible brushstrokes and a sense of depth.

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Rachel Potter

FROM

The Artist

The



Art
The Process

Destiny Ali-Bennett | 23 | Baltimore, MD

What type of art do you make? What do you like to use the most?

“I’m a visual artist. I like to paint and draw amongst other mixed media.”

When did you start creating art?

“I started drawing at the age of 14.”

Does the art you create have a theme to it, or is it whatever comes to mind?

“My art is whatever comes to mind, but depending on the time in my life, my mindset creates themes.”

Are there specific things or people that inspire your art?

“Nature inspires my art. Specifically human nature, emotion, and movement.”

If there was one thing you’d want to do with your art, what is it?

“I don’t really want to do anything with my art. It’s more of an experiment to see what else I can create, or a demonstration on how to better understand something abstract.”

Would you be able to give a rundown of your creative process?

“Usually when I’m in the mood to make something, I grab the materials I feel the most inspired by. Depending on how enthusiastic I am determines the size of paper or canvas or whatever surface I’m using is going to be. Then once I have everything, I turn on my favorite tunes and just start doodling. No erasing because I don’t really



know what I’m going for. I’m kind of figuring that out as I’m going alone. As I’m going along and I get a good way in, I’ll probably have something clicked by then and have

the entire piece imagined in my head by then. I’m careful not to marry myself to any move permanently though because I don’t want to limit myself on what I could make in case I get inspired with a new idea along the way. So I keep going with my idea without limits until I feel the work I’ve created is finished.”

Do you enjoy your creative process? Is there anything you’d want to change about it?

“I do enjoy my creative process. I feel like there’s no pressure. There’s always room to grow. I’m always pleasantly surprised because I never actually know what I’m going to make and I always learn and discover something new in the process.”

Do you sell your work? Or is there anywhere people could find the work you make?

“I don’t sell my work, mainly because most of my work are studies and just for enjoyment purposes or gifts. Like I said, I don’t really like adding pressure onto art, I feel like it sucks a little bit of my creative freedom and makes it feel more like a job rather than a joyful escape.”

Caroline Mckenzie | 19 | New York, NY

What type of art do you create? What do you like to do the most?

“I mostly like writing journalistically. I prefer long-form pieces but find writing short news stories a bit easier. Outside of school I write lots of short little phrases in my notes whenever they come to mind. Sometimes they turn into poems, but I mostly have pieces that don’t necessarily fit together.”

When did you start writing?

“I’ve been writing since I was very young. I loved it in elementary school and would always make lists to keep writing. I started journalism in my freshman year of high school and fell in love with it.”

Does your writing have a theme to it, or is it whatever comes to mind?

“It definitely has a theme. When writing pieces of journalism my ideas come from things I observe, whether that’s in my life or the world. When it comes to creative writing, I often take moments in my life or even think up characters and write what they might be thinking or feeling.”

Are there specific things or people that inspire your writing?

“The book The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls, I always think of the integrity of it and try to keep that in all the writing I do. I’ve also been a huge fan of Taylor Swift since a young age and I think she’s played a big role in my writing, I try to replicate her story telling.”

If there was one thing you’d want to do with your writing, what is it?

“After college I hope to work at a publication, but I also hope to keep writing outside of journalism.”

Would you be able to give a rundown of your creative process?

“My process definitely changes depending on the piece. With journalism I usually put all the research and interviews that I’ve gathered into a document and highlight what I want to include, giving me the basic premise of my writing. Then I can write my lede and try to weave those ideas together. I go back through my research when I struggle to connect ideas. For creative writing I usually word vomit and eventually find the story I’m trying to tell. My first draft is always all over the place but I go back and edit.”

Do you enjoy your creative process? Is there anything you’d want to change about it?

“I hate it. I wish it was more consistent and clear, but that’s the beauty of it. While the blank page at the beginning is intimidating, it gives me the space to experiment. It’s terrifying and I’m never really happy with what I write, but that comes with the craft.”

Do you sell your work? Or is there anywhere people could find the work you make?

“As of now I don’t. As I gather more pieces of writing I’ll make a portfolio, but for now it’s all private.”

Kami/Lina Ciccanti | 19 | Baltimore, MD

What type of art do you create? What do you like to do the most?

"I do digital photography using a Nikon D5600 camera and a 17-55mm lens."

When did you start doing photography?

"I started getting interested in photography around freshman year of highschool and I picked it up as a major in university so that I could get more serious about it."

Does your photography have a theme to it, or is it whatever comes to mind?

"My photography doesn't have one singular theme as of right now. I'm currently in the process of trying to figure out which style I'd like to stick to most, therefore making my work most recognizable to my viewers. Sometimes when I photography I'm really trying to capture a certain emotions, but other times I just want to create an aesthetic within the image."

Are there specific things or people that inspire your photography?

"A lot of my color photography I take inspiration from William Eggleston, but not for anything else. I usually go for what I feel is right.



If there was one thing you'd want to do with your photography, what is it?

"If there was one thing I'd want to do, it would be to publish it for other people to enjoy/relate to/feel inspired by."

Would you be able to give a rundown of your creative process?

"Basically my creative process is if I'm trying to create an emotion, then I think about how I could best convey that externally to the viewer. Then using whatever resources I have around me I take the picture. If I'm trying to create a certain aesthetic just for fun, then I'll either see something and then take a picture of it in a certain way or I'll set up a specific setting."

Do you enjoy your creative process? Is there anything you'd want to change about it?

"I mostly enjoy my creative process, but sometimes it just feels uninspired. If I could change anything about it, I would breathe more inspiration into it."

Do you sell your work? Or is there anywhere people could find the work you make?

"I don't sell my work right now, but it can be found on my instagram, [@picturejournl](#)"



Pierce Dentel | 22 | New York, NY

What form of art do you create? What do you like to do the most?

“I’m a writer, focusing on poetry and prayer. I also play the guitar and marace.”

When did you start writing and playing music?

“I started when I was 19.”

Does your art have a theme to it, or is it whatever comes to mind?

“The theme is my existence, from my ancestors to looking at my bed.”

Are there specific things or people that inspire your art?

“Light and darkness inspires me. The sun rising and setting. Plants growing. Death and creating life.”

If there was one thing you’d want to do with your art, what is it?

“The only thing I want to do with my art is to make people not feel lost. I want to heal people.”

Would you be able to give a rundown of your creative process?

“My creative process is to light a candle, play the guitar, and give thanks to great spirit.”

Do you enjoy your creative process? Is there anything you’d want to change about it?

“I’m fine with my creative process. I used to use tobacco and other herbs for it, but now I don’t so much anymore.

Do you sell your work? Or is there anywhere people could find the work you make?

“I don’t sell my work, I only show it to people who I believe will respect it.”

Stanley D Pearson Jr. | 26 | Baltimore, MD

What form of art do you create? What do you like to do the most?

“I’m an artist, working primarily with spray paint and acrylics.”

When did you start writing and playing music?

“Roughly about 10 years ago.”

Does your art have a theme to it, or is it whatever comes to mind?

“The general overarching theme is fantasy.”

Are there specific things or people that inspire your art?

“Yes, typically the weird or odd folks of the world.”

If there was one thing you’d want to do with your art, what is it?

“Paint a building sized mural.”

Would you be able to give a rundown of your creative process?

“I often visualize a technique I wanna use and try to make a design that would best showcase that. Sketch and then color picking before I head into a final piece.

Do you enjoy your creative process? Is there anything you’d want to change about it?

“Most definitely, I feel like the pieces are never forced and always directly inspired by something.”

Do you sell your work? Or is there anywhere people could find the work you make?

“Yes, I do sell my works, currently only personal transactions and commissions. My insta is @skyhighjedi”

Issi DeCastro | 19 | Westchester, NY

What type of art do you create? What do you like to do the most?

“I mostly make paintings and drawings. I use acrylic paint most often and I like to use it a lot because I like how quick it dries and how vibrant the colors can be.

When did you start making art?

“I started painting when I was a child. My grandma is an oil painter and she introduced me to painting and art in general at a very young age. I’ve done it for as long as I can remember.”

Does your art have a theme to it, or is it whatever comes to mind?

“I don’t really have a theme that I stick to with my paintings, but I like to paint things that are very colorful and reflect something that I’m feeling or experiencing at the moment.”

Are there specific things or people that inspire your art?

“My grandma definitely inspires my art and her use of color. I’m also inspired by psychedelic art and surrealism.”



If there was one thing you’d want to do with your “I hope to become an art therapist so that I can use my art to help others and open my own practice some day.”

Would you be able to give a rundown of your creative process?

“My creative process is super all over the place. Sometimes I’ll have ideas in my head for months but won’t act on them in the slightest. Other times I have an idea and immediately act on it and get painting. Typically, I don’t plan too much out. I like painting to feel like a fluid meditation to me, it’s such a relaxing activity to me. I often turn my phone off and listen to music on my speaker super loud and just get in the “zone”. However, I go through various creative blocks and experience periods of little motivation and won’t create for months. I think it’s part of my process, but I’m working on it for sure.”

Do you enjoy your creative process? Is there anything you’d want to change about it?

“I enjoy my creative process a lot when I’m able to get into the groove of it quickly. When I go through blocks of motivation it’s very frustrating and discouraging. I’m hoping to push myself during those times to create, I want to keep pushing and not go as long without creating anything.”

Do you sell your work? Or is there anywhere people could find the work you make?

“Yes, I do sell my work - paintings and other various things. You can find my work on my instagram @thesunshiineislost”



Von Morris | 18 | Brooklyn, NY

What type of art do you create? What do you like to do the most?

"I'm a writer. I mainly write poetry. I like writing poems that turn my feelings into imagery."

When did you start writing?

"I started writing when I was around 11. I would go to my English teacher and let him critique my work before or after class."

Does your writing have a theme to it, or is it whatever comes to mind?

"It's usually just whatever comes to mind, but I tend to compare more intense feelings."

Are there specific things or people that inspire your writing?

"I like to tell people as a disclaimer that once they come into my life I may or may not write a poem about them. I draw inspiration from everyone I know, because every single person evokes such a unique feeling."

If there was one thing you'd want to do with your photography, what is it?

"I would like to publish a book one day."

Would you be able to give a rundown of your creative process?

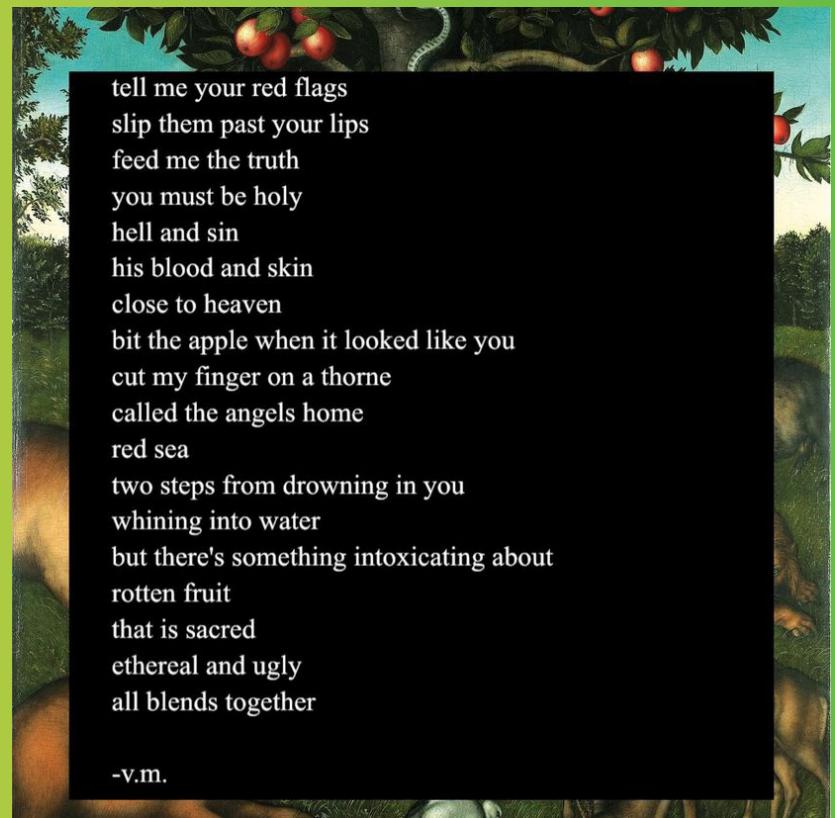
"It's definitely a very simple process. I think there's a pretty clear explanation. I start out by writing random sentences and then I usually figure out a structure that I would like to put those words into, and eventually they might turn into art."

Do you enjoy your creative process? Is there anything you'd want to change about it?

"I enjoy my creative process. It's really cathartic. If there were one thing I would change I would definitely find more structure to it so that I could be more consistent and intentional with my art."

Do you sell your work? Or is there anywhere people could find the work you make?

"I have my silly little Instagram page, [@vonwritesthings](#), or sometimes my friends would want me to perform at one of their events."



Art Work in Order of Mention

Ali-Barnett, D. (2016). *Unnamed* [Ink]

Ali-Barnett, D. (2016). *Unnamed* [Graphite]

Ali-Barnett, D. (2020). *Unnamed* [Multimedia]

Ciccanti, L. (2020). *Snacks* [Photography]

Ciccanti, L. (2020). *Tired* [Photography]

DeCastro, I. (2021). *Fairies* [Graphite]

DeCastro, I. (2020). *Unnamed* [Multimedia]

Morris, V. (2021). *Bad Apple* [Poem]

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