

# archiving the human life: an artist statement

by EYEZAYU

these some guiding principles for why i'm doing what i'm doing, and what i hope for the future:

**i want to record my life for my kids and i.** i'm a sentimental type of person, and since life is a lot of the same thing punctuated by important moments, i don't want to forget the mundane. i need to document where i've been.

**i want to master something.** mastering a skill is and will always be impressive, and it opens up the door for opportunities. i've chosen art to master.

**i want to make as much art as possible and be proud on my death bed.** i'm absolutely enamored with quantity. picasso produced an *ungodly* amount of work, and the sheer output is so inspiring it genuinely pisses me off a little. the more i make, the prouder i'll be. i really think volume is inherently impressive — and creating a lot of something makes it impossible to look away.

**i want to digitize every sketchbook.** perhaps then i can have the largest digitized sketchbook collection of an artist in the world??

**i want to contribute to the art world.** i don't know exactly what it will look like, but hopefully after hundreds of thoroughly documented sketchbooks through the years, other generations will be inspired to create huge and ambitious art projects.

**i don't want to post on social media.** honestly i've done the whole "build in public" thing and i find that for me personally, it does more harm than good. i start to feel like i need to cater to an audience, and i stress about whether my art meets a criteria. if it inhibits the creation, it's not worth it to me.

**i don't want to sell my art.** i'm not dependent on my art, and i never want to be. as a result, i get the privilege of making whatever i like, for as long as i live (:

## origins

i was practicing to be an animator back in 2024, but found that i absolutely hated the process. small 60 second projects would take weeks to complete which absolutely pissed me off because i just wanted to make something in a day. and my inability to draw made it impossible to execute on anything ambitious. so for a time, i stopped opening krita and just drew in my sketchbook to practice drawing. but in march of 2025 as i was drawing, i did the math of how quickly my current sketchbook would be finished if i continued at the same rate. or doubled it. or quadrupled it. the idea of finishing a sketchbook was exciting, and *especially* in ~15 days. i thought, "heck, if i can do 2 a month, we're hitting 30 sketchbooks finished in a year."

i happened at that time to have a pocket sized sketchbook with just a couple spreads drawn on, so i figured this was as good of any a place to start.

completing that sketchbook in such a short amount of time was cathartic, and by the time i stamped the last page with my thumb, i had another sketchbook just like it to start again, and i was determined to complete it just as quick.

as the second, third, and fourth got done, i had at this point given up on animation and decided that filling up sketchbooks simply for the sake of it was all the joy i needed. and the subject matter i was studying began to move from pinterest to my own life. i was documenting the music (if any) i was listening to at the moment, the date, and the exact time whenever i'd finish a spread. i was putting down thoughts and feelings on the pages too, whether surface level or not.

and so the sketchbooks became far more personal. a collection was starting to form and it was resembling a visual diary of short 2-3 week spans of my life. and as i continued to finish five, six, seven, and eight, the thought of this becoming a life long pursuit seemed doable. i had aspirations to not only draw in the sketchbooks, but have a portfolio that scanned every single page of every book so i and anyone else could flip through any bit of work i've done. and that's what i plan on doing for as long as i'm able.