



catching up with...

# Rei Gillman

Author Alex Nethers

## How They're Spending This Quarantine

Rei Gillman is a 22-year-old college student currently attending Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio. They were born and raised in Caldwell, Ohio where they currently reside during current circumstances.

Growing up, Rei has always been interested in computers and computer technology. When they were 17 years old, they transferred from Caldwell High School to Washington State Community College to study computer support tech. In 2019, they transferred from Washington State to Muskingum to pursue a computer science degree.

"I've always preferred coding," said Rei.

"Computer support focuses more on hardware and networking aspects; I think software engineering and development is better for me."

Rei enjoys creating simple algorithms and prefers to work in Python. They like the simplistic nature of the Python language and incorporate it the most when they are practicing coding.

Rei is also studying graphic design as a minor.

"I prefer math and the sciences but I have a bit of interest in design and art as well," said Rei.

Rei uses a graphics tablets for artistic purposes but feels that their knowledge in fine arts can be utilized for graphic design purposes.

"I know aesthetic art is incredibly different from graphic design. Graphic design is more calculated and less for the designer and more for the audience," said Rei.

Rei believes that graphic design requires a much different skill set than that of an artist. However, they believe that their skills can hopefully curb the learning difficulty of their studies.

They understand color theory really well but struggle with typography and placements of objects in their design.

"It's a bit foreign to me," said Rei.







Rei shows off one of their favorite articles of clothing. Sea life inspires their creative drive.

Photographer **Kelly Gillman**

## Hobbies and Interests...

Rei has multiple hobbies around art and music. They've been drawing digitally since 2010 on a Wacom graphics tablet.

"I mainly create portraits and scenes," said Rei.

They have a particular interest in drawing whales and sea-life as well. Ever since they were young, they've enjoyed the ocean and learning about the vast variety of creatures that dwell underwater.

"Ironically enough, I don't really like the beach though."

Rei incorporates whales the most in their artwork as far as sea creatures go. They're passionate about them and like to give them more awareness, especially now with the rise of pollution.

Their favorite type of whale is the humpback whale. They also incorporate a lot of blue whales in their artwork as well.

Rei also draws almost exclusively in Paint Tool Sai and Clip Studio Art. They make their own brush settings and tend to stick with the same techniques. They prefer to do almost all line-work in Sai and utilized Clip Studio for either coloring or editing.

"I've used other random photo editing software as well but they're noticeably lower quality when it comes to drawing and painting from scratch," said Rei.

They believe photoshop is a great tool for artistic purposes but lacks in comparison if using it for drawing purposes.

"Photoshop is a multi-purpose program and Clip Studio really makes up for it. There's less photo editing options in Clip Studio at the expense for more painting and drawing aspects," said Rei.

Rei claims they are not an expert when it comes to art and digital drawing, as it is a hobby. They are very open to drawing new things and testing out different software but can only formulate an opinion based on their own experiences.

They also do a lot of research and utilize reference when creating a new piece of artwork.

"I like to have more accurate looking drawings, plus I believe it helps with improvement," said Rei.

# The Musical Side of Things...

## And Staying Entertained During These Times

### Acquiring a New Skill

Rei is also currently dabbling into music for the first time.

"I've always wanted to play an instrument but never really had the money or the time," said Rei.

They've picked up playing bass guitar recently and usually practice whenever they have leisure time.

"I really want a precision bass but I settled on starting with a precision jazz instead," said Rei.

They focus the most on funk and jazz styles for their bass playing techniques. They like playing slap bass the most.

"With how accessible the internet is now, it's easy to get inspired with this kind of thing. There are amazing bass players just playing in their homes for fun that you can find on YouTube and other video platforms," said Rei.

Rei's favorite type of content to watch is bass covers by professionals in their own setting instead of watching them on stage.

"There's something different about watching somebody create a bassline to a song," said Rei.

They said they prefer to see this type of content specifically because no two bass players have similar styles in playing. They enjoy watching multiple different style and techniques being applied to a single song.

Rei also enjoys seeing the different type of equipment people use in order to achieve the sound they want as well.

Due to the stay at home orders in place, Rei has been trying their best to improve their skills purely through personal resources such as videos, books, and websites.

"It's difficult. I know the basics and even some music theory but I'd really like to have that personal connection with somebody. Nobody can critique my playing if I'm unable to play in front of somebody who knows how to play bass," said Rei.

Rei is focusing a lot more on ensuring they know the basics and not picking up any bad habits at this time. They are extra mindful of their posture, wrist-technique, and overall playing habits that would typically be criticized by a teacher.

"Since I don't have somebody watching over me, I'm aware that I need to try and critique myself as much as possible at this time," said Rei.

They also wish to learn a lot more about music theory and the written aspect of music as well.

"A lot of talented musicians don't know music theory; after all, it's a theory. I do think it'll help me learn and understand music more as a whole though opposed to just my bass playing," said Rei.

They spoke more in depth about the type of websites that help with music theory and how they can apply it to their bass playing. A lot of websites offer free material to learn off of and even provide quizzes to ensure their readers are retaining the information they want to learn.

Rei is currently focusing on school and trying to improve their skills during these uncertain times. They believe the quarantine orders will help them come out with new skills that they can utilize for the rest of their life.

"The world isn't in the best condition right now so I at least want to have one good thing come out of this."

Rei hopes that others are finding new ways to entertain themselves as well.



Rei's PJ bass they've been practicing on.