

ARTIST STATEMENT

Sarrah Hussain

“Art is meant to disturb, science reassures.” - Georges Braque

Ever since I can remember, art and science have always held an extremely deep yet equal place in my heart. I am an aspiring medical illustrator, currently pursuing a double major in both Behavioral Neuroscience and Fine Art. Yet, there aren't many curriculums or professions that directly combine these dichotic interests. Therefore, my ultimate goal as both a STEM researcher and art enthusiast is to transform complex information and topics into creative, effective, and thoughtful visual material, both for the professional medical community as well as the broader public audience. Above all, I just really want to show others the value, fulfillment, and opportunities that an interdisciplinary life brings.

My creative process largely emulates that of a scientist—extensively planned and calculated. While some artists quite admirably analyze and adapt as they create, my motto has always been to “measure twice, cut once.” I therefore enjoy taking my time drafting, building up layers, and understanding the subject or composition from the inside out, before committing to any particular placement, contour, or value. This lends itself to my natural gravitation towards realism and accuracy. However, my love for experimentation manifests itself in the variety of mediums I like to work with, such as oil, watercolor, acrylic, colored pencil, and gouache.

My artwork is currently inspired by the novelty of nature and the human body. More than just attention to detail and anatomical accuracy, what really attracts me is determining the essential features that uniquely define or provide “identity” to a person, object, or landscape. I believe humans can sense even the most delicate sentiment, vibration, or aura from the simplest colors, highlights, shadows and reflections. My current paintings are thus a melting pot of naturescapes, still life studies, and human figures. At first glance, these subjects are hardly cohesive and may seem to share little relevance to each other. However, their significance to me lies in how they all describe a specific emotion, and serve as a portal to a certain feeling or place in time. It is these unique emotions, evoked through color choice, perspective, and dynamic human form, that I want to capture and eternalize within my work.