

Artist Statement

People are my favorite subject matter. Humans are intriguing, each holding a unique identity. I wonder what it is that drives their actions, I wonder about their motivations, aspirations and the desires that lead each individual to interact with the world in a unique way. I think about the complexity of human nature and how each person's experience shapes their appearance, personality and individuality. It is what we experience that matters. It is how we create our stories - whether they are told or untold, real or imaginary. The beauty of stories is how they serve as a lenses to see the world through someone else's eyes, temporarily putting our own daily routines on pause.

This is how I initially became interested in animation. The visual aspect that it has makes storytelling that much stronger. My inspiration comes from stepping outside into the real world, seeing and interacting with people. When I create a new character, I capture their essence through the details because that's what essentially makes us unique. During my creative process I often find myself wondering "what if?". What if something specific happened, how would my character react, what would they think, what emotions does this event elicit?

When I was little, I liked cartoons so much that I would forget that what I was watching wasn't real. Each time I would turn on the television I would become completely absorbed, I started to care and emphasize with the characters like they were my friends. The animations must have contained something that made me feel this way. I have been inspired to do the same; in work I strive to suspend the audience's disbelief, and challenge their reality. The animation process is tedious but having the ability to bring a character to life is worth the time it takes.