

First memory of painting:

I'd say around first grade. I remember my teacher bringing her husband's shaving cream, our school didn't have an art class, and we would get to finger paint on our desk with it. The feeling of creating lines and marks resonated with me deeply. Something about it just felt so natural.

How did you decide to be a painter:

I knew I was an artist from an early age. In grade school I would get in trouble for drawing on my tests, skin and desks. Luckily, my mom always supported me by making sure I had sketchbooks, markers and anything I needed to create. She pushed me to follow my dream, my number one supporter.

Did an artist particularly inspire you:

Might be a little cliché, but seeing the different periods of Picasso was inspiring. It showed me that you could do whatever you wanted and evolve at your own pace and pleasure. That example of artistic freedom was intriguing. I also remember seeing a Rothko on a field trip in school and I was captivated by the simplicity, while being fully immersed in the depth he created with colors.

Do you need to understand to love a painting:

Personally, no. I appreciate all work and styles. But I enjoy experimenting too much. I'd much rather feel the energy of a painting than have to dissect and try to 'get' it. Subjective > Objective

Is there a work in which you've said to yourself "this is exactly what I wanted to do":

Being that I never plan a painting, when I reach the point of satisfaction or completion, I usually find myself saying "This is it." That's one of the things I love most about art; being in full control, being able to feel and decide when a piece is complete without a preconceived idea. Naturally going with emotions.

Famous work that you don't like:

As an artist, I can appreciate all art forms and creations. But to be honest, I'm not the biggest fan of Dali or hyper realism. I understand it was revolutionary for the time but I've never been obsessed with his work. As for realism/hyper realism, I've always just preferred Photography. Good photography, might I add.

What is essential for your creation:

Mentally centered and a little herb, lol. I actually prefer to not paint to music either, and I enjoy not planning anything, to allow my purest self and emotions to translate into the painting. Anything in the moment can change my direction, and I love that.

What is your relationship to recognition:

Recognition is great, but even if my work was never recognized on a large scale, I would still create. It's essential for my being. I do it for me, not recognition, not likes and not for other's validation. I have to create, it keeps me sane. It's who I am.

If tomorrow you could no longer paint, what would you do:

Funny, I can't imagine doing or being anything else. I guess if I had to choose something, it would be fashion or music. Still being able to create something. It's my passion. If I had to do something that wasn't creative, I would go crazy.

Artistic dream:

Coming from a very small rural town; no art classes and no galleries, I have to say I feel like I'm living mine. To be able to be a full-time artist, have such an amazing team and support system from people that truly care about me and my work. That value it as much as I do. That appreciate my vision.

And in one of the best cities (Atlanta). I could continue where I'm at and be fully content. Grateful.