

Artist Statement

Wilmington, NC based Artist. I've been creating art for well over a decade in an assortment of mediums such as oil paint, charcoal, ink, sculpture, and much more. My passion for art runs deep, I've used it for as long as I can remember as my way of interpreting the world around me. I've worked hard perfecting my technique creatively to convey my idea to the fullest. In my paintings, I play with color theory. I do this by firstly, working only from the primary colors and black and white. I like to mix my own colors because it gives me the freedom to create a cohesive palette all the way through. I use color theory in a inverted sort of interpretation. I use colors that are often associated with particular emotions/idea and I ver off from that. So, if I paint this idea of 'death' I use bright colors such as oranges and yellows that aren't often interpreted as dreary, sad, or even dark. I do this to create a narrative using just the colors, having opposing ideas to make the viewer question the color narrative versus the actual imagery. My goal is to have viewer question what ideas have been implanted by our societal norms. My imagery is inspired from the Pre-Raphealite period. This period is often remebered as having female figures in a dream-like scene. What is most noted about these images is the 'gaze' that the figures gave. These figures would often be associated with the femme fatals. The idea of an alluring woman, often depicted as leading men to death or turmoil, femme fatals are almost the hynotic effect that was associated with females. I use this inspiration to paint images of women but twisting it by having them not looking directly towards the viewer but just past them or not at all. So the viewer is just a spectator rather than the focus. To take it further, I also implement a lot of symbols and cultural/religious references. I do this, again, to make the viewer question themselves but at the same time, also creating a new layer onto the narrative. So for example, back to the idea of 'death', Its painted brightly and also holds an ankh (an eqyptian symbol, representing 'life' or the soul) so is it still interpreted as death even with a cloak and syth? Through the color narrative, and the imagery I want to symbolically represent the idea of death and life being one in the same, that even though we've been conditioned to fear 'death', its simply a cycle and the way of the universe. We will all die, we will all suffer, but just being concious, just being present is a grand adventure and through my

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art, I hope to express that we shouldn't be afraid. We should greet death like an old friend and even though it will hurt, life is worth the ride.