

ARTIST STATEMENT

Rose Jeon

I grew up in rural Maryland, the youngest of 4. I loved watching cartoons like Looney Tunes and Betty Boop with my siblings. My favorites were the ones in black and white with a pop of color. As my siblings became teenagers, I was constantly surrounded by pop culture. All the movies, magazines, CD covers, and music videos opened up a world of creativity I didn't see in my community.

My mother saw my interest and brought home a canvas and supplies one day. I've been an artist ever since.

I learned color theory, painting, and collaging at Delaware College of Art and Design. As an artist, I've always been drawn to black and white art and loved exploring the gray tones in between. I also love playing with texture! Charcoal gives the rough, scratchy, and sometimes seamless texture that I see in everyday objects. I've found incorporating a pop of color into my art makes the drawings stand out when done in charcoal.

My subjects are primarily people, as I find faces exciting and challenging. I am drawn to the unique, whether big, bright eyes, an angular structure of a cheek or jawline, or freckles. I take common shapes we all learn in elementary and create a face. I find it fascinating when the face starts to pop out at me through the drawing, which is my favorite part of the process. To quote Michelangelo regarding his sculpture works, "Every block of stone has a statue inside it, and it is the sculptor's task to discover it." I want my art to be able to touch anyone, and I want to create art for everyone.