

# Ryan Barnes - Artist Statement

I am a visual artist who specializes in painting, illustrations, and graphic art. Creativity has always played a crucial role in my life from making a toy laptop out of Legos as a kid, making comics in high school, to more recent fine art and illustration works. What inspires me most is solving creative problems, testing materials to find their properties, as well as my personal journey, the media I consume, my academic background, and the world around me.

While theme may vary from piece to piece or series to series, my art is largely about self expression, sharing my findings from experimenting with materials, and sharing experiences and things I find fascinating. I accomplish this using a variety of different mediums depending on the piece and intention of the work. I primarily work in graphite, charcoal, ink, acrylic/ watercolor paint, digitally, or some combination thereof.

I make my art not only to share my experiences and express myself but to connect with others in a way that only human-made art really can do. I create my works in the hopes of inspiring or educating others, to give them space to take pause and feel. While I do create my works with intention and purpose, other's may get something else out of it than I do and that's a valid and beautiful thing.

My goals with my art overall is to connect, inspire, and add beauty to the world. I want to share the results of my experiments with materials and inspire others to play.