

Conan Zhao

Biography

My artistic journey began in my teenage years when I became known at school as an entirely self-taught pencil artist who pursued photorealistic portraiture. With a youthful discipline, I gradually developed a refined technical aptitude to begin what was later to become my art career.

After graduating from UC Berkeley with a degree in Applied Mathematics, I moved to Atlanta, GA, to start a career as a health actuary and to pay off my student loans. In 2019, I decided to quit my corporate day job of nearly five years and pursue my passion as a full-time artist entrepreneur!

In my free time, I am an avid Lindy Hopper, hiker, and wikipedia reader. I often travel across the country for dance exchanges.

Artist Statement

During college, I spent a year at Marchutz School of Art (Aix-en-Provence, France), where I discovered the rich history of art and philosophies. I am heavily influenced by masters like Hokusai, Rembrandt, Turner, Daumier, and later American Illustration artist, Bernie Fuchs—from whom I obsessively seek guidance on the relationship of light, color, composition, and execution by tirelessly studying their works.

I like to paint moments, rather than subject matters. Art taught me to appreciate the transient nature of life, and acknowledge the fleeting quality of everything that is beautiful and everything that is not beautiful. My art is a reflection of my seeking and achieving harmony from imbalance; it's an expression of melancholy with which I face my past and present.