

Ezra Harshberger

Biography

Ezra Harshberger is a painter and illustrator living in Syracuse New York, where he has lived for most of his life. As a child he excelled in the arts and was encouraged to continue drawing. After High School, he attended Onondaga Community College where he worked as a gallery docent and participated in two SUNY wide exhibitions. He is currently a Senior at SUNY Oswego and will receive his BFA in Studio Arts with a minor in Illustration in December 2020.

Ezra was a recipient of the Robert Sullins studio award as well as being nominated for Best in Show at the 2015 SUNY wide Arts Exhibition. He continues to push his technical and conceptual capabilities while in school and hopes to pursue a career in the animation industry.

Artist Statement

My work is driven by a fascination with figuration and the relation between the subject and its environment. The way in which something is painted and the technique involved has pushed me to explore these skill sets and ultimately strive to understand the conceptual meaning behind them. In my work there is a clear use of classical painterly motifs, however the subject and use of material are meant for a contemporary art world. Using painterly brush strokes, I typically work in oil paint. The use of collage stems from a love of printed photography; images found in publications like National Geographic and other nature magazines influenced my aesthetic sense since childhood. Some works are digital and remain to be seen in a commercial world, but I directly apply my traditional skills. Whatever the medium is, I contemplate art history and the effects that technology and capitalism manifest themselves in ourselves and our surroundings.