

Link Gallery presents...



A.J. GONSIOROWSKI

I am a fearful person. While I go through life with unease and apprehension, my art has never been a source of fear. I began making art during therapy sessions as a teenager; it was an escape at first. For the first three months I would draw rather than speak or make eye contact. Soon, however, drawing quickly became a way to communicate; I would happily show off things I had created outside of sessions and explain the moods behind them. I fell in love with the expression I could put into my art, something I had never been good at with words.

Going into college, I imagined a life where I would only have my art. I wanted to be the kind of person who lived in studio and created drawings all day. I branched out and learned new media and found I love oil painting and photography; I am drawn to the idea of capturing the expressions of other people. I find myself reflecting their emotions, so naturally I try to create happy expressions on my subjects. I frequently choose people I care about as the subject of my art, or people that have had profound impact on me throughout my work experience.

I choose to use my knowledge in art to raise awareness for issues I believe aren't always visible. The subject of my paintings now frequently features themes of illness or disability. I draw from my own experiences, having been both client and counselor. I believe it gives my art unique perspective that I can pass onto others.

A.J. was born in 1997, in northwest Indiana, the fourth of five children in a lower middle-class, mixed-race family. She began drawing as a child to avoid interacting with people. As a teenager she would draw during therapy sessions as a way to cope with her various diagnoses.

In her undergraduate studies, she discovered a love for oil painting that she continues to explore today. A.J. will graduate from Manchester University in May 2019, with a BA in art and psychology, and a minor in peace studies. In the future, she intends to continue her studies in clinical psychology.



Exhibition Dates are Feb. 8–March 8, 2019.

Gallery Hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, when classes are in session.

For more information, email ajgonsiorowski2019@manchester.edu