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Anael Hester

ABOUT

I am a visual arts student and emerging artist who was raised in Baltimore. I began my education in visual arts at Baltimore School for the Arts, and am currently in my last semester of being trained in academic realism at the Swedish Academy of Realist Art (SARA), a small establishment that teaches traditional artistic methods passed down from the French ateliers of the 18th/19th centuries, and shares a lineage with Leonardo Da Vinci.

In a world crumbling beneath its own warped priorities—function over form, efficiency above passion, work before play, all serving only to embolden the rise of threats to cultural sustainability like staunch individualism and AI “art”—my key takeaway from learning these methods is that beauty is essential. This is the basis of Nu-Aestheticism, a philosophy I have devised to label a currently-unfolding artistic movement focused on welcoming old creative practices as opposed to lambasting them. It is my long-term goal to nurture and promote this ongoing renaissance with my artwork.

For now, though, I create art for the purpose of learning all I can about creating it in a manner resembling the Old Masters, and seek to immortalize the beauty of that which surrounds me in a unique act of love for it.

EXHIBITIONS

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| 2024 | Österlen Lyser – <i>Swedish Academy of Realist Art</i> , Simrishamn, Skåne, SWE; student-directed group exhibition at SARA |
| 2023-2024 | Konstrundan – <i>Swedish Academy of Realist Art</i> , Simrishamn, Skåne, SWE; selected twice for annual group exhibition at SARA |
| 2018-2019 | Spring Exhibition – <i>Segal Gallery</i> , Baltimore, MD, USA; Selected twice for annual group exhibition at Baltimore School for the Arts |
| 2017-2019 | Winter Exhibition – <i>Segal Gallery</i> , Baltimore, MD, USA; Selected thrice for annual group exhibition at Baltimore School for the Arts |
| 2017-2018 | Jury Exhibition – <i>Segal Gallery</i> , Baltimore, MD, USA; Selected twice for annual group exhibition at Baltimore School for the Arts |

EXPERIENCE

- 2024-Present **Student Teacher**
Swedish Academy of Realist Art - Simrishamn, Skåne, SE
I guide students in their first semester, helping them find and fix technical issues in their Bargue and figure drawings whilst challenging myself to effectively communicate with people who are having trouble grasping certain artistic concepts.
- 2020 **Intern**
Artistree - Woodstock, VT, USA
I was responsible for keeping the gallery in general order. I interacted with visitors, helped transition exhibitions within a short time constraint, packaged artworks, kept the space clean, and updated the gallery's online presence. I was able to learn about the behind-the-scenes work that goes into supporting artists' careers.
- 2019 **Intern**
Mitchell School of Fine Arts at Coppermine Fieldhouse - Baltimore, MD, USA
I was tasked with keeping the art space organized, clean, and prepared. I learned to interact well with children, as I was also prompted to help inspire them, and guide them through an artistic process.

ART EDUCATION

- 2022-Present **The Swedish Academy of Realist Art** – Vocational Atelier Studies in Traditional Academic Realist Art; Simrishamn, Skåne, SE
- 2016-2020 **Baltimore School for the Arts** – High School Diploma, Visual Arts Major (GPA 4.0); Baltimore, MD, USA

SKILLS

Mediums

Charcoal (and white chalk)
Etching
Graphite
Oil Paint
Watercolor

Soft

Creativity
Motivation
Organization
Open-mindedness
Time management

Hard

Art History
Curation
Gallery work
Modeling
Teaching (children and adults)

AWARDS

2018 *American Visionary Arts Museum Curators Choice Award*, Baltimore District Congressional Competition, hosted by congressman Elijah Cummings, Baltimore, MD

ADDITIONAL

2017-2019 Scottish Snare Drummer band competitor, *Macmillan Birtles Pipe Band*, Grades 4-3

2017 6th best Grade 4 Drum Corp in the World, 9th best Grade 4 Pipe Band overall (MacMillan Birtles Pipe Band), *World Pipe Band Championships*, Glasgow, Scotland

2013-2019 Scottish Snare Drumming solo competitor, *Eastern United States Pipe Band Association*, graduated up to Grade 2

REFERENCES

Lena Olssen Swedish Academy of Realist Art, Headmistress
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