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Arts in STEM

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## Art Autobiography

### RECALL

My life is filled with art. Art is something dear to me and has completely changed and enhanced my life. I will begin with art in elementary school. I remember doing art over all academic subjects and I can even make pictures of the artwork activities in my mind. I remember learning how to draw a house and a sun, and an easy way to make birds in the sky. I remember the 3D art projects with toilet paper rolls and Halloween decorations made from paper plates. I had such a wonderful experience with crafty Halloween decorations, that I continue to make them to this day. I remember in the early elementary years winning a coloring contest because I put the character in a *scene*, versus just coloring the character; it was a cowboy, and I drew a horse, and grass around him with flowers. As I continued to grow, my mother saw my love for projects and over summer would always take us to Michaels to get art supplies to do over the summer. As the long summer began, we happily did paint with numbers, and I also began to grow a love from crocheting. My mother also bought us crafty magazine books, and I remember making feeders for birds and squirrels using things like pinecones and peanut butter. As I began to grow into my teens, I began to watch anime and grew fond of the artwork it presented. I began drawing familiar characters as well as designing my own. My greatest accomplishment for my age was a full three-hundred page story that I mailed to a credible publisher at age 13. The book wasn't

published, long story short, I never wrote again but now that I am growing older, I'm still getting that itch to make a story. As an adult, I paint acrylic and offer them as a reward to my students. My paintings mostly include space art and landscapes. I feel that being a teacher and taking classes is taking up all my time and I haven't painted much anymore. As I've mentioned, art is a big part of my life, so I do miss painting dearly.

#### REFLECT

Re-reading my experiences, I can see why I appreciate art so much. I have surrounded myself with various mediums of art my whole life. My appreciation grew because I had support from my family and encouragement. This is also extremely important for my students. Over the years I dabbled in many different forms of art, because I got comfortable and began trying new things to express myself. For the art that didn't work, such as drawing characters and writing stories, I know I was ashamed of the response I got back from the publisher, and I remember feeling like I must have had no idea what I was doing. My family tried diligently to get me back into it, but I refused them. I was afraid of failure, and I let it take me. Perhaps one day I will overcome the anxiety and try to write and draw my characters again. Nowadays, I just paint several paintings mostly for other people, I hardly paint for myself. I find painting a destressor, and for me as of now, that feeling satisfies me enough. I do not think I'm a failure at art, but I am a self-taught acrylic painter. I watch YouTube channel tutorials to get some trainings down. In high school I took Art I and II. I understand art and the basics, but I need a lot more training. I think me and art get along fine and I'm ready for growth and the next medium to try. Eventually, I would love to learn to paint in oil and water color, sculpt in 3D with wood and clay, and even try Trash art.

#### CONNECTION

My definition of art is expression and portrayal of self or the world through different mediums. I think some issues I have with art is just a fear of failure to please those who evaluate my work. I do work a long time and put much effort in my art, so when I receive negative criticism, I take it to heart. This is an issue I'm sure several people face. In a way we are opening our shell and showing people our deepest expressions. Art is after all, *the painter* itself. Our work *IS* us. It's very difficult to open up and allow ourselves to be criticized. Art is strength, perseverance, and growth. We must be brave.

Another issue is society itself doesn't value art as it should. Education is not even properly valued in this country like it is in others. If you wanted to be an artist, the road isn't easy. To be truly respected and succeed, you must have connections to get your name out. To focus as an art major in college seems to be reserved for the wealthy, as many art colleges are private and come with a hefty price tag. Music and art are electives in school and not funded properly. Society itself fails art, and I think several people are hesitant to pursue their dreams because of this. I myself, have even weighed the options and come to the conclusion that I cannot make a living on art, so it's just a hobby. Art should be just as important as the core subjects and should be in every aspect of education. I am eager to learn more from this class about art and how to portray different forms in my class. It "wakes" up my students, they come alive and want to learn more. I'm extremely interested in tying music to my 8th grade curriculum, as music is what seems to vibe with them.