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Arts in STEM

Art Biography

Throughout my life, I was always drawn toward the arts. I would practice drawing from tutorial books, and I danced for eight years. I loved participating in theater and the musical arts as well. Regarding dance, I spent over eight years practicing ballet, hip hop, jazz, acrobatics, and tap. I recently this past summer attended a ballet and tap dance class and it was a nice refresher. I learned a sense of rhythm through dance which I was able to transfer over into my love of music. At a young age, I learned how to play the violin and the piano, I taught myself how to play the piano and continue to practice to this day. I also was in choir all throughout elementary, middle, and high school. I still have a love for singing, which in high school, I used to participate in musical theater.

I began my theater experience in middle school, participating in plays and musicals such as Sleepy Hollow and continued in high school, eventually landing the lead in the play Twelve Angry Jurors and the musical Legally Blonde. I also am a member of the National Thespians Honors Society, where I traveled with my theater trope to Kean University to participate in monologue and duets that were judged and awarded. I was awarded with the Best Monologue Award for my performance of The Pillow Man.

In college is where I found my love of fine arts, I originally majored in Political Science at Monmouth University, but in the back of my mind always had a desire to be an art major. Then one day at the beginning of my junior year, I decided to take the lead and change my major and I never regretted it. As a fine arts major, I was able to explore renaissance styled painting, realistic and abstract drawing, color theory, 3D design and printing, sculpture, print-making and ceramics. I fell in love with it all. I have been described as a renaissance woman because I love exploring new ways to express my artistic abilities. I aspire to be an art teacher one day so I can inspire the students who were like me, drawn to the many wonders that the art world provides. Art has given me a sense of purpose and motivation. I have successfully showcased my artworks in over seven gallery exhibitions, I have participated in mural creations, social practice programs, and have spent my summers as an art instructor.

What really sparked my love for art was traveling and studying abroad in Florence, Italy. When living in Florence I was surrounded by beautiful works of art created by Michelangelo, Leonardo Di Vinci, Giotto, Monet, Van Gogh, and so much more. I specially traveled to Amsterdam in the Netherlands to visit the Van Gogh Museum. I also have a love for poetry which is so interesting when combined with the artworks that were created during specific and revolutionary eras. I love art history because it is so interesting to know what the artist was inspired by when creating their work. I am so very excited to be involved in the Arts in STEM course. My two

greatest loves are art and science, and to see them interact and intermingle will be such an inspiration! Art is my passion, it is what gets me out of bed each day and I cannot wait to learn more about how art can inspire and prepare my students for an exciting and creative learning experience!

These experiences stand out to me because they were some of the proudest and happiest moments of my life. Art makes me feel whole, it makes me feel free and understood. When someone would come up to me and compliment my musical performance or my work of art, it made me feel like I was contributing to society, that I was making someone happy through my artistic expression. These general characteristics of art experiences that have been meaningful to me are what inspired me to work hard and be motivated to practice my talent. I feel as if I have been successful in art because I continue to grow each day and make my artwork more unique and personal. For me, I feel successful when I look at my art and feel proud that I made it. Sometimes, I will even look at my art months later and think to myself, wow I cannot believe I created that! Art is a visual representation of human emotion, perspective, and expression. Art can be the way you feel, such as how Frida Kahlo represented her pain through her art. Art can be a collective idea, such as how Yoko Ono and Mark Rothko expressed their art through abstract thought and minimalism to ensure a personal experience. Art can be an interactive experience, such as the Pixel Forest where a viewer can physically walk through the creation. Art is uplifting, it is raw and beautiful. Art is inspiring and has no limitations. My past experiences have

shaped my definition and my attitude toward art by continuously inspiring me to learn more about it, and to see how it can grow and change over time. My past experiences have shown me that art can be tangible or ephemeral, it can be physical, spiritual, psychological or emotional. Art is incredible and it is such a wonderful way for us as human beings to understand one another better.