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ARTIST STATEMENT

Before college, I honestly had no idea I wanted to be in the art field. I previously had a bit of experience drawing throughout middle and high school, but it was all cognitive — nothing too serious. I did not think any more about art until I took a mandatory art history course in college. The artwork throughout the class was amazing to look at and the conversations in class were truly engaging, making your thoughts and ideas move freely and in new directions. It was at that point, piecing together my previous artistic skills and my new affinity for art history that I decided to give art a try...and it is easily the best decision I have ever made in my entire life.

I decided to focus on the graphic design spectrum of art for a couple of reasons. The first reason is because of the instability of the job market. While being an art degree holder within certain fields of art, job and career opportunities can be strained and limited. However, an art degree with graphic design emphasis and the right amount of effort and creativity, the job opportunities could double or triple depending on the situation and your ability to multitask and freelance. Another reason I chose this degree is the amount of experience that I can attain within it. With modern technology, artists cannot only paint on a canvas or sculpt on a table but also paint or sculpt on the computer with programs such as Corel Painter, 3D Studio Max, Rhino or Adobe Photoshop. I feel it is important to learn all of these methods depending on the client, assignment or job, giving more options not only for them, but myself as well.

My work reflects many different styles, which I consider a great strength because I am more aware of the different styles of art not just by learning about them, but also by doing them. The subject matter of my work also differs as I encounter new phases during my life, as many artists also experience. I have found that more often than not, simple design with creative input can be one of the most successful forms of communication. Some artwork always works better for me than others, but it is through experience that I can gain the knowledge and become a better artist. I enjoy the satisfaction of both planning and achieving what I set out to accomplish.

My inspiration primarily comes from the people around me; whether it is a stranger, friend, teacher or a family member. Through my own observations I am able to come up with ideas or starting points for the basis of my work. These experiences in life often are reflected through the work so those memories are important. However, I cannot dismiss the fact that past artists, masters and works have also had great guidance and inspiration for me as well. I use the examples in artwork as a foundation and build out and around them into my own creations. From there it is tailored and perfected to the client or recipient's desire.

Like other subjects, art and its influence can be found everywhere, naturally or mechanically. Yet it is often treated with a sense of mild neglect, or even unfairly when compared to sciences, mathematics or literature. My hope is that with my contribution to the art network, I can help garnish more interest and enthusiasm within my field and continue to indulge in its endless planes of possibilities.

Thank you for your time.

Ronald Sholtis Jr.