

Biography/Artist Statement: Brennan Harris

Brennan Harris was born in Orange County, California in 1992. He has always been engaged in visual art. Health and fitness are also an intrinsic part of his world and play a role in the formal qualities and content of his artwork.

Harris has a history of overcoming obstacles and viewing hardships as challenges to be met. At a young age, Harris was formally diagnosed with significant dyslexia; a life-long learning disability that made reading and writing not only difficult, but debilitating. Sadly, academic struggle became part of how he characterized himself. Dyslexia haunted him through elementary school, high school, and even college where it posed substantial challenges at first to him being a successful student. However, he found a strength in organizing picture planes with shapes and colors through the medium of paint. Despite initial setbacks that included failing out of two colleges, Harris made a clear decision to no longer let dyslexia define him and he committed to completing his degree. He went on to earn his AA in Studio Art in 2017 from Golden West College, where his student work was featured in the annual student show and was used to help promote the department. He was a valued member of the GWC track team and was named the 2016 CCCAA Academic All-State Scholar Athlete due to his athletic achievements and high GPA. California State University, Long Beach is where he earned his BA in Studio Art, focusing on drawing and painting in 2019. Some of his work was chosen to represent the art department for the university's board review in order to keep their WASC accreditation.

For over a decade Harris has been an athlete with a passion for health and wellness. Making art is a crucial part of his commitment to personal development and wellbeing. Growing up, he was a late bloomer as he was notably smaller in size than his peers. Like pushing past the burden of dyslexia to become a college graduate, Harris pushed past physical limitations to become a Crossfit athlete and later a coach. Bringing together his passions he used his creative skills as part of a marketing team for Progenex, a supplement company within the fitness industry. Extreme exercise and working in marketing taught Harris discipline, hard work, and the ethos of being inclusive rather than exclusive. These attributes have manifested themselves in his artwork which aims to exhibit a high level of craftsmanship that requires thoughtful discipline.

In 2019, Harris participated in Honda's R&D studio internship where he once again used his creative and technical skills to work closely with designers to model a concept car out of clay. He learned that lines within the car need to have the proper amount of tension in order for the aesthetic to be attractive. The concept of proper tension is now applied to Harris's artworks.

Now, Harris has dedicated himself fulltime to his studio practice. This body of work is the culmination of years of study and development. He is an emerging artist with ambitions to take his designs and concepts to various media, scales, and art markets.