

Over the summer, I spent my vacation at the Westin Resort in Maui, Hawaii, and brought my sketchbook with me in case I needed to draw. When we were at our chairs, I saw a hibiscus flower on one of the bushes, so I took a picture of it using my phone, and then I sketched it out. I wanted to sketch out the flower because I didn't draw anything for a long time, and I usually didn't use my art equipment when we would go on vacation because I was hooked on the internet. This time, however, I wanted to break that habit and go back to creating art as I did when I was young.

When I was about 3 years old, I drew characters I saw and drew them on paper, like Mickey Mouse and SpongeBob. I drew either at home, in school, or anywhere else, and people have told me I was really good at it. However, I'm diagnosed with autism, so it's pretty hard for me to know what to draw, but I can't think of something. I just picture it in my head. I love art because it lets me be free with the colors for the aesthetic, atmosphere, and the vibrance. Drawing allows me to communicate my thoughts without using words. Although I'm pretty talented at drawing, I get nervous about others outside my family seeing my work. Communicating through language can sometimes be difficult due to my autism, but art is never difficult for me. When I taught myself how to draw, I couldn't stop. My dad *really* loves what I draw because my art skills have made me who I am. I usually don't plan what I'm gonna draw, I just draw what comes to mind. When I was little, I used to copy characters I would see and draw them on paper, and people told me I was really good at it. However, as I got older, I drew more original artwork.

Y'know what's another thing I desire the most? It's animation, of course! I've watched a lot of animated TV shows and movies growing up, and it led me to join Freestyle Academy. It's not easy trying to animate a full scene, because it can take several weeks to get done. Last year, I was tasked to color the animation project called "Mole Day". The coloring took about four weeks to get done, because it was hard to color everything in the frame when there were gaps. The time it took was worth it, and I'm proud of getting our project done. I want to be an animator because it's a language I speak easily, and I'm always happy when I'm making art.

As a storyteller, art is also a way for me to tell a story. Seven years ago, I created a comic called "Soap Boy" back in elementary school - it was about a superhero who had the power of soap. I made a graphic novel starring Soap Boy, and it was about the villains making a mess in the town, and he had to clean it all up. I drew all of it in a blank book, and all of the drawings looked like a storyboard. Storytelling as a medium appealed to me because I've seen various stories from books, TV, movies, video games, etc. growing up, and maybe someday I'll tell more stories about Soap Boy, or even newer ideas in the future.

Word count: 581

Core values:

Artist

Dreamer

Storyteller

Creator

Desired major career:

Animator

Essential values for the career:

Creativity (art)

Inspiration (art)