CONVERSATION WITH AWSHITTTTTT

Regional Artist of the Month in September 2023 for Southeast Asia

A 26 year old artist from Bali, Indonesia, *Awshitttttt* has been selected the Regional Artist of the month in September 2023 for Southeast Asia, and later the Artist of the Region overall by the highest number of votes of BE OPEN Art online gallery visitors. The artist was awarded a grant of 500 euro from BE OPEN.
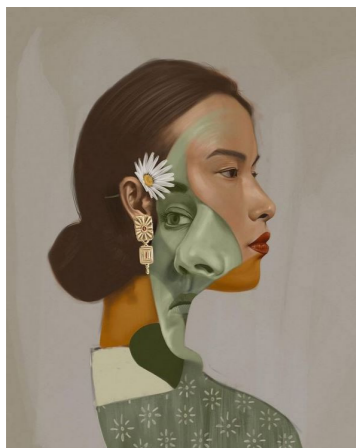
The self-taught artist had a passion for drawing and illustration since he was a child. *Awshitttttt* is now a professional artist focusing on digital painting and large-scale public murals. Portrait paintings, illustrations, and urban art are his artistic fields of expertise. His trademark is incorporating the delicate and iconic daisy flower as a representation of peace, love, and positivity.

On their journey to arts

It all started when I was in elementary school. I really liked drawing, I was drawing anything but could not draw the anatomy of the human body, it was quite frustrating for me.

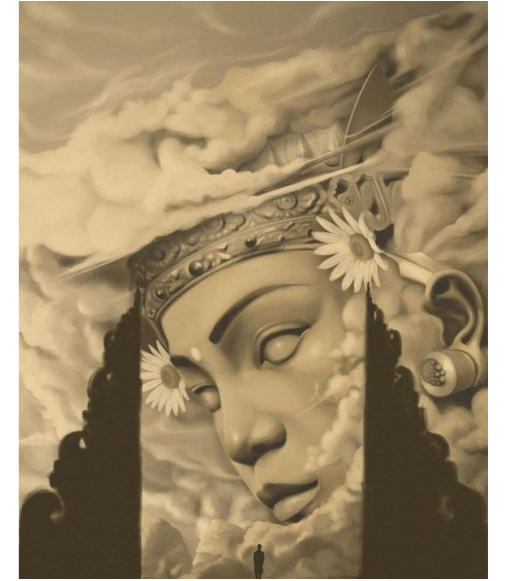## *On* personal education, and creative education viewed locally and globally

I never finished my education in arts, for some time I majored in design and even then I didn't get to the end of it.

Messaging with art

The topics I cover with my work are peace, love, positivity often symbolized via flowers, mostly daisies. I love listening to hip hop and rap songs, and one of my favorites is Logic is, who often slips the messages of peace, love, positivity in most of the songs he makes.

You don't need to shout "stop war" to share peace, love and positivity. Just on a small scale, it's as simple as doing good deeds to the people around you, giving smiles to others, keeping your attitude, and stop interfering with things that don't concern you.

On cultural ethnical and national identity reflected in art

Being friendly and smiling a lot to everyone is a manifestation of national culture in my country that represents peace, love, positivity itself. Sometimes I wear a Balinese mask to show where I come from.