



Sasha H Porter

Tricks and tips from Sasha H Porter

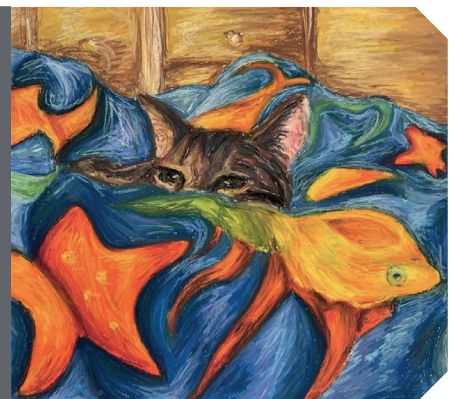


The artist's studio: is a separate space necessary for productive work? What are the absolute essentials in your working space? What advice would you give to emerging artists in terms of setting up a studio/working space?



Currently I don't have what you'd call a separate space. When I'm physically able to, I'll prop a drawing board against the wall of my bedroom and sit on the floor. However, I'd definitely say this hinders my productivity, as I can't sit like that for long periods of time due to chronic pain, etc. On my worst days, I'll work on smaller pieces of work, usually no larger than A3, and have a table easel on a hospital bed table I have over my bed which comes in really handy. I also do a lot of digital work either lying in bed, or on my better days I'll have a drawing tablet set up on my living room table. 'Productivity' looks a lot different for me than for most people. I have to take a lot of breaks due to things like brain fog, chronic pain and fatigue, so it tends to take me quite a while to finish a piece of work. I'm still finding ways to make art more accessible for me. I've seen wheelchair accessible/roll under easels which would be amazing to have one day, but currently I don't have the space.

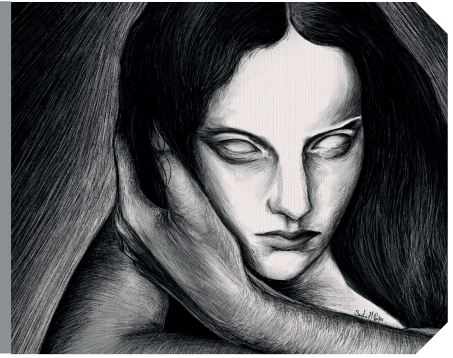
Earning a living from art: what steps are necessary to make a living selling art-work? Please share your experience of developing a website/social media pages, communication with wider audience and potential buyers, working with online and offline galleries, etc.



I can't say I have much to say on this topic. I've yet to properly look into selling my artwork, however, this will be something covered in my last year of art school which will be incredibly helpful.

I have two somewhat successful social media pages on Instagram and TikTok, but I would honestly consider their growth more luck-based than anything else. Algorithms are tricky to find an audience on, posting somewhat consistently is important but a lot of it does boil down to luck.

Staying inspired: please tell us what you do to keep being an inspired creative. Is it necessary to take breaks from your work? How can an artist maintain their creative curiosity? Does your inspiration come from within or outside?



Most of my inspiration comes from my lived experience with chronic illness and disability. I'm still relatively 'new' to disability, I became a wheelchair user just under two years ago, and I'm constantly learning new things about the world and society, which often fuel ideas for my works. I'm also very active within online disability/chronic illness communities and often seek inspiration from others' lived experiences (with permission of course), to better represent those with disabilities outside of just my own.

I also find a lot of inspiration from moving away from my home country and the memories associated with it. By now, I've made a few works that focus on my fading memories of my hometown due to chronic illness that has induced brain fog and memory loss.

I have to admit that staying inspired isn't necessarily something I struggle with. I find myself often having ideas for works, but not always being physically able to carry them out. I have a lot of quickly written notes on my phone with ideas I've had that I want to go back to later when I can. I find that being at art school and constantly interacting with other artists helps me a lot stay inspired.

