

MEGAN COLFER

Visual Artist

Artist Statement

While I've been engaged in visual culture and the history of art for many years, it wasn't until two particular periods of my life when I started to take a professional approach and become an artist.

First was during Covid, 2020, to help with the overwhelming lockdown I began to use Graphite to create numerous portraits of figures, ending up with just over 30 works by that year's end and instilling a strong love of the medium to this day. Secondly, I was introduced to oil painting when working on still life subjects in October 2022 after returning to education. While a previous attempt at oil painting resulted in an unpleasant experience, over 6 months of use with an external space to work and store helped to finish a body of work.

Visual storytelling always interested me. The images would take me on a journey as a child, though I now realise it was more an escape for me. Creating drawings inspired by these animations I watched as a child distracted me from my skin condition, diagnosed at 7 years of age, and as far as I remember, arising out of nowhere. From the top of my head to the tops of my feet, I woke up to having Psoriasis, a condition where skin cells reproduced at a faster rate than normal and appear on the surface of the skin. An itchy, flaky, painful plaque.

My main reason for using this as a subject was to try to express myself and view what other observers might see instead. My process was standard in observing different points of my skin with Psoriasis, Psoriasis that has cleared up and created a tan line around where they once were.

I explore Psoriasis as a metaphor. Rather than confront a medical condition directly, as an artist I decided to engage with visual manifestation as a source of imagery for painting.

Though this first series was more of an abstract nature focusing on my psoriasis, my second series of oils delve into memories and locations as landscaped works. Starting in 2024, though based on my own experiences, the works are created in such a way that they remain universal to the viewer, even if they may not have truly been there.

My landscapes portray locations that are dear to me in my memories, taking a still of a scene that best encapsulates my feelings and thoughts for that specific moment in time. They can take on many forms; a hazy river that brings forth child-like warmth and safety, a cluttered woodland that holds many fond nature walks, vineyards and buildings I grew up around during times abroad, gathering wood and sticks with grandparents long gone, even moments as my career has grown stronger and stronger, too many to name but each one as precious and important as the last.
