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MAGAZINE

THE
**MAGIC
ISSUE**

Sara Gallagher

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Sara Gallagher is a graphite and panpastel artist working to break social taboos around mental health. Her work has been shown in art fairs, galleries, and museums across the globe, and is even on the moon. She is a part of public and private collections internationally, most notably The Bennett Collection of Women Realists and the Lunar Codex. She received multiple awards in the 16th International ARC Salon, 1st Grand Prize in the 2022 John Dalton Art Prize, an Honorable Mention in Artist's Network Strokes of Genius 14, and has placed as a finalist in numerous competitions, including ModPortrait, the Beautiful Bizarre Art Prize, and more. Sara is represented by CK Contemporary in San Francisco, CA, and lives and works out of her small studio in a redwood grove in the North Bay Mountains of the San Francisco Bay Area, CA.



Interview with Sara Gallagher

When was the first time you felt like you were an artist?

My identity has always been that of an artist, ever since I was a child. That said, my confidence in owning that identity has ebbed and flowed throughout my entire life. It wasn't until my work started gaining broader recognition in 2020 that I began to embrace my artistic practice - and identity - as a professional one.

What would you say is the underlying thread that connects your work?

Emotional intimacy throughout every one of my pieces. The process of building the concept with my participants is a deeply vulnerable and intimate experience. The concepts themselves explore our inner emotional worlds and the complexities around them. The finished artworks serve as an invitation for viewers to contemplate their own internal experiences, creating ongoing opportunities for deepening emotional intimacy.

What is the most satisfying part of your practice?

There are so many satisfying parts! Within the process, there's always two things happening: connection to

the individual and their story, and the creation of the physical artwork. When it's finished, that's when the two truly collide. Perhaps it's that moment which is the most satisfying... The work has the ability on its own to make an impact on the individuals who find solidarity within it, thus carrying its purpose forward.

Tell us about a turning point in your artistic journey and/or career.

The most obvious turning point for me was when I began working with the hyperrealism artist, Dirk Dzimirsky, in 2019. Dirk mentored me for a year, which not only greatly influenced the artistic medium and practice that I now work in, but also offered me professional guidance regarding the art world in general. Working with a professional in the field granted me a new perspective, and in turn confidence, that my ambition to become an artist full-time is something that could be achieved.

If you could show your work anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

Having grown up in the Bay Area, the SF MOMA has served as an inspirational hub for me throughout my whole life. If I were ever to show my work there, it would likely be one of the most surreal moments of my life. One may dream! ♦



ARTIST STATEMENT

Sara Gallagher is passionate about breaking the taboos that surround mental health in the United States. She harnesses her experience of working with houseless youth and people with disabilities to bring about an empathetic lens into the complex experience of what it is to be human. Through her hyperrealistic graphite and mixed media works, Sara provokes intimate dialogues around our private emotional experiences. Shaped in collaboration, she engages with her models personally by allowing a vulnerable, authentic discussion to set the direction of each piece. Detailed, emotive imagery and subtle surreal qualities provide a brave and beautiful space for our challenging emotions to exist. This intimate exchange invites us all to experience powerful solidarity and understanding of some of our most personal thoughts and feelings.