

# HEART *for* art

Story & design by Alessandra Chandler and Aanika Valliani

For Polina Van Hulsen, art is a passion where she can express both herself and her messages. Photos courtesy of Polina van Hulsen

Paintbrush strokes form smooth lines dancing across the canvas, creating more than just a photo, but a story with a powerful message.

For artist Polina Van Hulsen, art is an outlet for self expression, as well as a method for advocating for change.

Van Hulsen, like many young artists, likes to dabble in different mediums and experiment with her personal style, adapting and evolving with every piece.

"I try to do realistic or a bit more cartoonish style, which is the most fun for me," Van Hulsen said.

She likes to incorporate real-world problems and phenomena, along with the emotions to create her art. She often draws from social and cultural issues that she is passionate about.

"[I like] trying to get a message out there about stuff that I think is important," Van Hulsen said. "Some of the pieces I've used, as inspiration, would be climate change and other important messages which I think are pretty inspiring."

Van Hulsen creates art daily, both because she loves art and because she likes to start new pieces often.

"For me it is just something I have to do," Van Hulsen said. "I draw every single day, because I don't think I could live without it."

Additionally, for people who consider themselves to be reserved or introverted, art is a good way for them to feel heard.

"Personally, I'm not a very loud person so, I can give my message through my art and [use it] as an outlet to express who I am," Van Hulsen said.

*"I draw every single day because I don't think I could live without it."*

**POLINA VAN HULSEN**



(far top left) **MUTED AND PLUM-TONED**, this painting by Polina van Hulsen is titled "Behind the Curtain" for its behind-the-scenes view of the theater. Van Hulsen expertly uses shadows and point-of-view to keep the painted audience darkened and homogenous, while the foreground, complete with props and a classic theatrical mask, is highlighted as the focus. (far bottom left) **ON THE EASEL**, Polina van Hulsen paints a dark, somber painting with of her father relaxing on a leather couch. Complete with personal elements like warm slippers and Adidas trackpants, van Hulsen humanizes her father and captures his character, despite his motionless image. (left) **THIS DIGITALLY DRAWN** artwork titled Cloud Gazing aims to spread Polina van Hulsen's message about the negative and increasingly prevalent impacts of pollution and global warming. Much of van Hulsen's art intends to spread important messages about our contemporary world and its problems. (top center) **THE BLACK CAT** sits alert and regal in a canvas painting by Polina van Hulsen. The painting contradicts its title "Sunbathing" with its darker, cooler tones, rather than the brighter colors usually associated with warmth and the sun. (top right) **ON THE HAMMOCK**, Polina van Hulsen works on digital artwork with her iPad and stylo. Van Hulsen enjoys experimenting with various artistic mediums, from tangible materials like paint to digital software.

Paul Hung  
Aidan Hurtt  
Ella Hwang  
Otis Ibsen  
Allison Jackson  
Roman Jacobs



Janya Jain  
Alice Jambon  
Samuel Janik  
Lily Jeffrey  
Lambert Ji  
Nathan Jiang



Moss Johnson  
Tasman Johnson  
Kenji Kageyama  
Ami Kaneko  
Joshua Kao  
Sasha Kapadia



Kai Kareht  
Tilman Kareht  
Abigail Karel  
Faizan Kashmiri  
Andrew Kassel  
Aavriti Kataria



Aryan Kawatra  
Sophia Kelly  
Joseph Kessler  
Graeme Kieran  
Romy Kiessler  
David Kim



Justun Kim  
Noah Kim  
Ryan Kim  
Riya Kini  
Jacob Kinsky  
Otto Kiss Meyerfreund



Kayley Ko  
Sarah Kobayashi  
Ella Kogelnik  
Samhita Konduri  
Davut Kostanyan  
Tyler Kramer



Kayla Kristenson  
Lucy Kristofferson  
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Madeleine Kuo  
Tyler Kuo

