

## **HED: From Athlete to Artist: Painter Philip Glick On Finding a Passion for Painting at Age 13**

By: Madelaine Boyer

Irish expressionist artist Francis Bacon once said, “The creative process is a cocktail of instinct, skill, culture and a highly creative feverishness.” There is a lot of truth to this statement especially when you look at successful artists throughout history. Yet, compared to the artists of times past, it’s hard to believe that anyone in our modern era could ever compete. However, with that in mind, there is one young artist local to Boca Raton who is quickly shaping up to be a household name while also putting his own stamp on the art world with his unique style of painting.

Growing up in South Florida, painter Philip Glick hasn’t always known that art was his calling. From a young age, he did find himself drawn to doodling and drawing but was always more involved with sports like wrestling. However, it wasn’t until he had some time off during summer break when he was only 13-years-old that he found himself being drawn more and more to painting and creating art. “Once I found painting it was hard to ignore how much I enjoyed it and I finally found myself leaving sports behind to pursue art,” Glick explains.

Now, at age 19, the artist has completed numerous paintings and even showcased some of his work at gallery shows throughout our area including one at the Boca Raton Museum of Art, Art School. Currently attending design school on a full ride scholarship, Glick continues to hone his painting style and soon plans to offer his art for sale. In between his time going to classes and painting, Glick had time to chat with us to expand on his story of finding painting and how he hopes to continue to improve his unique style for years to come.

### **Q: Where do you go to school?**

A: I’m currently attending the Rhode Island School of Design and I was lucky enough to get a full ride scholarship.

### **Q: How long have you been doing art?**

A: I started painting when I was 13 or 14 during the summer when I was on break from school. I’m 19 now, so I’ve been painting for about six years now.

### **Q: How would you describe your style of painting?**

A: I started off creating paintings in more of the Neo-Expressionism style which is similar to the works of Jean-Michel Basquiat, which is usually very raw with a lot of splattering and scribbling. Eventually, however, my personal style developed more out of that into a flowy abstract figuration.

### **Q: Do you sell your paintings?**

A: Not right now, but I do intend to offer my paintings within the next year. I’m currently trying to develop my style more and the visual language in my art.

**Q: Have you always been interested in art?**

A: Yeah. I would always doodle a lot in school and I took a few art classes when I was in high school, but before that I was more involved in sports like wrestling. However, once I found painting and started doing that more and more I kind of left sports behind.

**Q: How does your family feel about you pursuing art as a career?**

A: They've all been very supportive, especially my grandfather. When he first saw that I started painting, he went to the art store and bought me a bunch of 4-by-5 foot canvases for me to paint on. I was so surprised because up until that point I had only been working with small canvases. So, it felt really cool for him to be so excited about my painting.

**Q: What or who are some of your art inspirations?**

A: I'm really into Peter Paul Rubens who was a Flemish painter from around the 16th century as well as Francis Bacon who is a more modern artist. I also enjoy surrealism a lot.

**Q: What was one of the first pieces of art you created?**

A: The first actual painting I remember making was maybe 12-by-9 inches. It was a pair of full lips and I put rainbow colored drips running down the lips.

**Q: On what size canvas do you usually paint?**

A: Right now I have a few painting classes at school where we're mostly working with oil paints to learn perspective and how to do landscapes and interior spaces. So, when we're working on that we paint on a smaller scale 12-by-9 inches. When I paint personally though, I enjoy painting on a much larger scale 8-by-10 feet.

**Q: What are the most difficult or challenging aspects of what you do?**

A: I would say most of my paintings don't really have a direct inspiration but there are some days when the paintings don't really come out how I would like them to. Also sometimes when I'm putting down colors, they'll get muddy and I'll have to start all over. Most of my paintings are on a large scale 8-by-10 feet, so having to start over is always a pain.

**Q: What are the most rewarding aspects of painting for you?**

A: It's like making music or writing a book. It's a form of expressing my unconscious thoughts because I try not to think too much while I'm painting. So, it's rewarding to see what the finished product is when I tried my hardest to not put too much active thought into it. It's almost like meditation.

**Q: Do you have any memorable experiences throughout your time painting?**

A: Yeah, when I was 15 I was dropped off at the Boca Raton museum Art school for a class only to find out there was no class. Waiting for my ride I started talking about my art to Walter O'Neill, the director of the art school, showed him some pics on my phone and invited him to my house to check it out. About a month later Walter offered me a solo exhibition, the first for me and then for someone so young. It was a really cool experience but I also really love to look back at the art in that show because it's so different from what I do now. So, it's interesting to see how I've grown as an artist and how my style has changed since then.

**Q: Lastly, is there anything else you would want residents to know about you and your art?**

A: I think that my paintings will continue to get better and better because every painting for me is a learning experience. Also, of course I'm going to offer my paintings for sale, but in the meantime if people are interested I'm always interested in having an open discussion.

*To see some of Philip's work and for any purchase inquiries, be sure to follow him on Instagram at @bovador.*