

NOA DAVIS

New York-based Artist, Illustrator, Storyteller

Noa Davis (b.1988) uses watercolors, acrylics and markers to create whimsical characters and storyboards.

At 5 years old, Noa was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. She lives with her sister in a two-bedroom apartment above her parents'. She has very caring and supportive community habilitation workers who have become like family to her and help her navigate the community when they go out. She enjoys visiting art museums, going to the beach, swimming pools, malls, and shopping. Noa loves listening to her music on her vinyl record player, watching her favorite DVD anime movies, and spending time in her parents' apartment, and playing with her cat sister, Frida.



Noa started drawing at a very early age. Her illustrations included her experiences at pre-k school, animals, flowers and nature. Noa's expressive language is limited, therefore, she uses her illustrations to communicate her everyday observations. Her favorite subject is friendship. Noa is a storyteller, and it is through her illustrations that she shares her understanding of relationships. Ironically, many of her illustrations show empathy between best friends. Noa doesn't have a best friend in a traditional sense but apparently, it doesn't mean she can't understand friendship and empathy. Noa enjoys watching YouTube videos and images from videos that capture her attention become ideas for her artwork.

Noa is greatly interested in Asian culture: she enjoys the music, food, and anime movies. After watching YouTube videos, she asked her parents for Japanese calligraphy classes. She has been studying the art form since 2018 and has been honored with awards for her skill in Japanese calligraphy. She hopes to visit Japan one day.

In 2019, Noa started one-on-one classes at a community ceramics school. She uses the potter's wheel to create bowls, and incense holders and continues to improve her skills. Noa has been attending LAND Gallery since 2021. Her work is improvisational, often related to dancing, singing, nature, and celebration. Noa's playful tableaus show a confident use of watercolor and ink. Her storytelling highlights her love of animals and the imagined relationships between them. Noa works quickly, creating her storylines and characters in a spontaneous and energetic style.

Currently Noa also studies with two community art teachers learning new mediums: acrylic and sewing. She enjoys her weekly culinary baking classes where she acquired her Certified Baker status. Noa's parents hope that her talents will not go unnoticed but instead be shared with the world so that everyone can see that individuals with autism do have a lot to say: *where art speaks a thousand words.*