

DANIEL CURTIS WATTENBARGER

Washington

Born 1986



Raised in rural Washington State, USA in 1986, even before Daniel could talk [he was speech delayed] he exhibited an early aptitude for drawing and sculpture, a gift that his parents encouraged and nurtured.

Daniel has high-functioning autism and has learning differences such as synesthesia, or cross-sensory perception. His mind often interprets spatial relationships as personalities, and numbers and letters as colors [an ability that he credits with aiding his memory, which is remarkably keen].

“I try not to let this diagnosis define me, however. I guess in a lot of ways this is a trade-off; the very neurological-set-up that makes multi-tasking and social interaction difficult for me, allows me to create precise drawings with ease.”

Daniel can draw and sculpt people and animals from memory after studying them, and can remember long strings of numbers. His favorite subjects are art-history, and artistic techniques, [his pursuit of which is tireless, and his knowledge of which is encyclopedic]- knowledge that he uses to create artwork in an unusual amount of mediums and styles.

In many ways Daniel is an individual comprised of inconsistencies; he is almost entirely unable to “read” facial expressions, yet is obsessed with portraiture; he can remember obscure historical dates with ease, but not always to bring his school- books. He is also constantly bombarded with sensory details and information, something that causes him to tire easily, yet he works for long hours, intensely focused on the artwork before him.

Struggling with bipolar- disorder, Daniel has relied upon his artwork as a means of self - expression and stability in uncertain times. Exploring a wide variety of subjects, Daniel’s art is constantly evolving. He currently resides in Tacoma, Washington.