

Donald Johnson's Artist Statement

My work is a manipulation of dream-like and psychedelic aesthetics. These aesthetics are influenced by my childhood specifically. Saturday morning cartoons, late anime that would come on Cartoonnetwork's *Toonami* or Disney Channel's *Disney:XD* were the source of influence of my subject matter. Fantasy stories stood out to me more than sitcoms and action movies. The colorful album covers of Earth Wind and Fire and other disco/funk artist album covers I'd find in my dad's closet or my grandpa's basement had the same effect on me as the cartoons. A colorful fantasy is what I strive to create with each of my works.

My Artwork mainly consists of drawn illustrations that depict different narratives both fictional and non-fictional. I mainly work with comic and manga-style designs. I also work with character designs, landscapes and other concept work. The size of the illustrations varies depending on the audience. My works can range from 30 in x 44 in all the way down to 9 in x 6in drawings. I also utilize a mixed media style in my medium and larger sized works. I use painting materials and molding pastes in order to add character and depth to my backgrounds. I strive to fill every inch of the paper. Most of my backgrounds are filled with as much detail as my subjects.

I also have skills with digital art and plan to expand on the skillsets I have digitally. Currently I am experienced in ClipStudio Paint, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop. I plan to use my traditional skills to translate into a skill set for graphic design.

All in all I plan to use my traditional and digital skills to venture into the comic, Illustration and animation industries. My best case scenario is to be in a work environment that incorporates art to create a story.