

**SOLEIL BUSBICE**

**BIO**

Soleil Busbice is a down-to-earth, warm-hearted person whose art speaks from her darker side. She mainly works in acrylic and oil, and occasionally with pens. Soleil likes to explore fascination with death, critiquing experiences she endured while basing images on traumatic experiences. She uses a lot of symbolism in her practice, and every part of each painting has a meaning.

**STATEMENT**

My studio smells like oil. Pulling the tapestry to the side as I walk in, the musty smell of oil in the corner, where it comes off the painting pallet that's been sitting there for weeks. Sometimes it's calming to smell, since it gives me a home vibe until I have a headache and need to seal up the smell. I sit down and take a moment to realize I need to start working as I look to the canvas. Giving a good stretch to my back before hunching over for the next 4-6 hours. Pulling out my laptop to pull up reference guides and pulling out my brush set with stains all over from the bottom of the brush to the top. The residue of the other day is still oily and fresh, it's hard to touch. Then collecting colors to start the palette process. Making sure the colors are mixed so I am not making more different shades for the painting. Then it's time to start work.

Hi. My name is Soleil. I am from Westlake Village, California, and I hope to become a professional studio painter and well-known curator in the coming years. My current mediums are oil and acrylic, and sometimes I still use pen and paint ink. I do what I want and would rather ask for forgiveness and learn from mistakes. This makes me feel more confident in my work.

My practice revolves around coping with death, fear, anxiety, nostalgia and capitalism. I address how it felt to lose a loved one 2 or 3 times a year, and how I grew numb to the feeling when death visited. The discussion with fear centers around dating app experiences, as well as sexual assault. My work also examines making references in Adobe Photoshop first, since I cannot take images right out of my head. Once they are done, I edit the colors and objects. My references are nice to have to make sure everything is supposed to have a spot on the canvas.

Making galaxies out of watercolors got me into art. I thought about making my own solar system and being on a different planet from everything I knew. Back then, I was severely depressed and found art to be a calming therapy. It made me feel useful to the world, like I wasn't a waste of space. It was something about the colors blending so easily, and the way I can add more or less pigment in a simple brush stroke. Using those techniques, I made everything from faces to world maps. I really was dreaming about a whole different life in a whole different world, and sometimes I still feel that way—but less.