

Emma Hoey
Artist's Statement
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Image has the ability to change the way we think about ourselves in relation to life and all that comes with it. I have experienced hardships in my life; I fill these holes with my art. I find solace in using visual language to communicate my internal perspectives. I find that the more life I experience, the more I want to create a reflection of its emotional impacts. Travelling each year through Europe, as well as my East Coast upbringing has shaped the value I have of nature and human connectivity. I often revisit the topic of human connectivity as I find it infatuating the way that our bodies communicate without always using words.

The figure is central in my work. I feel that the human body is the most intricate and extraordinary part of the human experience. Through the body, we interact with the world around as it is the most important vessel for our consciousness. The body is one of the only true constants in life, yet it is perpetually changing. It is a beautiful, disastrous, chaotic, fascinating, and disturbing thing. Our bodies simultaneously both are us, and not us, as our bodies encompass our inner worlds.

While I work in a range of media, charcoal is my material of choice. I utilize charcoal for it's earthy quality, it's malleability, the physical feel of it in my hand as I apply it to a surface. I feel that by using charcoal I am suggesting an image rather than dictating it sharply. It feels natural to use especially when rendering the figure. My work captures movement and gesture, so charcoal is fitting as it can be utilized to quickly capture what the eye sees in any given moment.

Spirituality, particularly my upbringing in a Jewish culture, is important in my artistic practice, which I use as a means to explore existence. This is paired with my studies in psychology. I see concepts I learn in psychology reflected in my art. Through both these lenses I seek an understanding of the human condition. Through myself on a personal level, as well as culture at large. Through a societal perspective, I believe that the role of art is to communicate. Words can lose meaning, art has a greater power to evoke passion; to make you feel emotions, to make you feel vulnerable, and to question things not before considered. My art searches for the vulnerability of intimacy in an isolating world.