

Lady Day in Blue

My introduction to Billie Holiday started in my early teen years when I came upon a video of audio from "I'll Be Seeing You". The emotion she was able to convey in her music was something that demanded my attention, I wanted to know more about this woman. Her career began in the mid 30s, but didn't become a true household name in jazz and blues until the 40s and 50s.

The flower is a combination of two colors, red and white. Red is used to represent the poppy plant, a red flower that produces opium (such as heroin or morphine). Holiday suffered from addiction and alcoholism, and for as long as I have been interested in holiday's music, this was something I never knew! White is used to represent the gardenia, a flower worn during her performances that became a signature look.

Holiday is painted in blue as tribute to one of her most popular songs and autobiography titled "Lady Sings the Blues."

Working on this was a push to challenge myself, this is my first time creating a portrait. All of my work is done with simple pen and paper or on my phone; quick, choppy, and sometimes spontaneous. I chose to step out of my comfort zone and portray Holiday in this way, focusing on small details and blending.



My name is Asmara Abraham, my pronouns are she/her/hers. I'm a Columbus native and I've been living in Cincinnati for almost 2 years. I'm currently a barista working at blaCk Coffee Lounge! When I am not working, I am spending time with my dogs and watering my plants. I've been drawing ever since I was a young kid, doing some creative projects here and there as I got older, but this is my first ever exhibition!

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