

When asked to depict a figure from the Harlem Renaissance movement, Louis Armstrong immediately came to mind.

My work as a whole is heavily influenced by Jean-Michel Basquiat, whose artwork typically revolved around single heroic Black figures (including jazz musicians). It felt natural for me to pay homage to one of the most influential musicians in jazz history, using painting techniques inspired by a highly acclaimed artist, who also greatly impacted his respective industry - not to mention the poverty and racism both faced during their times as artists.

My process began with listening to Armstrong's music, while researching his life and legacy. I note anything from colors I'm visualizing, emotions I'm feeling, to interesting facts and accomplishments I want represented in my work. It's important to me that the paintings I create are not just aesthetically pleasing, but informative for the viewers, as well.



In the early works of "FEALART," the damaging effects of homelessness, addiction, lust, toxic relationships and sex were used as inspiration for many crude and vulgar figures he painted. Overcoming all of his childhood trauma and battling with his mental health illnesses in the past years, he has found a way to turn his tortured feelings into beautiful and vibrant paintings.

To perfect his craft he has studied numerous artists and different techniques in the art world, along with interning for some of Cincinnati's most renowned artists such as Mary Bar Rhodes . One artist in particular he looked up to called the "Radiant Child" Jean-Michel Basquiat was an artist he found to be an early inspiration along with many others such as Gerhard Richter, Picasso and Salvador Dali. Over the years he fell in love with Anatomy and along his journey through sobriety he acquired a more mature understanding of love, relationships, and the human body.

FEALART showcases his personal growth as a self-taught artist progressing from his earlier paintings that involved literature, bold colors, and lines to create depth, to his almost life-like paintings now that admire the beauty and anatomy of the human body. His smooth lines and colorful texture bring a new style and interesting perspective to the art community, as he looks to make a name for himself and create his own new genre of art "Abstract Surrealism."

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