

Jonah Dees

12th Grade

Reno High School

Nevada

As I impatiently squirmed in the seat of my doctor's waiting room, it was obvious that three-year-old me was dying for something to do. My mom quickly noticed my impatient fidgeting and looked around the room. She glanced over at a bin stuffed with toys, books, and various items to occupy a toddler's wandering mind. She then decided to reach for a bright red Elmo "play school drawing board." She clicked the "on" button, picked up the plastic stylus pen, and drew a shark. I was instantly captivated and threw my hands outward showing my interest in attempting to draw for myself. Within a few minutes, I fell in love with the plastic board and pen. This was the event that sparked my love for creating.

My name is Jonah Dees and I'm an 18 year artist from Reno Nevada. Ever since that day in the doctors waiting room, I've been creating art and sharing my talent with others. Art has allowed me to express myself from a very young age. It allowed me to communicate my emotions and feelings in a positive and healthy way. Even now, self expression through my pieces is one of the best ways to destress and let go of negativity. Being an artist also allowed me to be a more detail-oriented person and look at the world through a magnifying glass. With that magnifying glass, I learned there is good in everything, as long as you search for it.

Art is what drives me as a person. I live for creating art and sharing it with other people.

Currently, I'm working towards getting into a college where I will be majoring in Studio Arts.

From there I plan on being an art director. My goals are to help create a cohesive and open environment to every project I'm a part of and make art that truly inspires and brings forth

thoughtfulness in people. Regardless of the title of my future occupation, I know that my purpose is to create art that tells stories and opens gateways for discussion of issues and themes in our society that we have swept under the rug. I want my work to express the purest version of myself and allow my artistic identity to shine through. I'm committed to unapologetically expressing myself through my work and hopefully inspiring others to do the same.