

Sylvie King

Grade 12

Beaverton High School

Portland, Oregon

Jiffy Lube Scholarship Application

What Drives Me: A Passion for Art

Art is not just a form of expression; it is the driving force pushing me forward each and every day. It is something that has helped me to see the world from new perspectives, guides me to explore new ideas, and is the cornerstone of how I observe life around me. Art challenges me to explore my creativity and express the emotions that words cannot fully capture. It puts me in the driver's seat to imbibe wonder, awe, and appreciation about the shared experience, from the outside world.

From the time that I was a brown-eyed, blonde-haired, rosy-cheeked little girl, art has been my true passion. Always appearing in different aspects of my life, I found art in nature, in architecture, in dusk and dawn, in designs on clothing, I saw it in humans and animals alike, in children's books I loved, and birthday cards. Art was, and is, everywhere to me. Beginning with crayons and felt-tipped markers, my art has always shown me that canvasses and colors are

where I belong. When I was just six years old, the Oregon Humane Society recognized my poster for their annual “Be Kind to Animals” contest. That was a turning point for me, and ever since, I’ve searched for opportunities to grow into the artist I have always dreamed of becoming.

My journey started out with stick-figures and disproportionately-drawn cartoons, followed by handmade cards to loved ones, poorly-painted pictures of animals, step-by-step books that taught me how to make drawing look realistic, art classes at school where I learned about the color wheel and significant art history, and classes outside of school where I continue to learn.

Currently, I am studying figure drawing with Yujin Oh at the Bodecker Foundation. Last summer, I was invited to showcase my art at Salon Annora, where I curated and displayed eight original, personal artworks—including pottery, graphite, acrylic paint, oil pastels, and more.

The more I learn about art, the more it shapes my view of the world. It is my passion —people become shapes, shadows, and emotions. Landscapes transform into paintings. Dishware is something I can create by hand. Clothing turns into patterns, colors, and silhouettes. Even when I lack the skill to depict something, my mind is working, trying to find ways that I can create and express. There are no boundaries or roadblocks. This realization that I am my own driver led me to create my own clothing line this year, “Dragonfly Designs Clothing Co.” where I sew using repurposed clothing.

As a senior in high school, I lean toward graphite, acrylic paint, clay, and charcoal as mediums of preference. Not only has art driven me to be who I am today, it continues to drive me toward my future. In the fall, I hope to attend Whitman College to study art, pursuing a major in fine arts and/or illustration. Art will always be my compass, guiding me as I pursue a future filled with

creativity, purpose, and impact.