



Jianna Sobhani, a local student artist, began her artistic journey at age five. Primarily working with oil and acrylic paints, she's now delving into watercolor and multimedia. Drawing from her personal experiences—including her adoption and mental health struggles—she channels her passion for celebrating the beauty and resilience of Black women. Her art serves a dual purpose: it's both a reflection of her own journey and a call to action for diverse representation. Jianna's goal is clear—to create powerful and affirming portraits of strong role models for the next generation of Black youth.

Jianna Sobhani

Black Women have a powerful presence in Western culture, contributing beauty, work ethic, and trendsetting concepts that are often underrepresented and overlooked by their counterparts. Growing up there was a lack of black female representation in my life since I was raised in a predominantly white household. That representation is still lacking even in today's society. This is something I feel I can contribute to, becoming that representation as a role model for other girls who may have had a similar experience growing up without a community.

My artwork today consists mostly of women of color and figures showcasing their emotions and soul through color and brush strokes. I've come to the realization that I tend to incorporate my feelings and experiences in my work; for example: my struggle with depression and finding my adult identity. I allow the chaos of love, friendships, family, and experiences to drive my self-expression in the color choices that I use and my impressionist brush strokes. My creative process consists of a sensation that I am trying to illustrate. I place the figures in my portraits in poses that give off vulnerability, desire, yearning, and distress. To add contrast, I use bright and vibrant colors such as purples, yellows, and magenta that clash for an ecstatic feeling. The different colors go against the melancholy poses in my paintings. I primarily work with acrylic and oils, sometimes adding wax and compound to add texture. I use acrylic as a base, then layer on top of that with oils. Artists like Bisa Butler and Basquiat heavily influenced my work. I take inspiration from Butler's colorful style and her use of black figures, and I resonate with Basquiat's unique and non-conforming style, which was a force of change in the art community.

After accepting every aspect of who I am and refining my artistic style, I am becoming a more resilient and confident individual and artist. I can identify my goals for the future. I want to have a role in the crucial wave of Black female representation in art. I refuse to be left out of an opportunity, a shot for a chance at portraying women of color. I've already started to make progress toward reaching my goals by entering competitions, including two public art exhibits. I was invited to have my art featured in a district art show at the local library featuring artists of color from central Texas and was selected for a juried art exhibit at city hall on the environment. I have been pursuing commissions, and working with an underground music artist to create images for his album. Last year I submitted an AP portfolio and received a 5, and I will soon have some of my illustrations in an upcoming book.

As a black woman, I believe it is crucial to showcase the alluring and elegant charm that women of color emanate. In the earlier years of my work, my art would consist of cartoony portraits or characters in my stories, but as I've gotten older, I now paint the representation that I rarely saw growing up as that little Black girl. Now that I have the ability and passion, I can showcase my work to the little black girls who want to see more of her.

Jianna Sobhani



Moonlit Figures

\$3500



Rhythm

\$600



Clairvoyance

\$300



\$1500



\$300



\$30

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\$30



\$150

View Jianna's exhibit at Georgetown City Hall from April through June 2024.
808 Martin Luther King Jr St, Georgetown, TX 78626
and is open Monday - Friday, 8AM-5PM