

**A**s a teenager, I was profoundly and inexplicably fascinated by the Impressionists insomuch so that I instinctively knew how I wanted to paint. My painting style is versatile; alternating between realism and impressionism quite easily but my preference is for the latter as it allows me to be bold and adventurous with my colors.

My process begin with selecting an image, and constantly mapping, resizing and manipulating it until I am satisfied with the composition. Next I work the sketch with Prismacolor pencils on a sheet of Canson paper, and start placing colors from dark to light using gestural strokes to add visual interest.

In my more recent work, I use pastel as I find my painting style works best with them. As an impressionist, I look past detail, instead focusing on putting a lot of colors to dominate my work. I use contrasting colors in proximity to activate an abstract interplay between light and form, and allow a viewer's eye to blend them into a more shimmering sensation of color. My drawings and paintings are personal interpretation of the way I perceive my subject and my emotional response to it. Each work is a soul-searching experience; a never ending adventure. I am at my happiest when I paint.

*Jayia*



"Shy Girl #2" 10 x 17.5 pastel

