

## Ananth Nayak – Artist Statement

I presently work in watercolor on paper, pen & Ink on paper and the occasional acrylic mural.

Working in different mediums has allowed me the freedom of drawing on the nuances of each across my watercolor painting and ink drawing.

My pen and ink drawings demonstrate a conceptual and imaginative spontaneity that is fluid. The use of black mono-chromatic ink encourages a blend of bold and fine lines, doodles, contrasts, patterns, forms and geometric shapes with which I am able to effortlessly balance complex symmetrical and asymmetrical compositions.

I frequently draw my inspiration by pulling quotes from public figures, space, science and related concepts, poetry, song lyrics and literature amongst other things and incorporating geometry, perspectives and the human form. You see these themes come through in my artwork.

With a keen eye for detail and a deep fascination for the interplay between realism and the surreal, I create sometimes surreal but always mesmerizing pieces that challenge the viewer's perspective and invite them into a world of meticulously crafted patterns and textures with a dose of whimsy where appropriate.

A recent addition to my ink drawings incorporates the delicate use of color evoking a sense of unparalleled depth and dimension, making every piece a captivating journey into the realm of artistic mystery. My works embody the union of craftsmanship and creativity, showcasing my unwavering passion for the beauty of the world and the art and structure that reflects it.

My watercolor paintings capture the fluidity of watercolor layered with strong brushwork and intricate detail, capturing a definition akin to oil on canvas. My work is vibrant, versatile and leans towards realism where I am able to deal with a broad spectrum of subjects with ease. My preference being urbanscapes, portraits and the occasional still life.

I follow a simple creative process for my ink drawings:

Before I start committing to paper, I spend a major amount of my time visualizing the choice, importance, scale, textures and contrasts of the main and tangential objects that I will or might use in the composition and layout of my drawing; based on the theme I have decided to portray.

This process takes place entirely in my mind and I don't use paper or any digital tools to aid this process. I feel that any commitment to paper or use of digital tools in this visualization phase takes away the spontaneity and freshness and excitement of my creative process. I often start the visualization process on multiple drawings simultaneously several months before I actually commit the final piece to paper. I am and have always been a keen observer with an eye for detail and am constantly filing away in my mind objects, shapes, patterns colors and techniques that jump out at me in daily life and which I could use in my artworks. At the end of the visualization process, I usually have a very granular vision of the objects, composition, layout and intricate details and I am ready to commit to paper. I then section the drawing based on a flow that I feel is appropriate and ink out each section in sequence. It's a very dynamic process and I am always thinking ahead and open and flexible to the possibility that based on previous sections and or planned subsequent sections, the section I am

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working on may require a different treatment than what I had originally planned. The end result is always a sense of gleeful satisfaction.

The creative process for watercolor paintings:

A very critical component in watercolor painting is choosing the right play of light and shadow. I begin with a rather detailed pencil drawing and then using a somewhat limited palette of colors attempt to capture that “moment” in time on cold pressed medium textured watercolor paper.

Born in Mumbai, India, I was captivated by art as a child. I have had no formal training or education in Fine Art and am primarily self taught.

A former Squash champion having represented India, I also earned a degree in Business and Law, later co-founding and heading a pioneering web-based law services Company serving Indian and International customers.

I now live between San Francisco and Bengaluru. When not at my drawing board, I am often cooking classic Indian and other specialties, and spending time with family and friends.