

## Michael King Jr. - Artist's Statement



***EDEN: Burn the Witch***



***EDEN: Yûgen***



***EDEN: After the Rain***

To have insight into who I am and why I make art, you must understand that art is vital to my life and making it hasn't come easily to me. Art is something that has helped me get through the literal lowest points of my life while also being something that amplifies the highest points. The ability to create art means more to me than words can express; it's one of the few things that make me view life as something that's worth living. Art and making images did not come to me naturally, it's something I've been working on since I was three. Being an artist and drawing the things I love is one of the main reasons why I'm alive today.

It all started with a "Dragon Ball Z" episode I saw. I vividly remember rewinding it repeatedly to watch the scene again and again. From that day forward my goal was to draw Goku, the main character of the "Dragon Ball" series. It would be over a decade before I was able to draw him well. But even when I was unskilled at drawing, I still loved to do it for some reason. I'd always get sketchbooks or even regular notebooks and just try to fill the page up with either characters, abstract patterns, logos, cars, or any other thing that piqued my interest at the time. I still try to incorporate this in my art to this day. During those early developmental years, I didn't see much progress. It was really through watching step by step YouTube tutorials on how

to draw characters that I'd managed to build a foundation of drawing characters. It was just a matter of repetition. That's the way I was able to grow into the artist I am today. I always had an interest in abstract art and patterns, but I only got better through years of trial and error. My talent for art developed over time and it was just something I've always loved to do.

The habit of trial and error is my main philosophy of art, even life itself. You'll never improve if you don't put the work in, greatness won't come overnight. As an example, I just started painting in 2020; I only started because it was an assignment for a design class. In the beginning, I was horrible, and I wanted to quit a few times. But like drawing, I managed to find a genuine love for painting through an abstract style of the pouring technique. I find it fascinating to pour paint and allow it to make its own path. With time, I wanted to experiment with adding skill in painting while keeping my love for abstract/surreal art intact. To do this I have looked to the methodology of Zentangle and the abstract line drawings of artist Peter Draws. He was the main artist I saw making abstract art with a pen during my developmental years. In my work, you're likely to see a fluid arrangement of different patterns ranging from different shapes and such. This pen work can even be seen in my more recent paintings, even if I'm far from where I truly want to be.

This is what makes me happy, it's what gives my life purpose. I'm able to make art that I wholeheartedly love but I want to also be able to inspire others. Essentially, I've come to understand myself through the process of creating. I couldn't do what I do without inspiration from others. The same way I needed to be inspired to personally apply and understand myself more I want others to see in my work and be inspired, you never know who it may reach. Through art, I've managed to find a deep appreciation for all aspects of life, even the bad ones.

The good aspects can't exist without them. For myself, art is deeper than connecting with myself or others, it's deeper than finding a way to express myself and all the emotions and experiences in my life. Art is literally my life, it's something that gets me up every day. Each day I wake up is another opportunity to create. It's a true blessing, something I never want to take for granted. I'm happy to be on a path that allows me to do what I love, the thing I can't live without, art. I must continue to make art and pay it forward. Granted, this isn't all there is to my artistry, but it's important to me. This is me; this is who I am, these are my life experiences. So, I hope you enjoyed my work. As a matter of fact, I feel inspired to make something else. So I'm onto that now. I hope you'll go on to have a wonderful day.