

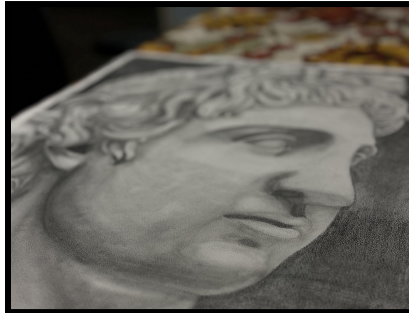


## Art Inspires CONFIDENCE

Artist: Isaac

Last week Isaac experienced what he called a “very prestigious event.”

While working on a self-portrait in art class, Isaac’s teacher stepped up to his desk and grabbed his paper.



Isaac watched as she began walking around, showing it to other students in the class.

“Even though she’s not talking to me directly, I know that she’s using my work as an example, which, in school, that’s a very prestigious event.”

Isaac, 17, goes to Tanque Verde High School and loves to work with pen and ink, stamp pad, gouache, and charcoal.

This past summer, he signed up for a mural class during The Drawing Studio’s Art of Summer. He quickly became a standout not only for his work but also for mentoring the younger kids in the class.

He doesn’t just mentor other kids, though - he’s also become somewhat of a design consultant to his parents.



Desert Mural from Art of Summer

“His artistic eye and mindset have helped me with many projects around the house, including a major landscape design, “ says his dad Justin. “We had a blank slate, and he could see structures and placement that I struggled with.”

His dad also sees many other positive benefits on his son, including for his mental health and work ethic.

“When Isaac is creating any art piece, he seems to be at ease,” his dad says. “He has focus and intensity which we see mostly while he’s creating artwork.”

Isaac agrees that art helps him stay calm, and gives him a healthy alternative to mindless scrolling on technology.

“Art gives you the chance to put everything aside and just go into your own little world. And whatever you're dealing with outside, or emotionally, art is a way to escape all of it.”



All these positive experiences help build confidence in himself, which Isaac says young people really need today.

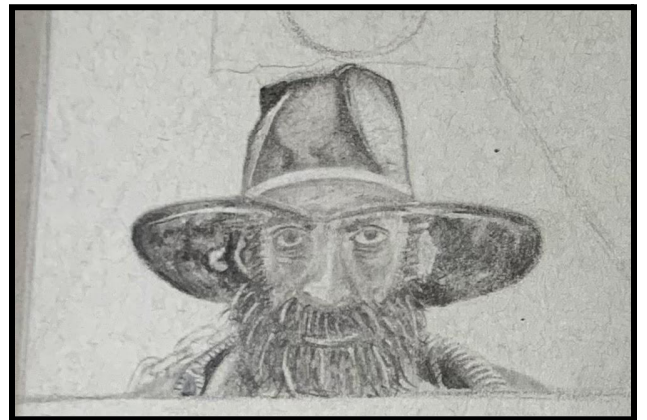
“When the other students say, ‘Hey, that looks really good,’ it makes me happy. I really appreciate when people praise my art.”

His parents are continually impressed with their son’s talent and excited for his future.

“Isaac blows me away with his unique work and attention to detail,” Justin says. “His mother and I couldn’t be more proud of his passion for artistry.”

Isaac beams with pride from what art means for his sense of self.

“It definitely does give me a confidence boost,” he says with a smile.



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*Thank you for sharing your story with us, Isaac! Everyone is welcome to our Face to Face exhibit in January to see his finished self-portrait on display.*

**The Drawing Studio is a local arts nonprofit bringing art education to thousands of folks every year - adults and youth like Isaac. We rely on donations like yours to further arts access in our community.**

*If you are inspired by his story and can contribute to our end of year campaign, we would be so grateful. Please visit <https://thedrawingstudiotds.org/about-us/donate-online/> or scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone camera.*



*You can also Venmo us at @drawingstudioaz.*

**Our EIN is 86-0992193**