

ART

inspires



Art Inspires Healing

Artist: Alexander S.

Art has helped Alexander so much, he says he doesn't want to think of what his life would be like without it.

Having experienced a great deal of hardship and grief in his life, Alexander came to The Drawing Studio a couple of years ago with a desire to enhance his art practice and bring about healing. He applied for and received scholarships for Drawing Fundamentals and Tad Lamb's Watercolor.

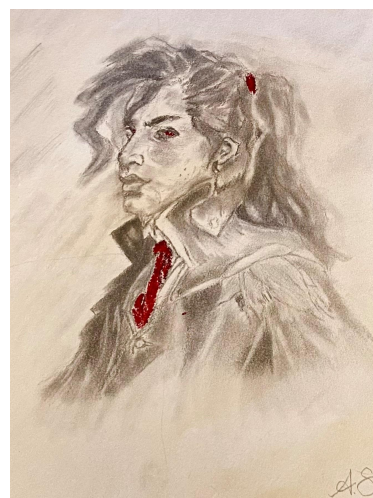
During this experience, Alexander built an art practice and friendships that he tells us became the cornerstone for his life and well-being.

Several months later, Alexander surprised us and shared even more joy by announcing that **he had been hired as an art teacher at Boys & Girls Club!** He told us how thrilled and grateful he was to take the opportunity he had at The Drawing Studio and pay it forward by investing in the next generation.

Today, Alexander continues the personal art practice that blossomed in our studio. In fact, he says it is a daily anchor in his life.

"Art allowed me to get the pain out of my body and transform it into something beautiful. Art helps with my feelings of isolation, grief, and trauma and adds community when I need it the most."

Alexander said point blank, "Art saves lives. I couldn't imagine my life without it."





Alexander is happy to announce that he just graduated from massage therapy school and continues to practice art every day. He's very grateful to The Drawing Studio and proud to be in our community.

Thank you for sharing your story with us, Alexander!

The Drawing Studio is a local arts nonprofit bringing art education and experiences to thousands of folks every year. We rely on donations like yours to further arts access.

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

Alexander's art work:

1. "Laban" is the man with the red eyes and tie. His whispers are invitations to remember that with power comes responsibility and to cultivate Heart, a moral compass and inner strength.
2. The woman with the skull headdress (this page left) is an Orisha, reminding me that Africans had their own religions prior to colonialism.
3. The woman with the horn (this page right) is "Ophelia". She reminds me not to wear masks and invites my authentic self no matter what the environment or invitations to code switch.