Eimei Onaga

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I am both a composer and a painter, drawing my inspiration from the enchanting world of art. I hold a firm belief in the power of combining painting and music to convey a more profound and unified message. Just as every picture has a story to tell, so does music.

Several years before the pandemic, during a visit to Amsterdam, I had the incredible opportunity to explore the Van Gogh Museum and participate in a special painting workshop. This experience rekindled the joy of painting that I had experienced during my high school and college years. Subsequently, I joined the California Bijutsu Club (Art Club) in San Jose, embarking on a creative journey that has spanned approximately five years.

My preferred medium is acrylic on canvas, and I extend my artistic expression beyond traditional brushes by incorporating palette knives to capture the depth of my impressions and emotions. I am also currently exploring a new style using ink and watercolors, experimenting with their fluidity and translucency to bring a fresh dynamic to my work. Color plays a vital role in my art, shaping the mood and energy of each piece. My artistic exploration spans multiple genres, including landscapes, still life, portraiture, Surrealism, and abstract art. While this diversity may suggest a lack of consistency, I see each genre as an essential thread in the overarching narrative I seek to convey. For me, genre is not just a stylistic choice—it is a storytelling device.

I have had the privilege of exhibiting many of my works at the California Bijutsu Club Art Exhibitions in 2019, 2022, and 2023. These opportunities allowed me to share my artistic journey with a broader audience. In 2024, two of my works were selected for the "A Moment in Time" show, three for "Anything Goes," and two for the "In the Garden" juried exhibitions hosted by the Coastal Arts League.

My creative process often begins with the discovery of an object or theme that stirs my heart and sparks my imagination. From there, I craft a narrative, infuse it with emotion, and take on the role of a storyteller through my art. I invite viewers to engage their own imagination and find the story behind each piece.

Looking ahead, my aspiration is to compose music that harmonizes seamlessly with my paintings, uniting visual expression and sound to create deeper, more immersive experiences. For each piece, I hope to pair lyrics and music—bringing together image, rhythm, and emotional resonance—and ultimately, to create art that takes the viewer on a journey through both the eyes and the heart.



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