



The Vanguard Youth Arts Collective Presents:

# SPOT ON!



Film photo taken by Lourdes Lasala

Issue 7, December 2021  
Interview with Hannah Ezwawi  
Edited by Alexei Ungurenaşu

*The Vanguard Youth Arts Collective are a group of creatively driven youth who act as a voice for an emerging generation of the arts within the Windsor Essex region.*

*'Spot On!' is Vanguard's new artist interview series edited by members Meaghan Sweeney and Alexei Ungurenaşu. These interviews offer a spotlight for emerging and established local artists who work in various media to discuss and promote their past and current art projects.*

Hannah Ezwawi (she/her) is a self-taught digital artist born and raised in Windsor, Ontario. Her work is influenced by her love for animated shows and movies as well as her love for her friends and family. She strives for diversity and representation in her art and believes that everyone deserves to see themselves in her work. Hannah hopes to continually improve her art and develop her style to take on future personal projects.



“Marlo” (January 2021)

### **When did you start drawing, and what initially motivated you to draw?**

I’ve been drawing since I was little. I think it was my older brother and sister who really motivated me to draw because I wanted to be like them and they could draw so well. When I was around five years old, my mom brought home sketchbooks for all of my siblings, and we each got our own crayons and markers. I remember it so clearly — how excited I was to have my own sketchbook and to be able to draw whatever I wanted.

Since I have four siblings, my mom tried to keep us busy and she would host little art competitions between my siblings, and I think that really set the foundation for me wanting to develop my drawing skills. My sisters and I would create little characters on printer paper and cut them out and play with them, and I remember having so much fun creating new outfits for my characters. Now that I think about it, drawing has always been in my life and I’ve always enjoyed making art — whether it’s for myself or for a project.

### **What kinds of media do you draw inspiration from? Has any specific art style influenced or helped improve your own style?**

I’ve always been very interested in cartoons and fiction, and my art has always helped me express my love for my favourite characters and my interests. I remember when *Avatar: The Last Airbender* was airing on Nickelodeon and I loved the art style and how dynamic the characters were. I definitely still pull from cartoons and anime for inspiration for my art because I want to create something of that caliber one day.

I started watching *Jojo’s Bizarre Adventure* this year, and I can tell that it has definitely influenced my art style. I think the author of *Jojo’s*, Hirohiko Araki, is such a fantastic artist



“I Eat Boys” (November 2021)

and his understanding of anatomy and love for fashion is shown really well in his work. He has helped me try to be more dynamic in my drawing, as well as pay more attention to fashion and work from reference.



"Old Friends 1/2" (March 2020)



"Old Friends 2/2" (March 2020)

I've also been very inspired by the people in my life, my friends and family, and they really influence what I draw. Whenever I don't know what to draw, I'll look at pictures I took with my friends, or look at their socials to get inspiration — whether it's the outfit they're wearing or the pose they're in. They really motivate me to keep drawing, and their reactions to my art fuel me to keep drawing and to keep improving.



"Count to Ten" (June 2020)

**What sorts of projects have you completed thus far? Is there a specific type of work that you would like to pursue (illustration, animation, etc.)?**

My first project was a zine called "Pink" that I did for my English class in high school, and it talked about internalized misogyny and toxic masculinity and how I was trying to embrace my femininity while also unlearning the negative associations with being a girl. I even sold my zine online and it was the first time I made money from my art, and it was a really validating experience to see that people liked my art enough to spend money on it.

I also just finished a year-long commission series with Dr. Trant's lab at the University of Windsor. The commissions were *Dungeons and Dragons* themed and it was fun coming up with mystical designs for each person in the lab. It was definitely out of my comfort zone because I've never taken commissions at this volume before, but looking back, I see a huge improvement in my drawing skills and I'm very grateful for Dr. Trant for giving me this opportunity.

I'm actually in the middle of developing a zine featuring my recent art, and I want to release it at the beginning of the new year! Since 2020, I've started drawing a lot more and I figured it was about time to have an updated zine. I'm very interested in screen-printing and my friend Lourdes and I have been talking about collaborating on a screen-printing project, so we hope to get started on that soon. I used to do little animations when I was younger, so trying out Procreate's animation feature could be a fun project. Ultimately, I don't want to put a limit on anything I'd be open to trying, so who knows what I'll do in the future!



"Complimentary Lovers" (November 2021)



"Mariam" (October 2021)

**How often do you use technology (tablets, apps, etc.) in your process? Was there a point where you transitioned from analog to digital drawing?**

I use an iPad Pro and the app Procreate to make my digital art currently. I draw traditionally in my sketchbook or for rough drawings, but whenever I want to make a finished piece, I tend to do it digitally. I started out with a Wacom Tablet in grade 7 because my friends wanted me to draw a comic that we were writing together. I begged my parents to get me my first drawing tablet and since then I've been making mostly traditional art!



"Daily and Nightly" (March 2021)

We thank Hannah for being our guest in the Spot On! interview series, and we look forward to seeing her future projects!

If you would like to see more of Hannah's work, you can find her on Instagram @beanilee.

For more artist interviews and other Windsor-based projects, follow the Vanguard Youth Arts Collective on Facebook and Instagram @vanguard.collective and stay tuned for our next issue!