

Evan Fowler
Interpersonal Relationships through the lens of Religious Iconography
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Abstract

My favorite thing to do is to sit with one person and listen to them tell me their story and then share mine. Sharing your story and really listening to someone else's is a validating process that affirms the humanity of all of the parties involved. Similarly, the creative process is intrinsic to humans—it spans over ages and cultures and gender and everything that makes us different—it allows people to express themselves whether through visual art or computer code or cooking or dance, and I love that when I am making art, I am engaging in something that ties us all together. My best artwork has a strong conceptual base—creation is a cathartic process for me, and so making art is usually about the process as opposed to the product. I draw my inspiration from the people who surround me, the places I have visited (or have imagined visiting,) and the experiences that I have acquired throughout my life. Contemporary artists like Kehinde Wiley and Robert Lentz inspire me through both their visual style and their strong conceptual work. Religious art history also has a strong impact on me. In my current work, the ties to traditional iconography are strong both visually and conceptually. The idea behind a religious icon is that you look at the icon, reflect on the person who is depicted and their life, and then imagine that they are doing the same to you. I use this evaluative process in my daily life, not with religious figures, but with the people who are closest to me—my friends and family. My most recent work strives to convey this process visually.



















