

Biography

Hannah Knabe began studying art when she arrived at Harding University in the fall of 2014. Before college, she was homeschooled for all of elementary and high school, and did not have any access to art classes or art teachers, but her mother always provided her with as many art materials as she could, to further her interest. She grew up in White County, Arkansas, and resides there, as a senior at Harding now. Being homeschooled gave Hannah many opportunities to explore the world around her, and to become interested in nature from a very young age. Sidewalk chalk and mud were the first two mediums available to her, and she took these as far as she could. Making paint out of the chalk and water was almost always included in a day outside, and if she could find mud, or dirt to create mud, tiny animal sculptures emerged. When she began using actual paint, she entered the art show at the fair every year, and won grand prize several times, though as she explored more mediums, her pieces varied. As a child, college was very far off in Hannah's mind, and when the time finally came for college, she still really had no idea what it would be like, or how it would shape her into the person she is now. Hannah credits God with directing her to the right choice of being an art major, because she never could have guessed how right this profession was for her. She says, "Looking back over the years, it is evident that my past was leading up to this decision, but I could not see it until God, once again, opened my eyes to the path he had been preparing all along." Although Hannah's father and grandmother can draw a little, neither one have done anything with art, and Hannah is the first artist in her family.

Hannah's inspiration comes from almost anything, whether it be old paintings from the Renaissance, or her Pinterest board. She feels as though not having a background in art has prepared her to be able to appreciate all kinds of art, in all circumstances, rather than having been taught about it from an early age. She began as experimental, and she remains this way. Another good thing she sees as coming from not being taught is that she has no particular style. If there is a project she wishes to do, then she does it. She states, "When I am looking and thinking about what my next project will be, I see the end result in my head. It may not be something I have ever done before, or it may be a subject matter that I am a little uncomfortable with, but once I can see an end result in my mind, I must do it. Not being taught about technique when I was little has allowed me a little more freedom, and it has opened my mind to more than just my own style." She has a variety of influences, but her favorite painters are Vermeer and Van Gogh,

because of the intense use of light and color in both artists works. Hannah also enjoys music, and plays several instruments and loves to sing. She and her sister play bluegrass together, and enjoy creating mashups of hymns. Hannah also loves being around animals, and she adores her two dogs, Penny and Pepper.