

Elizabeth Hilderband Artist Statement

My name is Elizabeth Hildebrand, and I am an artist whose work spans from hand-drawn sketches to prints, posters, and bookbinding. I also enjoy the technical processes of video filming and editing, with a particular interest in color grading and sound design. This broad range of work holds significance for me, as I was raised to see the world in black and white, confined by rigid binaries. Now, I've come to realize that art is boundless, and the fluidity between mediums and forms resonates deeply with my creative expression and understanding of the world.

I draw inspiration from the human brain and its unique perspective on life, especially its craving for social connection, which gives life deeper significance. My curiosity leads me to question the meaning of existence and explore ways to simplify our understanding of life's complexities. Themes of obsession, existence, and perspective are central to my work, prompting the viewer to reflect on what they prioritize in life and encouraging deeper conversations about the seldom-explored thoughts of the modern world.

The impact of social media and the digital landscape heavily influences my work. I investigate how these interactions shape our sense of self, particularly in younger generations, where social media has robbed children of innocence and created a path for conformity and loss of identity. I explore the patterns and habits the digital world has normalized, reconnecting with the inner child I've suppressed. My rebellious use of color questions the behaviors and societal norms that arise from the digital age, as I seek to distinguish personal freedom, moral complexity, and self-acceptance.

Repetition plays a key role in my work, informed by Social Comparison Theory (1954), which suggests that people are driven to evaluate themselves by comparing their abilities, qualities, and achievements to others. While this comparison mechanism serves a survival function, it also stifles authentic self-expression and limits creative potential. My exploration of these concepts leads me into themes of duality, including the tensions between good and evil.

I find inspiration in M.C. Escher's Angels and Devils print, where pattern and repetition are used to explore the interplay of light and shadow. Additionally, the figure of "Lucifer," or the "Light-bearer," plays a significant role in my work. He embodies rich mythological, biblical, and literary symbolism, and I parallel my own ideologies with Lucifer's narrative, embracing ambiguity to illuminate my authenticity. Through this lens, I explore the tensions between the physical and digital worlds, challenging conformity and questioning identity.

By weaving together the Social Comparison Theory, the symbolism of the Light-bearer, and the exploration of patterns, my work delves into themes of obsession, existence, and perspective. All of these ideas strengthen my authentic voice, allowing me to bring the hidden tensions between our inner worlds and external realities into the light.