

# DAIJA ESSIEN

(318) 376-4371

[Daijaess@outlook.com](mailto:Daijaess@outlook.com)

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## EDUCATION

2023

BFA (Painting) May 2023

2018

High school Diploma

## EXHIBITIONS

2023

*Richwood Juneteenth Exhibition*

*North Central Louisiana Art Council Peach Art Exhibit*

*26th Annual ULM Juried Student Art Exhibition Monroe, Drek Davis (Juror)*

*Northeast Louisiana Arts Council Inaugural Juried Exhibition West Monroe, LA*

*Tom Peyton Memorial Arts Festival Competition Exhibit Alexandria, LA*

2022

*25th Annual ULM Juried Student Art Exhibition Monroe, Maysey Craddock (Juror)*

*W6MEN Exhibition Sugar Gallery in Downtown Gallery Crawl (December)*

*All Our Own Exhibition in Downtown Gallery Crawl (October)*

*Richwood Juneteenth Artist Exhibition (June)*

*BLOOM! R.W. Norton Art Gallery Shreveport, LA (Spring)*

2021

*"Art For All" ULM Office of Marketing & Communications Monroe, LA*

*24th Annual ULM Juried Student Art Exhibition Monroe, LA Cat Pena (Juror)*

2019

*29th Annual High School Junior/Senior Juried Art Exhibition Monroe, LA*

2017

*Art is...: R.W. Norton Art Gallery Shreveport, LA*

## AWARDS

2023

26th Annual ULM Juried Student Art Exhibition Monroe, LA Administrative Pick Dr. James Boldin  
Interim Director School of Visual and Performing Arts

26th Annual ULM Juried Student Art Exhibition Monroe, LA Administrative Pick Dean John Pratte  
Outstanding Senior Award College of Arts, Education, and Sciences

2021

First Place Student Division Art for All ULM Office of Marketing & Communications Monroe, LA

24th Annual ULM Juried Student Art Exhibition Monroe, LA Administrative Pick Dr. Alberto Ruiz VP  
Student Academic Affairs

## Experience

2023

Kappa Pi Delta Alpha (2020-2023)

-President (2023)

Assisted in Watercolor demonstration for Highschool Seniors

Participant in Northeast Delta Human Services Authority Sticker Project

Co-lead in Mental Health Public Art Project on the University of Louisiana Campus

2022

Lead Guide for Arts on the Bayou (September)

Assistant in Warhawk U (Program to introduce Middle School students to the ULM VAPA program)

Spring 2022

Member of Kappa Pi Delta Alpha (2020-2023)

-Social Media Officer (2022)

2021

Phi Boota Roota Social Media Officer (2021-2023)

2019

Kappa Beta Gamma Sorority social media Officer & Merchandise Chair (Fall 2019-Fall 2020)

## **Commissions**

2023

Portrait Commission

2022

Custom Hand-painted Word lettering

Portrait Painting (Spring)

2021

Oil Portrait Painting

Photograph Master Study Replication

Tattoo Design

2017

Tryptic Abstract Acrylic on Canvas

Guitar Plate Design

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

2023

Hérons on the Bayou Mini Heron Auction

“Week of the Young Child” Children’s Coalition Children Project

“Art is Therapy” Northeast Delta Humane System Authority

Mental Health awareness bathroom stall renovations

2022

Hunger Action Month Design Assistant

Lead Student Assistant in Crowville Mural under Brooke Foy

Mural Painting at the Emily Williamson Lab School

2021

VAPA Day Oil Painter Informant & Recruiter

Warhawk U Program Assistant

## Artist Statement

Continuing to discover who I am as an artist; I have noticed the need to find my own “style”. My undergraduate work has grown to include expressive mark-making as a means of communication while holding on to old habits of being a more intentional, deliberate artist.

The work in my portfolio explores two realms: the figure and the abstract environments they occupy. The sheer amount of variety that the figure provides has always been captivating. It allows an array of options to impart an emotion or meaning across a piece of work.

Meanwhile, working in graphic art and photography has increased my awareness of composition and its importance in understanding foreground-background relationships. Color relationships and theory are important to my work through the influences of artists such as Andrew Cadima, Ilana Zwechi, and Joseph Albers. Their use of color and how it contributes to their compositional goals inspire and motivate my work.

Despite working largely in oil on canvas, I utilize an acrylic foundation due to its fast-drying time. This combination enhances the speed at which I work and aids in the development of creating an illusion of depth. When producing my best work, I organize my thoughts and situate my workload so that I can approach the canvas with a clear mind. This period is where I hope to develop many studies that will improve my skills in color, composition, and perspective.