

Jonathan O'Dea

Artist Statement:

The pleasure from solitude and creative process is the driving force from the art which I create. I begin with an idea or a simple object and I try to figure a way to view this object for the complex creation that it is I try to choose interesting angles or lighting to show off striking reflections or unique translucencies. My backgrounds tend to be simple with subtle and muted colors and this usually highly contrasts with the bright and colorful central figure(s). Hopefully, this effect has taken a usually mundane or common object and given it life or a unique luminosity unseen in the run of a normal day. I start the process with an arrangement of the subject in very particular lighting and then photograph the desired angle of the image. From this image I can perform a rough freehand pencil sketch to which I then begin applying pastels. Pastels, one of the purest of color forms are a rare primary choice for most artists. I, however, enjoy the limitless time constraints of their use, neither having to wait for drying or setting nor fearful of losing the perfect color that was mixed and now has dried too quickly. Like all artist materials and mediums, pastels come with their own set of problems and challenges. For the renderings of my ideas pastels offer the most rewarding results with enough challenges to make the process interesting and satisfying.