

My name is Diana Barnett and I was born in the Bronx, New York to Jamaican parents. At a young age I discovered my love for the arts, I would draw Tiny Toons cartoons from coloring books and give them away to my friends. I am still an avid doodler and instead of getting my inspiration from coloring books I use the Internet and photographs. Even as I have gotten older, I would draw and doodle in my sketchpad or any spare piece of paper. When I was in high school, I continued to love to draw and doodle. I joined an advanced placement class where I participated in many art contests like V.A.S.E. (Visual Art Scholastic Event). At the V.A.S.E art contest our, class and many other art classes around Texas were interviewed and then art professionals and teachers juried the artwork.

The medium I used as a young artist is very different than the medium I use now. Before I mainly used prisma color pencils and now I experiment with various kinds of media.

When I went to college I knew I had to pursue a degree in arts. I went to the University of Houston in 2001 and graduated with a Bachelors degree in Studio Arts painting in 2006. While I was in college, I discovered that I was interested in painting as well as drawing. In my paintings, I use personal, cultural and the societal influences as my subject matter. Sometimes I address issues that have made an impact in my life or someone else's life. Reaching out to the viewer through my paintings gives me a purpose and a voice. I like to express myself through each brushstroke and experiments with different techniques and skills.

In my final year of college I was in a group art show at Project Row House museum in which we displayed our paintings in a shotgun house. Displaying my paintings at Project Row House was a new and exciting experience.

In 2007, I went back to school to study graphic design at San Jacinto College-South. My graphic design work is somewhat similar to my paintings. In my graphic design work I plan out each project with thumbnail sketches and brainstorming. I like to choose the right fonts and colors to make the all around design work. While at San Jacinto College, I have learned how to create magazine advertisements, posters, logos and various kinds of designs. My designs are expressive and have a lot of eye-catching colors.

My inspiration comes from my paintings and the art of Salvador Dali. The work of Salvador Dali is surrealist and dreamlike and his paintings make you think and wonder. In my designs, I want to investigate and stretch the design as far as it can go. I use the computer as my canvas and the mouse as my brush creating new and innovative designs. The software that I use regularly is Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop and Indesign. Doing layout work for a project and putting all of the pieces together is exciting to me. In the future I hope to land a job working as a layout artist at a magazine or design firm.