

M. Samantha Artist Statement

Style— Style— I’m fascinated by utilizing my mind’s eye to communicate with others through my art. Most recently, I’ve been exploring my ability to rearrange words backwards/forwards and left/right with control. As part of my visual language, I also reverse and reorder landscapes, enabling me to create my own hierarchy, structure and order which enables me to capture a moment’s story rather than a mere static image. My goal is to continue challenging myself conceptually by exploring my schematic intuitiveness.

Current artists I look to for inspiration include: Nicole Eisenman, Lois Dodd, Natalie Frank, and Celeste Dupuy-Spencer. I relate to Nicole Eisenman’s work, as being personal and driven by the body. My work is also feeling based, but also fixated on movement and pain (dark humor) that is depicted through figurative gestures and metaphoric landscapes. Like Eisenman I share Expressionism, Impressionism and Picasso influences, and like Dodd I appreciate scenes I encounter in my environment. I relate to Frank’s themes of power, sexuality, gender, feminism, and identity and I too can be playful and theatrical in my use of narratives. Lastly, I look to Celeste Dupuy-Spencer’s ability to tell narratives through a sort of figurative self-created religion.

CORE Values/Art Accolades

I have a BA with a major in Studio Art from Knox College, where I specialized in color theory. After College, I received a Graduate Certificate from Northwestern in Advertising and Marketing Management. I also specialize in creative marketing and graphic design, and use these skills to help individuals, companies, and not for profits. I’m Chair of the Associate Board & Leader of Strategic Partnerships for I Am We, which is a not for profit which exposes underprivileged Chicago Public School students to the arts. I Am We fulfills its mission through the mediums of



storytelling, art STEM programming, advocacy, and strategic partnerships. I Am We has a strong presence in Chicago’s South side neighborhoods, including Hyde Park and Woodlawn. I created the logo adopted by I Am We, as well as creating logos for other private companies. Additionally, I volunteer with my therapy dog, Rocky, at hospitals, libraries, and schools to brighten the lives of adult, and children throughout Chicago. I have also raised money for Lurie Children’s Hospital with my Chicago Marathon runs. My paintings were exhibited in the Promising

New Artist Show at Caelum Gallery in New York. One of my paintings is also in the permanent collection of a former Governor of Michigan and former U.S. Ambassador to Canada. Most recently, I also created a series of paintings for the Chicago White Sox that was featured in one of their digital media campaigns. The media division of the Chicago White Sox also owns one of my paintings.