

HANNAH VAN STEENWYK

Undefined Beauty Collection



In the Undefined Beauty Collection, every piece has a spring/summery foliage landscape and a female subject painted within it. They are painted with an energetic approach to show that being present with your natural self, with a little or without makeup, is beautiful. The full release is July 1, 2021 both on my website, www.HannahVFineArts.com, and on display July to August 2021 at the Downtown Sioux Falls Library.

WHAT WAS YOUR GOAL WITH THE UNDEFINED BEAUTY COLLECTION?

To create new artwork that encourages anyone, men or women, to be happy with their given bodies, appearances, and even their current place in life. We may be aiming for something better, but that doesn't mean we can't enjoy exactly where we're at. That's something God has taught me – and reminds me of.

WHAT MEDIUMS WERE USED?

Acrylic paint, charcoal, and an acrylic gold paint marker on canvas.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN WHILE CREATING THIS COLLECTION?

To some, I could be described as a bit of a "drawing anatomy nerd." Therefore, experimenting with showing everyone's unique facial structures and the challenge of getting the artwork to resemble them was great! On another topic, completing these pieces really humbled me. It was a combination of getting to present the finished work to everyone for their joy, but also acknowledging that, yes, I can be okay with where I'm at with my appearance, body, and life too.



Each piece of the Undefined Beauty Collection is a friend of Hannah's – including her mother! "I took the challenge to really show each of them they can embrace who they are with joy, love, and peace – whether they already do or if they struggle...like most of us do at some point," said Hannah. "New beginnings in life can help us to grow as unique and beautiful creations!"

Hannah asked each of her models two questions – one before she painted them, and one after the paintings were complete. Some of their responses are below.

WHAT EXPECTATIONS DO YOU HAVE OF HOW THE PAINTING(S) OF YOU WILL TURN OUT TO BE?

"No expectations, just do your thing! I'm sure it will be great." -Pat

"I have no expectations, only to see your work. To see the 'me' that you see!" -Marilyn

"My expectations for a portrait would be that it resembles me somewhat and that it evokes a bit of my spirit or personality." -Tara

"I'm hoping they look like me and can bring out my natural beauty. That has changed a bit over the years of raising children!" -Karla

HOW HAVE YOUR EXPECTATIONS CHANGED OR REMAINED THE SAME FROM SEEING THE FINISHED PIECES; ANY THOUGHTS?

"I think this is so interesting. The green surrounding me seems to represent a season of growth. I see in my face the start of deliberate transition to a new understanding of my position in God's Kingdom. Thanks for sharing!" -Pat

"That is beautiful!! Ethereal! I LOVE IT!! Especially the green!!" -Marilyn

"It's a bit joyful and whimsical – just like me! I love flowers and lavender. I will use it for my new profile pic!" -Tara

"I can definitely see myself in it! So sweet." -Karla