



# Tracey McCorrister (Tray)

Born in Winnipeg in 1997, Tracey McCorrister (Tray) found art as a substitute for competitive softball after she sustained an injury at age 15. She started with pencil sketches, and picked up fundamentals in school, at WAG art classes, and from YouTube. Meanwhile, she has worked as a YMCA child care assistant, at Boys' & Girls' Club, and at Saint-Amant.

Tracey sees art as release from darker feelings: "It makes me happy to experience soulfulness." She looks for inspiration to artists like Munch and Van Gogh, along with the Don McLean song "Starry, Starry Night" about Van Gogh's view from his window at Saint-Rémy. Artbeat has given her the confidence to try new things. "It has been super cool to meet these other artists on the same journey as myself." It's here she expanded her repertoire into painting. "I like to see myself as funny, upbeat, empathetic, and optimistic," she says. Tracey currently paints in acrylics and markers, and draws with pastels, black ink, or posca pen on paper. Her themes express emotional states. For Tracey, white represents purity, while black may signal absence; the contrast heightens dramatic effect. Deliberate distortion of faces speaks of disassociation and "lack of self." Eyes are an important motif because "if you fall in love with someone's eyes, that says the most about who they are and never changes." Tracey has a body of spoken word poetry titled "My Life is Art," a possible bridge to Creative Communications as her next career step.