

Jamie Pettis

“In each and every one of us, there is an innate yearning to express our own unique truths as individuals, and the proclamation of these individual truths is crucial to our own personal realization, and therefore, freedom.” Oklahoma City-based visual artist, Jamie Pettis, is living out her dreams on her own expressive journey of self-realization and welcomes you to come along for the ride of a lifetime.

The daughter of an artist, Pettis’ creative interests blossomed from an early age. She first displayed her work at age 6 in a community art show, in Holdenville, OK. When she wasn’t showcasing her skills as a competitive pianist and vocalist, Pettis spent much of her childhood in her father’s art studio where she honed her skills with Prismacolor pencil. Pettis’ blossoming creativity was further cultivated at the university level as Pettis earned her degree in Fashion Design and Production at Oklahoma State University, during which time she interned in New York City with fashion-icon, Marc Jacobs. Pettis’ internship with Jacobs and her years in fashion design school helped to shape her drive and skill in both painting and drawing the female figure. Also harkening back to her study in fashion, in 2015, Pettis created an apparel line called “Brazen Wolf.”

For the past decade, Pettis has produced artwork in a wide range of mediums, with much of her inspiration coming from her father, Clay, musical artists, GURU and Andre 3000, and visual artists such as Kehinde Wiley and Jon Wassom. She is also motivated to paint in order to show her nieces and nephew that they can do anything that they set their hearts and minds to and to never give up. Recently, Pettis has narrowed her focus to working in oil and acrylic paint and Prismacolor pencil, creating works of abstract portraiture, abstract realism, and figure. Increasingly, Pettis uses existing photographs which she then manipulates and redesigns as source material for her work. In the summer of 2021, in addition to exhibiting at the LA Art Show, Pettis began selling NFT’s of her work, as well as incorporating them into entire walk-through gallery and virtual reality shows. You can currently find her work displayed in the King of Prussia, Pennsylvania branch of the Capgemini Corporation.

“Every day that I paint I am moved to look at my purpose and truth. I then reflect on how boldly I am pursuing that. At times I find this truth through my works of painting specific athletes, hip hop artists, or figures in general who use their platforms to stand for something greater than themselves. More often than not these figures represent and inspire lives that are centered around being the very best versions of themselves. They do it boldly and without shame. They find their truths and are relentless in reaching the higher grounds that are within themselves. In the end, their accomplishments become bigger than themselves, and those around them are moved and reached in a powerful way. This to me is more moving than anything I can ever imagine. This is what I seek to do.

At other times that I paint, I may find inspiration in a person or picture whom I may not know their name. Sometimes a message is sent through a nameless person’s expression or pose. At all times, however, you will see the motivation and presence of free and bold color flow in the entirety of my work. There is always a message and intense feeling sent through the vibrancy of my rich color schemes and brush strokes. I seek to push the boundaries with color.

Overall, when I paint, I find out who I am, and then I share it with the world. My encouragement to my viewers is to do the same. I wish to make people feel more alive to the very real soul within themselves. Find out what drives you, and seek out your truth. Do so without shame, and pass this message on.”

-Jamie Pettis