

DEAR DREAMER MAGAZINE

EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW

SHON HUDSPETH

You won't want to miss this interview! Shon is an extremely talented artist with lots of wisdom and encouragement for those who want to pursue their dream full time!

Dear Dreamer,

The Bible verse Jeremiah 1:5 states "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you". This beautiful passage is the reassurance that God created You with Purpose and Intent. Your Talents and Passions are intended to Inspire the World. They are yours alone and aren't meant to be compared to or by another. Let Your Heart and "God Whispers" guide your path to happiness and fulfillment.

Be careful who you listen to and whose opinion that you make important. The path is uniquely yours and will instinctively direct your steps if you honor it. Remove fear from your life and vocabulary. The Bible states "Fear Not" or "Be Not Afraid" 365 times, once for every day of the year. You are here for a reason and You and Your Efforts Matter. Use your gifts to positively impact the world. We can't wait to see the Difference that You Make.

Inspire,

Shon Hudspeth

Visual Artist

www.shonsart.com

Nashville, TN

615-545-7466 (Cell)

615-331-5631 (Studio)

WWW.SHONSART.COM



615-331-5631

@SHONHUDSPETH

615-545-7466

SHONHUDSPETH@COMCAST.NET

Tell Us a little about yourself. Where are you from? What brought you to Nashville, TN?

I was born in Birmingham Alabama, but I attended college in Cleveland, Tennessee at Lee University. One of my college friends had moved to Nashville when I was a senior and suggested that I visit. I initially expected to see cowboy boots and saddles everywhere and boy was I in for a surprise, it was much more cosmopolitan. I fell in love with the city and have lived here ever since.

What is your background in art? Tell us how art became an important part of your life and why you are passionate about it and how long you've been an artist!

As a child, I spent most of my time daydreaming that I was flying or marrying Farrah Fawcett, engulfed in coloring books and doodling just for fun. The Birmingham school system was very accelerated in the liberal arts, music and theatre. The school would often take the students on field trips to the citywide theater productions and symphony performances. My first grade art teacher was extremely enthusiastic and promoted art as not only an outlet, but as a way of life! I can still vividly remember some of my happiest times were from creating art in her class. She was a huge proponent for ceramics, which my Father transitioned into our Wednesday evening church youth class, because of my joy expressed from her influence. So, at this point, I had art represented both in school and church. My parents have always been very supportive of their children and to what made them individually happy. I remember a time when I was younger and I was in my Father's office coloring on a piece of typing paper with colored pencils. I was just doodling on type of abstract and left it there on his desk. A couple of days later, my father asked me about the colorful sketch. I initially thought that I had possibly defaced a sermon or an important report by accident. His reaction was such a comfort, he stated that if I would finish it, he would frame it. There is such truth in the phrase that "One Person Can Make a Difference"! It was at then that I acknowledged my "inner artist" and felt that my efforts to express beauty had value. Thanks Dad!



*"I honestly seek beauty everyday in someway"-
Shon*

What inspires you to create?

I honestly seek beauty every day in someway. Whether it be in God's beautiful nature or a kind gesture from someone. Beauty is all encompassing if we will just take notice. I feel that creating a piece of artwork or extending kindness to another is a gratitude prayer to God. It's the least and the most that I can do.

Do you go through seasons where you feel uninspired? If so, how do you handle those seasons?

I feel that most humans experience all of the "seasons" of life at some time. When I need inspiration, I try to insulate myself from negativity. This can include preventing subjection to various news, radio and television programs and social media outlets. The most effective way to find inspiration for me is to consider the needs of others. It's amazing how taking the focus off of oneself can illuminate beauty through communion with mankind and new surroundings.

I know you're an artist full-time, but what was life like before being a full-time artist? What types of jobs did you work to support yourself? Was it challenging to balance out what you're truly passionate about? How did you stay focused?

I have discovered that there is an artistry in living. The challenge is to always look for the positive in any and every situation. Also, try and surround yourself with like-minded and encouraging people. Having a degree in Communications, most of my previous employment was in customer service. This field is a crash course in human understanding and well being. I've done everything from building camper shells for pickup trucks to managing restaurants and recording artists. Although the environments differed, the focus was the same. Give everything and everyone your best effort and try and have fun at the same time. If fun isn't present, that's a sure sign that God may have created you for something different. There are many different roads, jobs and experiences that can reveal our passions or lack thereof. A day celebrated is a day remembered. My artistry for life is to find something or someone to celebrate every day... it's truly that simple. This mindset sets a foundation for gratitude. I've always said "Gratitude Can Change Your Life, and Kindness Can Change the World".

You had a special moment with your dad that encouraged you to artist full-time, right? That is my favorite part of your story. Tell us about that!

A few years ago, I was celebrating Christmas with my family. My father stated, with his Christmas gift in his lap, "Son, what I want for Christmas is for You to make a living from Your Artwork". I had a successful art show earlier in the year, but was still working 4 jobs to fulfill life's responsibilities and my creative desires. I smiled at him with a melting heart and expressed what a nice thought that would be. I had always heard the societal phrase "Starving Artist" and accepted it as truth. It seemed as though most artists were minimally celebrated and their value was only defined after passing. Although I had always felt this was an

absurd thought, I hadn't surrounded myself with others that felt the same. I had literally accepted it because it was the "norm", as was working multiple jobs! My Dad said, "If You Won't Do It for Yourself, Will You Do It for Me?" With my heart totally broken open from love and adoration for my Father, I said "I'd do Anything for You Dad!" We joined hands and said a prayer of hope and thankfulness and I literally felt fear subside and God's embrace. It was as if He was saying, "Now You're Open to the Blessings that I've always had for You and not bound by Others Opinions and Influences!" It was an immediate revelation that one must be careful who they listen to and who's opinion they make important. I felt a spiritual shift and for the first time, my lungs expanded with excitement and released with peace. Within a few months after the decision and prayer, God choreographed enough artwork opportunities, that I was able to alleviate all of the other jobs and solely depend upon them and Him. Thank You Dad and Thank You God!!!

That's when you decided to take a chance on your dreams of full-time artistry right? Since taking that leap of faith, how has God surprised you?

God has shown me that His plan is always greater and better than mine. He has taught me that He is Enough! This lesson can often be rather timely and difficult to learn, but always produces the best and most fulfilling results. I make an effort to start my day with Him and pray that His Beauty and Inspiration are revealed to me and reflected through me. I listen to those instinctual nudges that I call "God Whispers". I do my best to act upon the impulses that are inspired by them, as well as walk through the doors of opportunity that may open because of them. He has also reminded me that it's a team effort. I could never do this on my own, but I also know that He can't sell the paintings if I don't create them. I must take an active role in the partnership for there to be an outcome. I can't sit idly and expect things to just happen. He has also coordinated the timing to reveal that there is no other possible way, serendipitous or coincidentally,

that it could have happened beyond His handiwork. It continues to astound me and His only desire is for us to say "Thanks"! I could never say "Thank You God" enough.

To a lot of people, art seems like a hobby instead of a career. A young artist could feel discouraged by that. What encouragement would you give her young artist Who wants to pursue A career as an artist, but has little faith that it could work out?

I would start by referring back to the reminder of being careful who you listen to and whose opinion you make important. God has created each of us to contribute individually to the earth. I feel everyone is an artist in some way, whether it be through music, painting, dance, caregiving, nurturing, healing, parenting, or simply encouraging another. It's important to listen to your heart, for it guides you more than societal norms and opinions. It's imperative to remove fear from your mind and environment. Fear is a false barrier that inhibits beauty and change in the world. Remember nothing changes if nothing changes. There can never be enough beauty and inspiration in the world and there's room for everyone. Take time to discover what brings you joy. It's most often what a child does in their free time, that directs their happiest vocation. It doesn't have to be perfect or even judged. Every effort contributes something to the world that previously didn't exist. The world awaits your contribution. Who knows, your gifts may help inspire another or even save a life. You're here for a reason so Make a Difference!!

***"It's imperative to remove fear
from your mind and
environment"-Shon***

How can our readers stay connected with you? How can I view your art?

I have a website www.shonsart.com and I can be found on most social media platforms Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest etc. through my name Shon Hudspeth or @shonhudspeth .

I also have my work on display in several businesses throughout the Franklin and Nashville, TN area. Most are listed on the website as well. I can also be reached at my studio 615-331-5631. Thank you so much and I look forward to meeting and collaborating with you.

