

An illustration at the top of the page shows a pair of light-skinned hands holding a cluster of purple flowers. Some petals are falling from the cluster. The background is a light teal color with scattered purple and pink flower petals and small flowers.

First Year Feature:

Emily Lenkevich

By Deborah Afolabi
Photographs by Katelyn Adams



Hailing from what she refers to as “the middle of nowhere,” Houtzdale, PA, biotechnology major Emily Lenkevich has always had art all around her. Her family consists of artists. Her father is a drafter who designs homes for others by hand as well as creates fan art of classic movies such as Star Trek and Aliens. Her mother does cartoon work and is very craft-oriented, with knitting as one of her fortes. Emily has an oldest sister, as well as an identical twin. Autumn, the oldest, who is fondly referred to as “Sneaksby,” does claywork, watercolors, and pretty much everything Emily does, minus knitting and cooking, with a focus on digital art. Kaitlin, her twin, is a graphic designer and enjoys working with acrylic paints.

Emily has found a very interesting way to include herself on campus. She is apart of the Anime Society, ECO Club, the Albright Visual Arts Organization, Alternative Spring Break, the American Sign Language Club, and has even gone to a few Albright Improv shows and their sessions. Although she is not in any art classes, Emily does a lot of art projects in her dorm room, on her

own time. Her artwork is showcased on the walls above her desk, a lot of them sketches and art on canvases.

When not in class or doing schoolwork, Emily can be found doing a variety of things. She could be hiding in her dorm room on the third floor of Mohn Hall, doing her various art projects and sketches, being a complete sarcastic savage, or hiding under her desk having a complete mental breakdown. (Ask her roommate; she'll tell you all about it.) On weekends, you'd find her roaming about campus and Reading; her roommate calls it exploring, Emily calls it wandering around aimlessly. Emily loves music and you will almost always find her with an earbud in. She constantly doodles in her class notebooks or the art app on her phone ibisPaintX. On extremely rare occasions you may even find her working on her very own comic, My College Adventures. You may even find Emily battling it out with the many spotted lanternflies seen around campus. She loves trees, especially climbing and being in them, and is on a crusade to protect them.



When did you first encounter art?

Emily: "At the age of four, through cooking. I was in control of the kitchen at the age of four. Screw my mom being in control, I wanted to be in control of the kitchen."

When did you first start creating art?

E: "At the age of six, I painted a horse in my Kindergarten art class. Before this, I had painted in Pre-School but got in trouble for it. I had painted my twin blue, saying that she would look great if she was blue, and my friend painted me orange, and my twin and I painted her purple."

How do you use art in your daily life?

E: "I am constantly doodling and working on various art pieces."

How did you discover your passion?

(Emily laughed at this question before answering, and this is her honest answer)

E: "The first time, I was bored. When I painted my horse in first grade, I thought it was funny and wanted to continue. So I did."

Why is art your passion?

E: "It is fun to use different mediums and learn about different cultures in art. I love using supplies that are not meant for art for art."

What do you love about art?

E: "It is interpreted in different ways from different people. I like how other people see artwork when it's different from what I see. I like the different viewpoints."

Who inspired you to be an artist, maybe still inspires you?

E: "My older sister and my dad. My dad denies that he can do art. He's a freaking liar. Check my sister out on Tumblr! Her handle is energon-goodies."

What is your favorite art form and way to express yourself?

E: "My favorite art form is pointillism because it takes forever and the finished product has a nice texture. As for expressing myself....Hand gestures and facial expressions. Doodling. I constantly doodle in my calculus notebook because I hate math."

What is your dream job?

E: "Working with sharks, because sharks are majestic creatures that don't deserve to be killed for fins and then thrown back into the ocean to die. Since they don't have fins anymore they can't swim away. I want to research sharks and their habits."

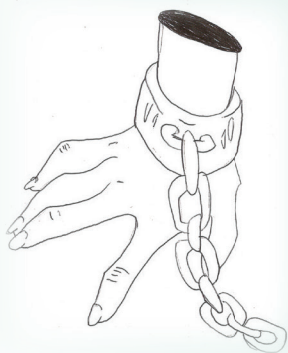
How do you use the body in your art?

E: "I typically draw hands and chibi bodies. Chibis are miniature animated humanoid figures. They're adorable! However, the body in general is put in my work because I do draw people as well."

What is the hardest part of the body to capture?

E: "Drawing the figure of the body is so hard. It involves so much detail, and I often find insecurities in the ones I have drawn. But I don't stop drawing them."





Do you like using the body in your art? Why?

E: "I like drawing hands because they are challenging. Fingernails, joints, making sure they are even, making sure that you can pivot the fingers themselves, making sure that you have which way the fingers can bend, and pretty much everything. Everything about the human hand is challenging. As for chibi's, they are absolutely adorable!!!"

How have you grown as an artist?

E: "Interesting question. I continuously try new things. I have a love-hate relationship with art because I like doing it and then I see the finished project and want it to disappear. I am a perfectionist. It's an artist thing to think your artwork is bad. I've grown as an artist because even though I typically think my artwork is bad, I don't stop making art, because at the end of the day, I do love art and my art."



Fun Facts!

Emily is a twin.
She has six pets: an iguana, three dogs and two cats.
She collects pins.
Her favorite food is pizza bread.
Favorite drink: Iced Tea
Color: Orange
Song: Last Dance by One OK Rock
Animal: Whale Shark

Art Mediums

- Baking
- Cooking
- Acrylic painting
- Watercolor painting
- Calligraphy
- Color pencil
- Charcoals
- Using everyday supplies in ways they're not suppose to be used
- Knitting
- Sewing
- Sketching
- Doodling
- Digital art (*Clip Studio* and *ibisPaintX*)
- Pointillism
- Clay sculpting
- Photography
- Jewelry making