



ANASTASIYA CF

FINE ART PORTFOLIO

## **Artist Statement**

I use formless substances to behold human character on the flatness of my canvas.

Throughout my life I have used a variety of media. At some point, however, I understood that a life-time is not enough to truly learn something well. Thus, I chose to focus on oil and charcoal in order to have a chance. Both of these are formless and completely pliable substances, they do exactly what I ask of them as they are willing to subvert their own will for the sake of my vision. I can mold them into impressions of people.

I find the essence of a person somewhere in the expression of the face and hands. Everything else is armature. I ponder on the composition, research relevant history, perform preliminary studies, calibrate proportions, solve anatomical problems, harmonize colors, and construct perspective. All of these tasks are a prelude to that almost holy instance when the subject, my canvas, and I will come to be one. Once I complete my preparation I stand still and dive into the irrational and enigmatic act of finding that ineffable missing entity that will render this particular person to be true. I like to think of it as the soul. Soul doesn't come in tubes or bottles, but the success for its search certainly depends on the integrity of my prelude. Soul tends to come some late hour when time has lost its meaning because I am myself lost in the wilderness of my search. I search some more and don't stop until the flatness of my canvas is looking back at me with the gaze I know, until I know who is looking at me without turning my head to see. Sometimes I fail. But I do it again, because I am not allowed to stop until I succeed.

I engage in these artistic pursuits because I value dialogue. Sartre felt that "hell is other people." I think Sartre was wrong — monologue is hell. I want to make sure I am not in hell, that is my motive. Each person that I behold, I keep with me forever. This collection of people is my treasure, a treasure that moths could never destroy, though they may one day destroy all of my work. Even when there is no-one here, I know that I am forever entitled to a dialogue.

## **BIO**

Anastasiya was born in Ukraine and immigrated with her parents to the US when she was fourteen. She started drawing and painting in early childhood and received a figure-based atelier training growing up. Anastasiya's meandering path in visual arts educational took her through the rigor of earning professional Bachelors and Masters degrees in architecture from The Cooper Union and the University of Texas at Arlington, respectively. She has received additional training with established realist painters both privately and in workshops. The synergy of architectural imagination and sensitivity of realism define Anastasiya's work today that revolves around portraiture as a mean of expression of individual identities. Propelled by the desire to understand historical painting and unite it with her love for portraiture while expressing her faith, she ventures into Byzantine iconography.

Anastasiya is recognized as an Associate Living Master by the Art Renewal Center, additionally she has been awarded recognition by the European Museum of Modern Art, National Portrait Society, Connecticut Society of Portrait Artists, Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art, Poets Artists, and many others. Anastasiya's work has been published in Beautiful Bizarre, as well as various Goss183 issues. Anastasiya's work is available at by 33 Contemporary gallery in Chicago. Her work is also found in private collections across United States and around the world.



*How Much More?*

Oil and wax on aluminum. 48x48"  
2020

- The MUSE group exhibit. 33 Contemporary, Chicago, Ill.
- Figurativas, formally admitted to exhibit. Museum of Modern Art, Barcelona, Spain.
- 15th International Salon Finalist. Art Renewal Center.

Portrait of a muse Jennifer Balkans, Austin based artist, a PhD in sociology, a unicycle master, and a limited palette guru, and a loving mother.







*The Resurrection of Annabel Lee.*

Charcoal on Stained Paper. 40x20"  
2021

-The Razor Edge exhibit. 33Contemporary, Chicago, IL.

-15th International Salon Finalist. Art Renewal Center.

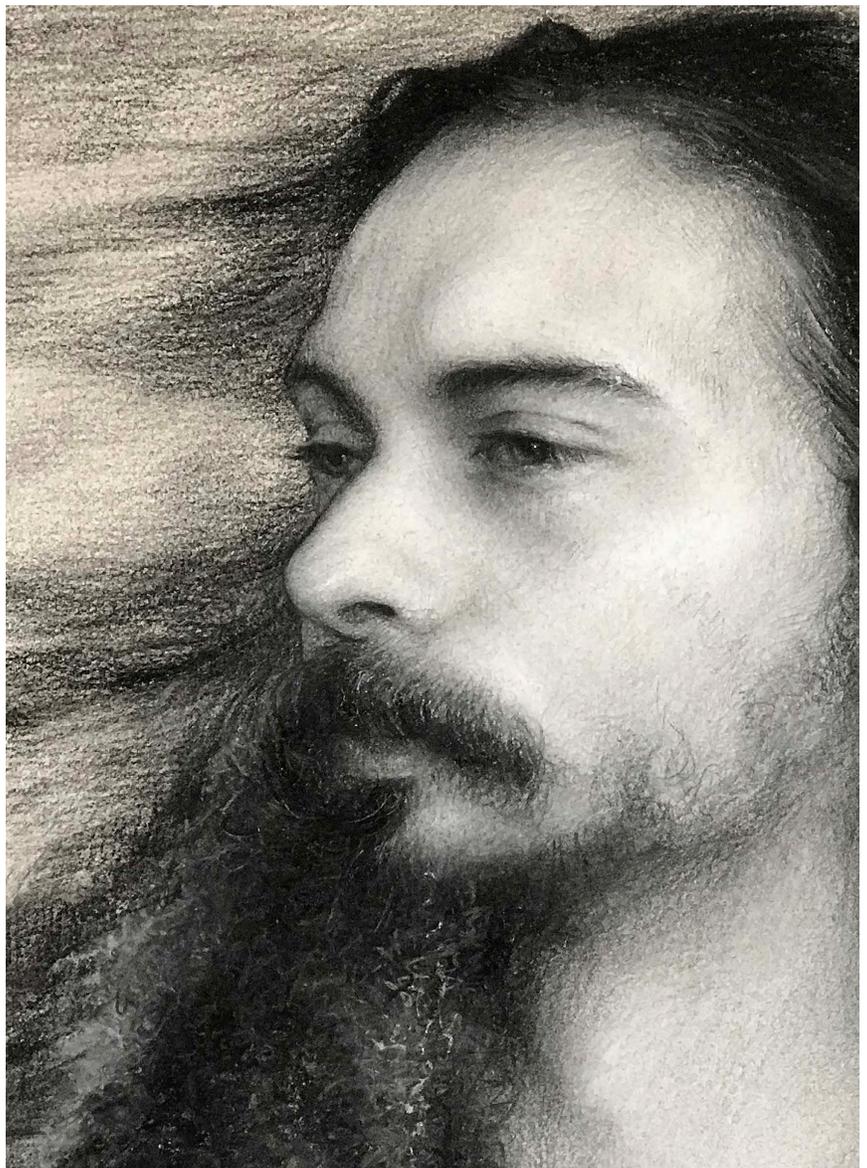
My brother Daniel, the composer, decided to give life to Poe's Annabel Lee.

The dramaturgy of Daniel's piece intrigued me with the unexpected tone of its resolution. While nostalgic and aching, his music scintillated with hope. Annabel Lee came to live.

In this portrait I aimed to capture his resolve in the moment of this daring choice in favor of her resurrection.

Write his score for Annabel Lee, my brother walked the edge, hovering over the abyss of eternal despair when beckoning Annabel Lee into the physicality of the light.

While drawing Daniel's portrait I got to vicariously relive this balancing act when carving out light in the blackness of my charcoals.





*Geronda Ephraim*  
Charcoal on Paper. 20x15"

- Finalist in Portrait Society of America Members only Competition.



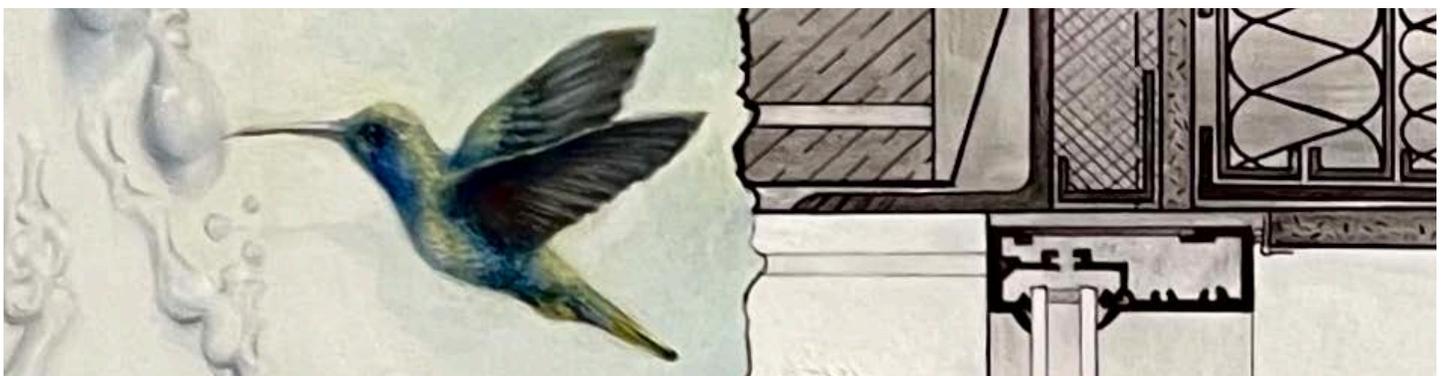
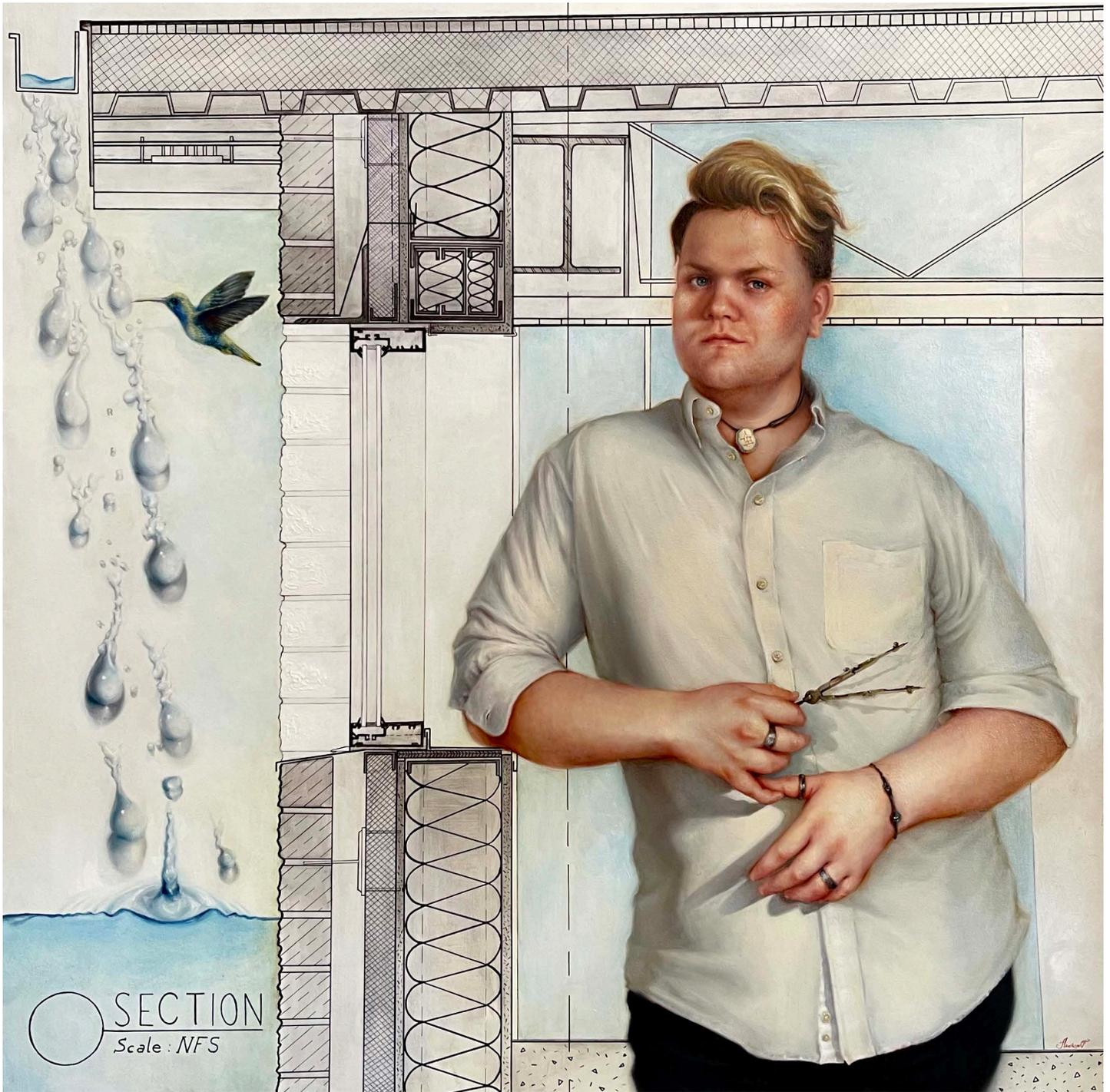
*Memories of the Future.*

Oil on Canvas. 16x16"  
2022

-16th International Salon  
Finalist. Art Renewal Center.

Self portrait, a reverie of the  
future about rethinking Oph-  
elia's past.





*Tommi with an i. Portrait of an architect (Commission).*  
Oil on Canvas. 48x48" 2021 -Annual Juried Competition. Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art



*My Mother's Magic.*  
Oil on Canvas. 48x36"  
2020  
(and graphite study)

Portrait of my mother, the engineering professor, sewing my wedding dress surrounded by her drawings that are hung on the wall that she covered in peacock frescos.









*The Black Pearls*

Charcoal and Chalk on paper.  
30x20"  
2020

-The MUSE group exhibit. 33Contemporary, Chicago, IL.  
-15th International Salon Finalist.  
Art Renewal Center.

Portrait of a friend and a muse.





*Vladika Dimitri.*  
Oil on Board. 20x16" 2022



*Riding*

Oil on Aluminum

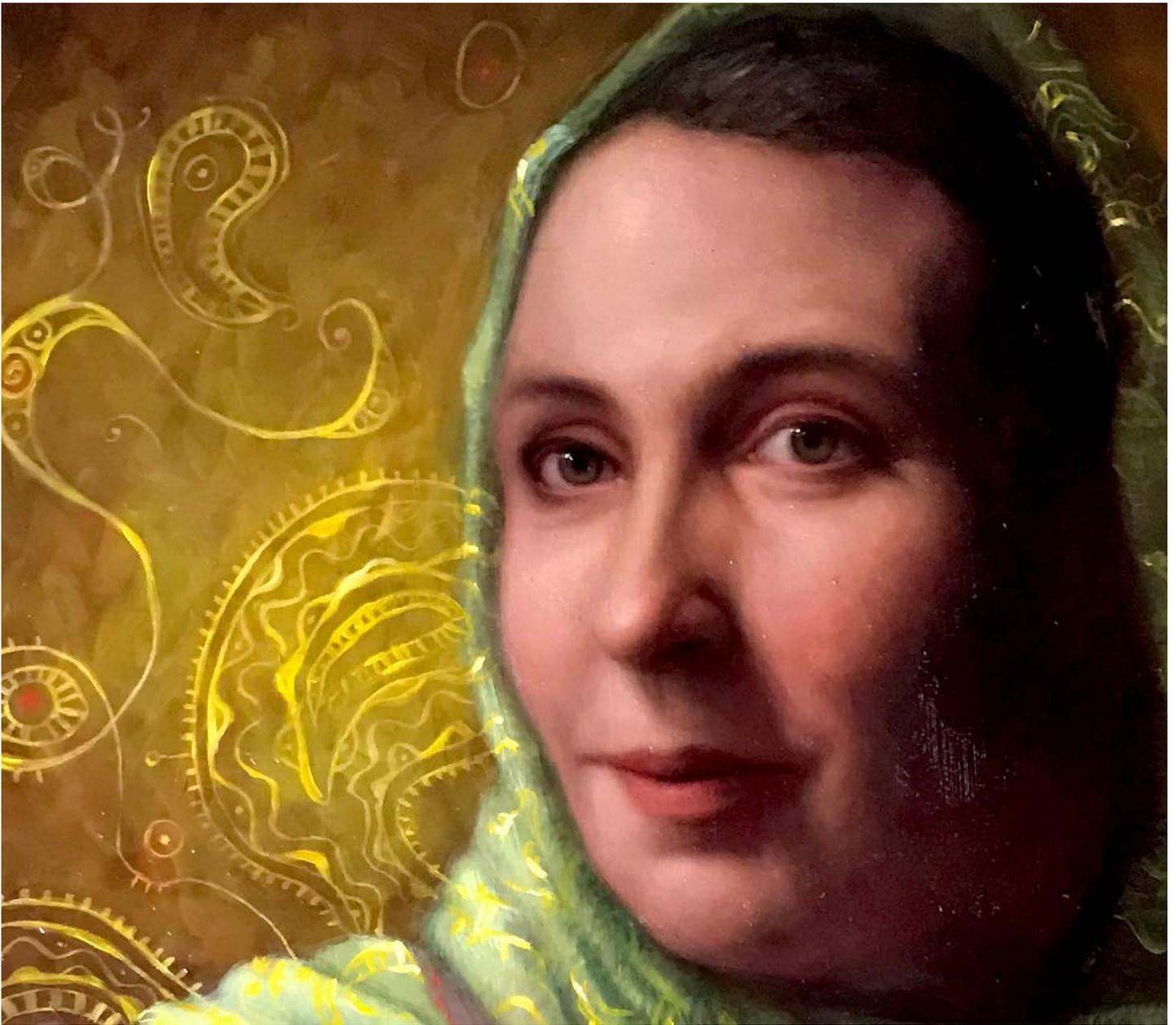
48x24+24"

2019

-The Gaze group exhibit. 33Contemporary, Chicago, Il.

Portrait of Rachel, who builds motorcycles and rides them while dreaming of horses.

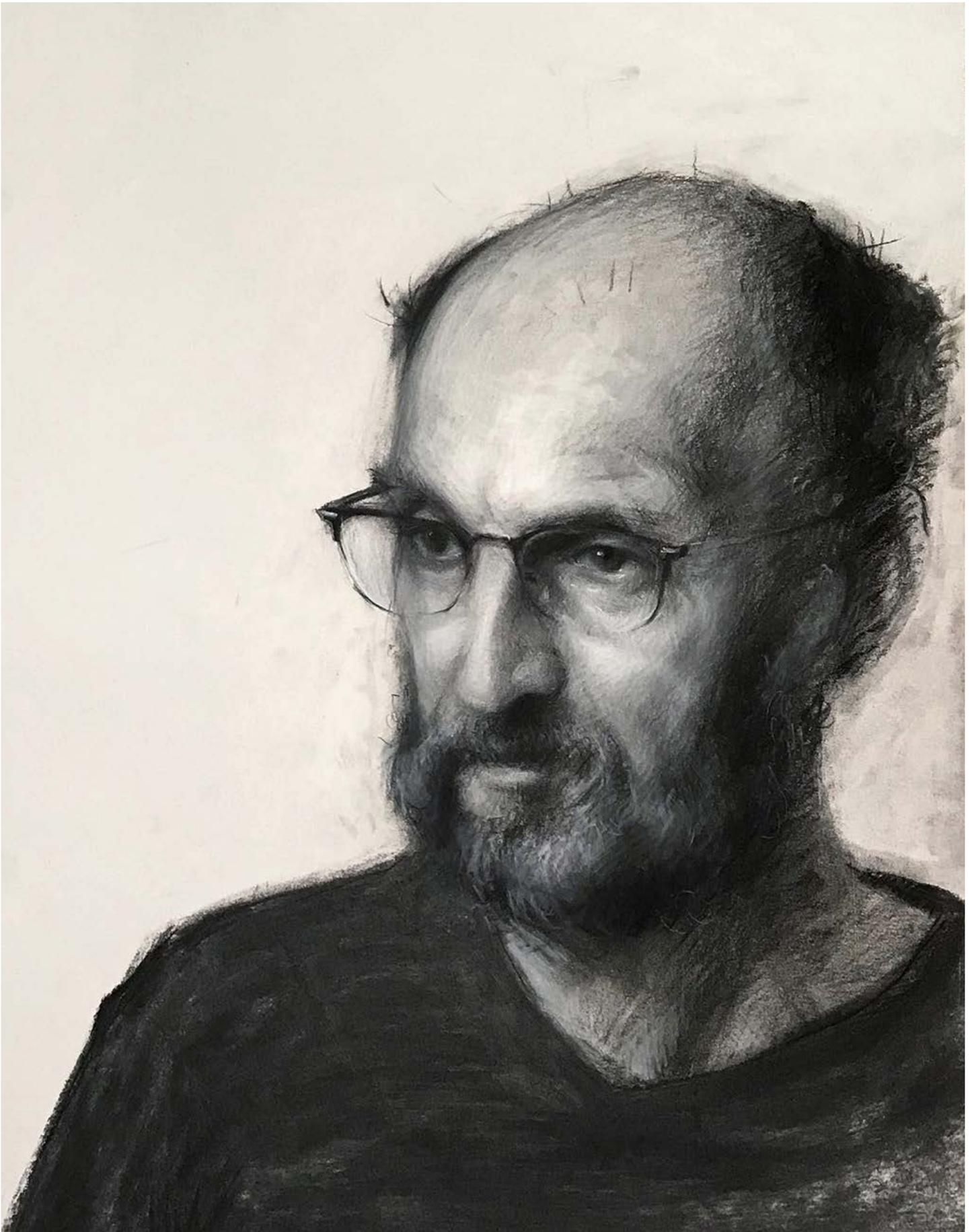




*Cyberly, the mother of  
nine boys and two girls.*  
Detail in oil and study in  
charcoal.  
2018

Portrait of a heroic mother.





*My father the wizard.*

Charcoal on paper. 20x15" 2019 -Portrait Society of America. International competition finalist.



*Mrs. & Mrs W (Commission)*  
Oil on Aluminum 30x24"  
2022

A wedding portrait of a creative couple.

