

Artist Bill Liu On Being Neurodivergent



As someone who is neurodivergent, I always happen to be sidetracked about one particular issue here or there, whether it is related to my own life or social and environmental issues around the world. Once I come across these issues, I feel the need to communicate them through creative approaches.

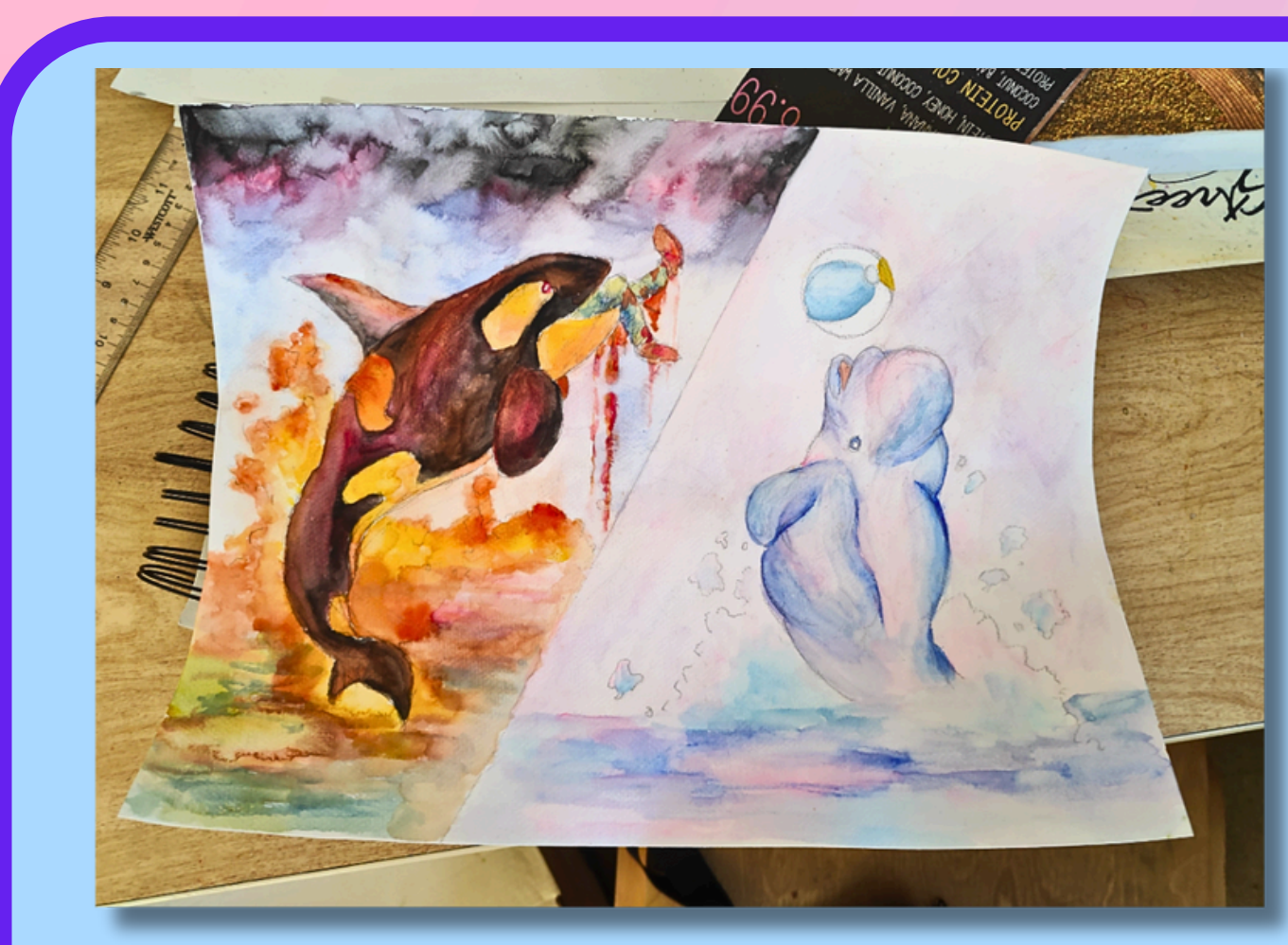
Studies have shown that those who are neurodivergent do not receive high-end education or are unemployed/underemployed because of their communication skills. My hope is to raise awareness of these issues. Through my own research on art therapy and art practices, I learned the value of art and treating individuals with mental as well as physical disorders.

Learning more complex art techniques through educational courses and self-experience, including inspiration from museum exhibitions and the natural world, leads to creating new stories. For example, certain forms of color blending and hues can convey a certain type of emotion, such as deep red combined with black and deep violet to represent intense anger and bright magenta, yellow, and orange to express joy, happiness, and relief.

With each of these new techniques, I would like to raise awareness for inclusion. I hope to incorporate art programs that teach emotional regulation to promote neurodivergent-friendly work environments. Given my experience with technology, I am also considering doing the same with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs.

If I would express something about bridging inequities plaguing today's society, it would be that being neurodivergent is a gift. Actually, it helps with critical thinking, logic, and understanding. If one who is neurodivergent has a wide range of hobbies and/or interests, such as in my case with art, one can easily obtain key skills in having patience, confidence, and being creative in problem-solving. My interests, hobbies, and talent were an integral part of being accepted into Adelphi University's Computer Science program and succeeding in it, putting them into practice side-by-side with my creative skills.

And because I am so talented, it also helped me to gradually adapt to new social situations.



**The Hell and Heaven
of the
Aquarium Tanks**

This watercolor raises awareness that if we keep dolphins and whales in captivity, we need to provide them with the best welfare possible.



COMING SOON!
What Makes You (and Me) Special
Witness the amazing story of a student's hard way of survival with Asperger's and his journey to becoming a talented magician!

"The world needs all kinds of minds."
Dr. Temple Grandin