



*Matt Murphy*

# Conventionally Unconventional Artist

BY DANIEL JOHNSON | JULY 25TH, 2022

Matt Murphy is a self-taught artist who's been drawing and painting since he was a child. This stellar watercolor portrait artist hails from Brighton, UK and is currently still living there. A fairly crucial moment in Murphy's art career happened in his 20s when he started creating large acrylic paintings as gifts for his friends and family, from there, his work found its way into local bars and restaurants. This worldly denizen of art made his way to Vietnam with his wife and two young boys, and it was here that Murphy fell in love with the medium he is currently known for, watercolor. It is with this incredibly unpredictable and difficult medium, Murphy crafts exquisite, muted portraits. "Completely hooked by the medium and practicing every day. I paint when I can around my day job and eventually would love to be a full-time artist."

When asked about his work's influences Murphy responds, "My biggest influences of my work are Benjamin Bjorklund, Nick Runge, Ale Casanova, Lucien Freud and François Neilly."

DANNY watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022



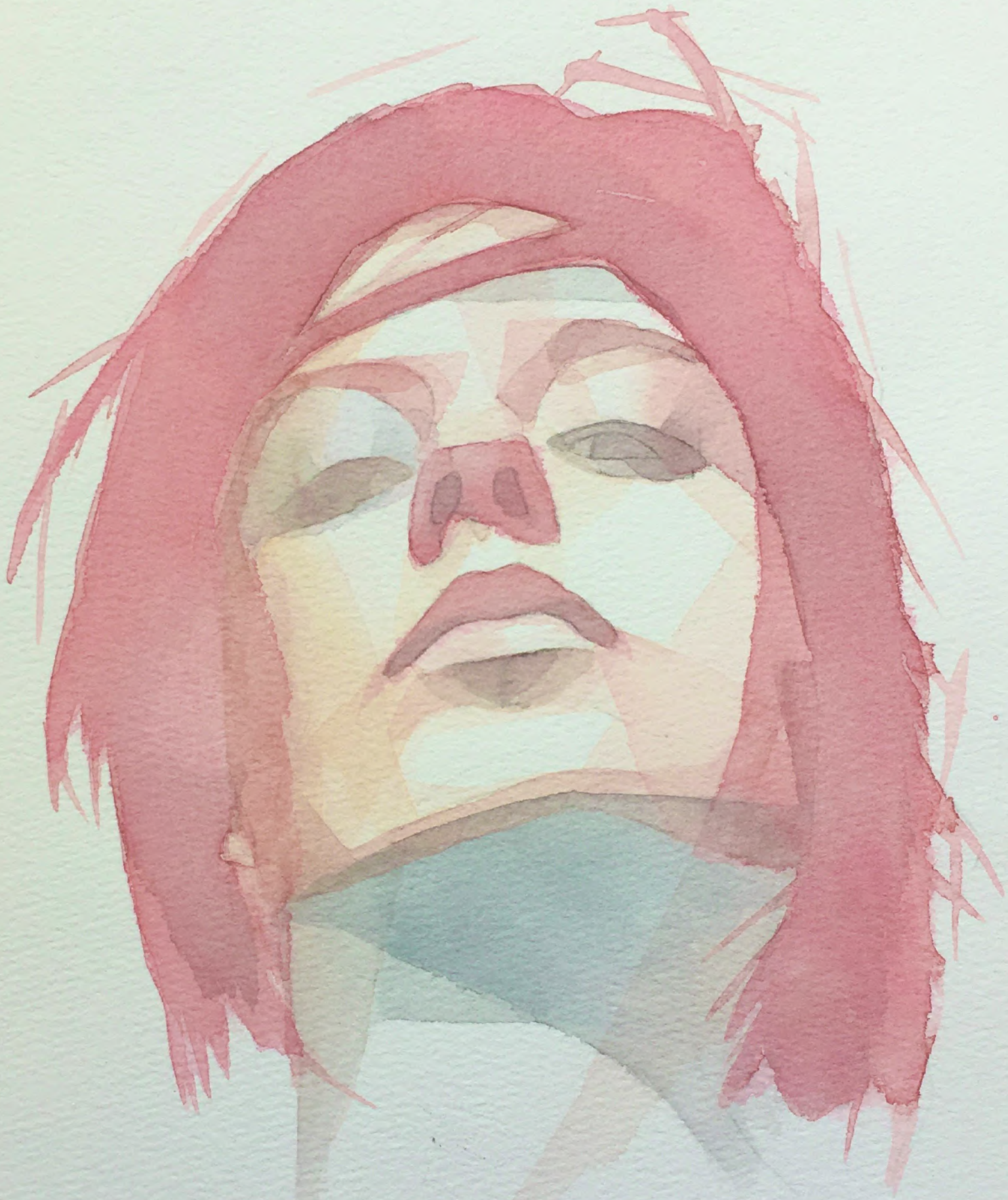
*M. Murphy*

**“ I am passionate about being creative, painting in watercolors gives me that opportunity. I would paint every day if I could.**

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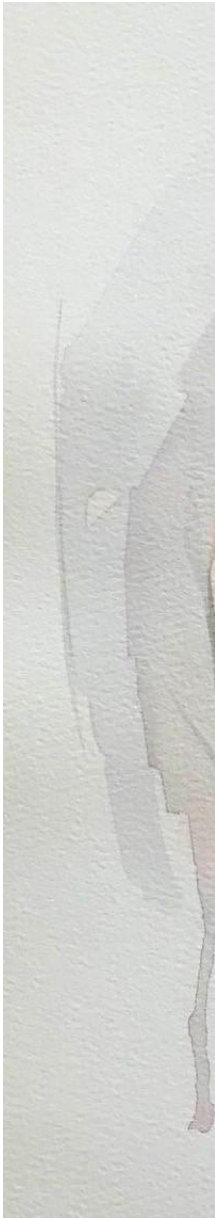
The communication of meaning within works of art is malleable and often subject to interpretation from those who view it. But, there is always that which is objective, lurking behind, a manifestation of intention formed in the well of an artist's mind. For Murphy, what he aims to say with his work is loose and undefined, making no definitive statement with regards to his creations. There is a decisive and sophisticated marriage between abstraction and expression in Murphy's work. Though he claims his work to simply be subjectively, aesthetically pleasing, any artist, art lover, or critic can see the top-notch quality in his artistry. It is the absence of any implanted message which allows a viewer the oh so familiar opportunity to make their own inference into what his work aims to say.

Unlike his work itself, Murphy takes a very straightforward approach to developing his career. He says, “Since taking up acrylic portraits a few years back and starting watercolors in 2019 I have concentrated mainly on Instagram to show my work and gain recognition and exposure.” This conventional process of leveraging social media for exposure is coupled with dedication and a constant striving, opening him up to new opportunities with local galleries and pop-up exhibitions.



SCARLET watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022

M. Murphy



**LEFT - JOHNNY CASH** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022

**RIGHT - UNTITLED** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022

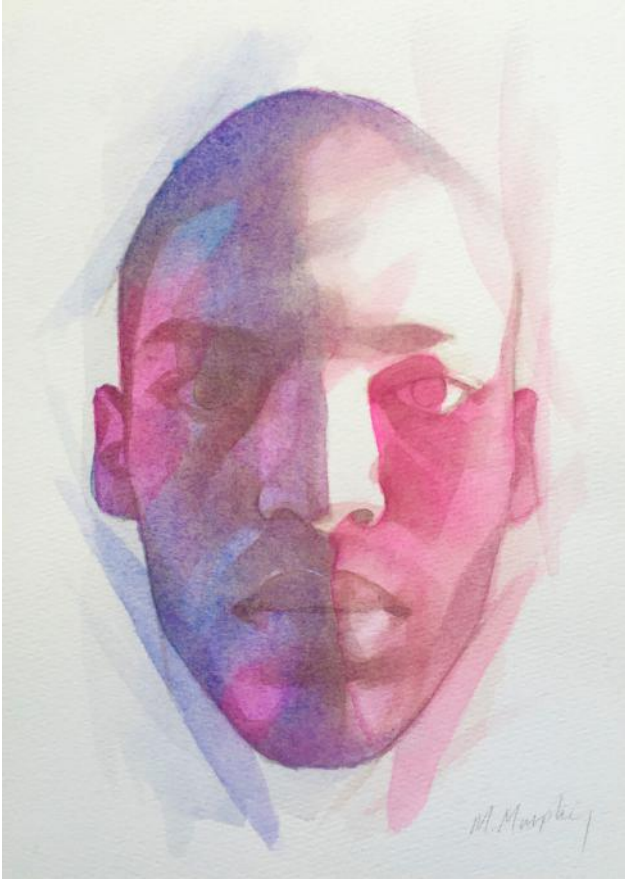


When asked about how he navigates the art world, Murphy replies, “As an emerging artist I am finding my feet in the art world.” With that humility comes an unequivocal determination that lends itself to the passion he has for his craft. Bereft of the constraining weight of ego, one that many artists suffer from, Murphy can simply enjoy the process of honing his skills as a watercolor artist. This offers him the ability to capitalize on new and interesting moments offered to him by the fates and circumstances of the art world. He comments on the meaning art plays in his life, “I am passionate about being creative, painting in watercolors gives me that opportunity. I would paint every day if I could.”

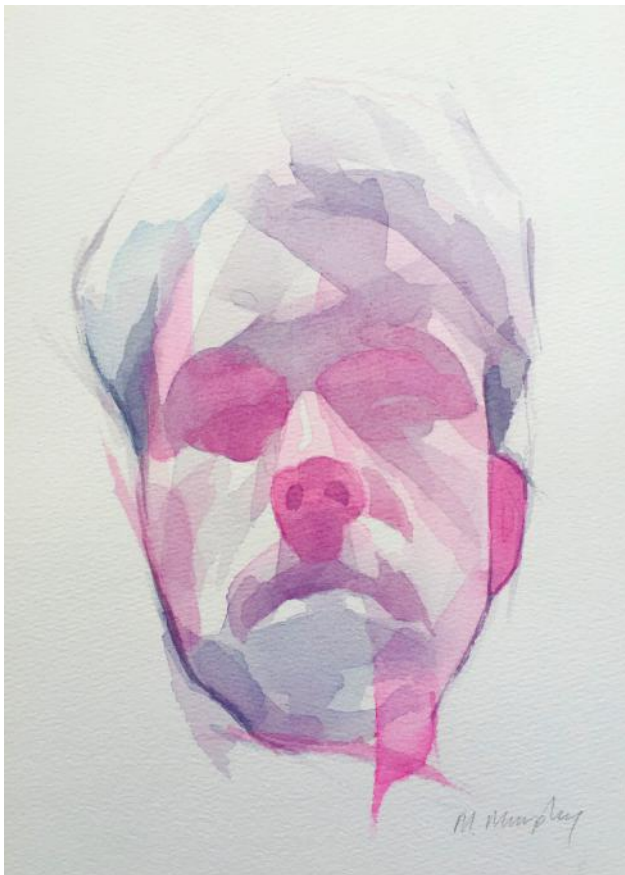
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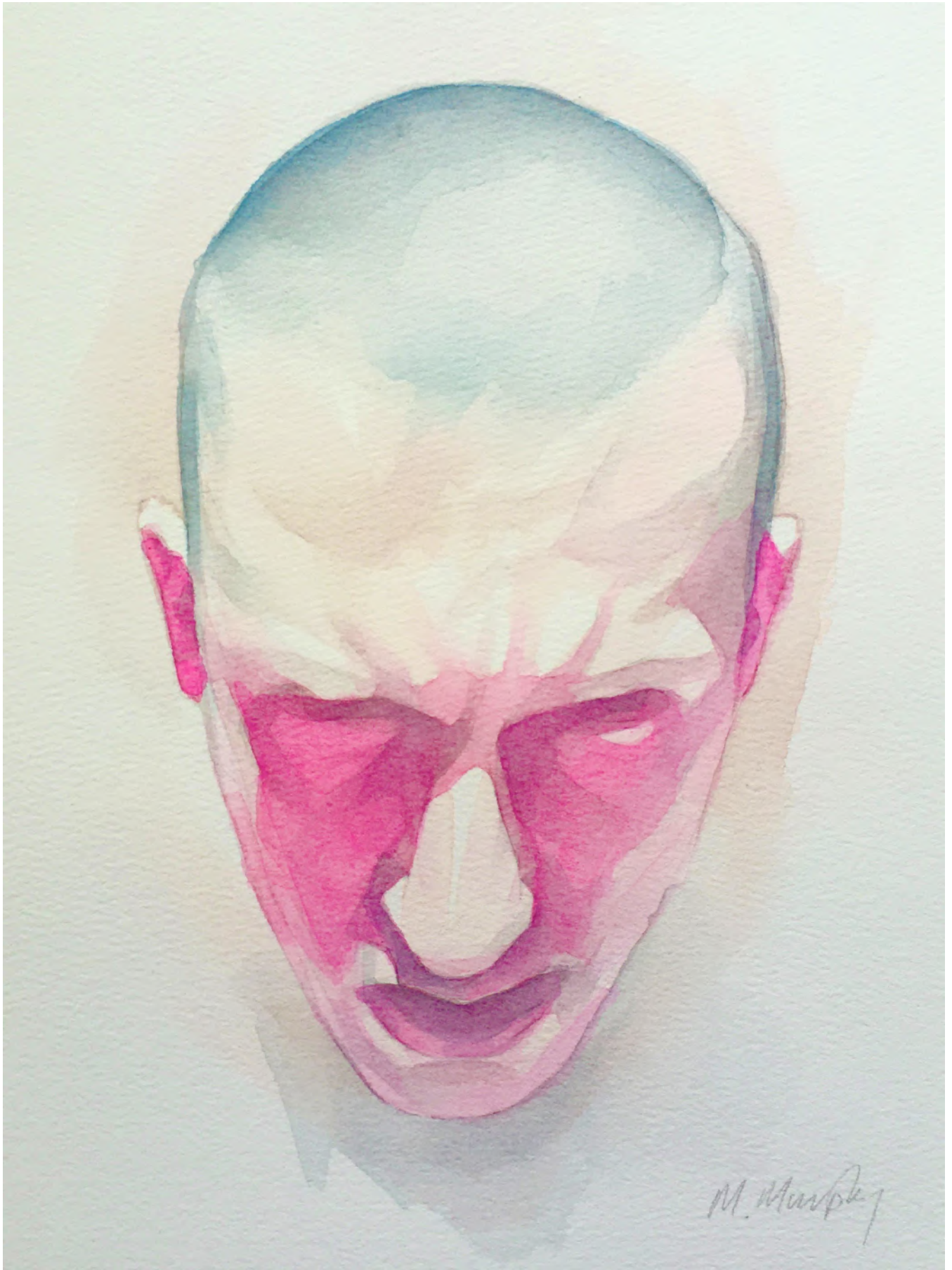
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Uniquely enough, considering Murphy's pension for conventionality, especially in the building of his career, he does not maintain that conventional nature in the techniques that uses to compose his work. Though we would love to articulate the creative applications of this masterful artist's work, we believe it to be more appropriate coming from the artist himself, "I paint in a unique and non-traditional watercolor way, whereby I start with the medium values then go light to dark. Rather than light to dark. This gives more opportunities during a painting to stop and give the more unfinished look. I use subtle glazing techniques to build up geometric shapes creating the structure and form of the face. I often work from black-and-white references so I can add vibrant color washes."



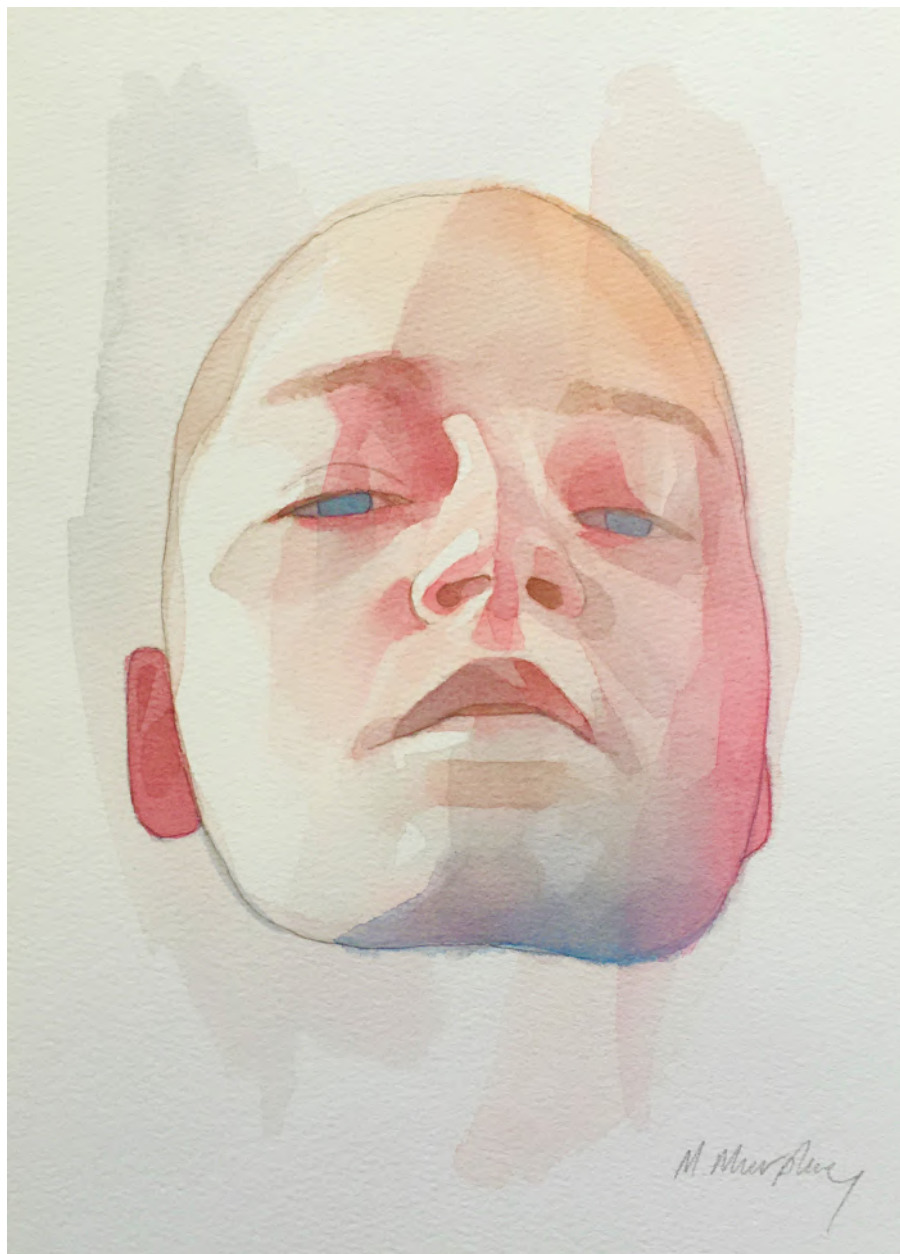
What is in store for this artist's future is something one would expect from a creative like Murphy as he journeys into more local shows and pop-up exhibitions. Though this continuation of his predetermined process, one he has been using to develop his career for a while, isn't what we're most excited about. No, what is most exciting for us at MOST INFLUENTIAL ART Magazine is the enjoyable news about Murphy's upcoming solo exhibition. This is an electrifying moment in any emerging artist career. Murphy hints at the upcoming solo exhibition later in the year at London Arts Fair and MiA couldn't be more overjoyed at the next step in this artist's stellar career. We wish him the best of luck in everything to come and can't wait to see what the future holds for Matt Murphy.



TOP - **B VISTA** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022  
BOTTOM - **DANIEL** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022  
RIGHT - **ZHEKORO** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022







LEFT - **ZOE** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022  
MIDDLE - **THOMAS** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022  
RIGHT - **UNTITLED** watercolor 19 cm x 26 cm | 2022