

Rebekah Rose's Mural: Celebrating Queerness, Nature, and the Power of Being Seen

Rebekah Rose's mural in Sun Prairie is more than just visually engaging. It's heartfelt, personal, and unapologetically joyful. Their design, filled with bold colors, thoughtful symbols, and their signature sense of play, reflects a core belief that queerness is a natural and essential part of the world.

A queer illustrator and muralist from Long Beach, California, Rebekah approached their mural with a focus on empowerment, belonging, and healing through visibility. Whether you're drawn to the soft yet vibrant palette, the thoughtful tattoos on the green figure, or the lush lilies inspired by Georgia O'Keeffe, this piece invites you to slow down and feel seen.

Interpreting O'Keeffe Through Florals and Feeling

Rebekah drew on Georgia O'Keeffe's iconic lily paintings for visual inspiration but took their process one step further.

"When I was working on my design, I watched a few documentaries about O'Keeffe in the background while I was drawing to get a sense of her alternative attitude as a person," they shared.

Known for their own love of florals, incorporating lilies into the design felt natural. But more than matching O'Keeffe's subject matter, Rebekah aimed to channel her spirit: independent, bold, and true to herself.

From Sketchbook to Public Wall

Rebekah's journey began with childhood doodles and a dream of being a comedian and cartoonist. With encouragement from their dad, who is also an artist, they followed their creative passions all the way to a degree in illustration.

"I painted my first mural in 2019 for a warehouse show in Long Beach, and my first public wall in 2020 on a boarded-up building after the George Floyd protests," they said. "From there, I really just kept going with any opportunity I could get."

Their style? Playful. Colorful. Thoughtful.

Moments of Connection in Sun Prairie

While painting, Rebekah was deeply moved by the openness and kindness of the local community.

"A few people confided in me about youth in their life who have struggled with being LGBTQIA+ and offered gratitude for me talking publicly about queerness," they said. "It honestly makes me emotional writing it to remember."

Others brought food and drinks, or simply stopped to say thanks. "I felt very welcome and safe in Sun Prairie."

For Young Artists Watching This Mural Take Shape

Rebekah's advice to emerging creatives is simple but powerful: "Keep drawing and keep painting. Find local artists to connect with and learn from. Having a community to support you in your artistic journey is going to be really helpful."

And perhaps most importantly, "Comparison is the death of joy. We are all different and success can look many different ways based on what you want for your life."

Hidden Meaning in the Ink

Look closely at the tattoos on the green figure in Rebekah's mural. One lightning bolt, in particular, carries a personal memory.

"It was to memorialize the moment we got rained off the walls and were scrambling to get the scissor lifts put away. That was a wild storm."

Each mark on the mural tells a story, many of them tied directly to their time spent creating in Sun Prairie.

Soundtrack of a Sweet but Fierce Artist

While Rebekah's art is soft and whimsical, their music taste leans much heavier.

"Funny enough, my art is really sweet and cute, but when I am painting I tend to listen to hardcore and metal music," they said. "In Sun Prairie I was listening to Magnolia Park's album 'Vamp' a lot. I tend to dance a little when I am painting too."

Final Reflection

One of the central themes in Rebekah Rose's work is the belief that queerness and trans identity are part of the natural world. "We all belong to this earth and no one is here by mistake," they said.

Their mural is a vibrant, joyful reminder that visibility is healing and belonging is possible. It offers a gentle kind of power, the kind that comes from standing proudly in who you are.

So if you find yourself in front of this mural, take a breath. Let the color, the symbolism, and the energy of the piece remind you that you're exactly where you need to be. Rebekah's work is a celebration, and you're invited.