

The image features a white brick wall as the background. Three black, dome-shaped pendant lights are suspended from the ceiling by thin chains. The floor is made of light-colored wooden planks with a visible grain. The text 'SARAH CAPPS' is centered on the wall in a large, bold, black sans-serif font, with 'ARTIST BIO' centered below it in a smaller, all-caps sans-serif font.

SARAH CAPPS
ARTIST BIO

ABOUT

How do I create paintings based on music? Good question. I have Synesthesia, or a crossing of two or more senses, and it allows me to have a unique visual experience of colors, shapes and various textures while listening to music. My goal is to capture the song and its feeling by sharing my experience of particular instruments, the singer's voice, and/or a collage that serves as an imprint of the entire song. It's like trying to hit a moving target. I attempt to convey that movement by using many layers of paint to express the forms I see within the song, which also allows for greater texture and vibrancy in the final product.

My process is unique for each painting that I create. I typically paint abstracts or landscapes, but all of my work is inspired by music and the local landscape. I love painting with acrylic, oil, and watercolor in particular. Other mediums I play with are charcoal, pencil, pen, ink and colored pencil.

When I begin a painting, depending on whether it's a commission or a song that I've chosen, I listen to the song a number of times, usually at least 20, and select a meaningful portion of the song related to the requester (or myself if I've chosen it). Then I attempt to capture the emotion and meaning of that song with a number of layers revealing the movement of the visuals I experience while listening to the music. I frequently receive commission requests for weddings, anniversaries, proposals, birthdays, and just because!

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“STOLEN DANCE”

music by Milky Chance

24X24”
acrylic on canvas

Description:

This piece was inspired first and foremost by the local landscape in Charlottesville, Virginia. The warm tones and overall color scheme is indicative of my visual experience of the song, “Stolen Dance” by Milky Chance. As the first painting in my new series titled, Forest Walk, “Stolen Dance” is featured in the July 2019 issue of House & Garden magazine.

AS SEEN IN:

July 2019 issue of House & Garden magazine



“WHERE THE SKIES ARE BLUE”

music by The Lumineers

14x18”
acrylic on linen

Description:

This piece is a hybrid musical - landscape painting inspired by the song, “Where The Skies Are Blue” by The Lumineers and the local landscape in Charlottesville, Virginia. A full sound with a number of instruments creates a variety of forms, shapes and colors perfect for a bright and uplifting painting.



AS SEEN IN:

July 2019 issues of British GQ and British Vogue magazines



"AMSTERDAM"

music by Gregory Alan Isakov &
The Colorado Symphony

24X30"
oil & acrylic on canvas

Description:

This piece was inspired by a song performed by the singer/songwriter in conjunction with The Colorado Symphony. I was incredibly inspired by the symphony, color experience, and overall mood of the song. I enjoy painting birch trees and decided they would be an appropriate abstract variation of my visual experience of violins.

AS SEEN IN:

August 2019 issue of British GQ
(to be released in July 2019)



“HOLDIN’ OUT”

music by The Lumineers

9x12”
acrylic on canvas

Description:

The vibrancy and color scheme for this painting are inspired by the song “Holdin’ Out” by The Lumineers, and the image is inspired by the Blue Ridge Mountains and the local landscape in Charlottesville, Virginia.



AS SEEN IN:

August 2019 issue of Tatler magazine



"GRAVEL PIT"

music by The Wutang Clan

14x18"
acrylic on canvas

Description:

This piece was a challenge for me artistically. To date, I've avoided painting rap for a number of reasons. It is very challenging to create an attractive combination of forms when there is both a hard speaking voice and soft background instruments present within the same song. The forms morph from hard to soft seamlessly but it's incredibly difficult to communicate. Gravel Pit by the Wutang Clan is my first attempt at painting rap, and can be found in the Gentleman's Quarters section of the September 2019 issue of British GQ.



AS SEEN IN:

September 2019 issues of British GQ
(to be released in August 2019)

"NOTHING COMPARES 2 U"

music by Chris Cornell

16x40"
oil & acrylic on canvas

Description:

This piece was inspired by Chris Cornell's rendition of Prince's original song, "Nothing Compares 2 U." More specifically, this piece focuses on my experience of the guitar and the visual movement of notes. The section of the song I chose to focus on accompanies the lyrics, "It's been so lonely without you here, like a bird without a song."



"GLORIA"

music by The Lumineers

30x40"
acrylic on canvas

Description:

This piece is an attempt to share my visual experience of piano and voice simultaneously. 12 thin layers of paint applied over several weeks help to convey the visual sense of movement within the song.

AS SEEN IN:

August 2019 issue of British Vogue
(to be released in July 2019)

Right: blowup image of my visual experience of the piano



“SMOOTH SAILING”

music by Leon Bridges

30x40”
oil on canvas

Description:

This piece was inspired by my visual experience of the horns at the beginning of the song “Smooth Sailing” by Leon Bridges. This oil painting is my first attempt at capturing a singular note or chord versus collaging a series of moments.



"BITTERSWEET SYMPHONY"

music by The Verve

24X30"
acrylic on canvas

Description:

This painting was inspired by the memorable violins in the intro and chorus sections of the song. The 3 prominent notes/chords in the song are represented in the painting by the 3 vertical marks in purplish-pink. They appear from a horizon, or sometimes many, and reflected in various directions.



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