

Biography

Emir Işıl was born in Istanbul, Turkey in 1999, into a family of immigrant backgrounds. At the age of seven, he attended an exhibition in Paris, where he developed a deep appreciation for a Basquiat painting, igniting his passion for artistic expression. Residing in various regions of the world, including Eastern Europe, West, and Central Asia, Emir's interest in expression and cinema continued to grow as he was exposed to diverse cultures.

This passion led him to pursue a career in the entertainment industry, prompting his move to Los Angeles to pursue a double major in Cinema & Media Studies and Social Sciences Economics at the prestigious School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California. During his academic journey, Emir delved into pressing global issues such as Climate Change, Inequality, and The Refugee Crisis, which profoundly influenced his approach to art. His academic merit earned him recognition with the SCA's Goldman Sachs Scholarship Fund.

Emir gained practical experience in film and television productions, including work on a Coca-Cola commercial and internships at Sofia Vergara's production company LWE and Mandalay Sports Media under Mike Tollin. He earned his first official credit as a stills photographer in the Turkish sleeper hit series *As If*. Through these experiences, he discovered a passion for bringing others' visions to life, leading him to pursue a career as a video editor, all while continuing his passion for painting. Currently residing in Istanbul, Emir finds inspiration in the Mediterranean climate and the vibrant city atmosphere, eagerly awaiting the next opportunity to pop up that will add to his long list of people and places.

Artist Statement

Emir Işıl's art delves into the intersection of myth and reality, seamlessly merging mythicized subjects with vibrant landscapes to veil the harsh truths of economic hardship. His work also explores traditional Turkish values and styles, such as animism and Islamic calligraphy, emphasizing the role of art in preserving cultural heritage.

Emir's creations serve as a poignant reflection of the struggles faced by discouraged and vulnerable individuals in developing economies and migrant communities. With sustainable drawing practices at the heart of his process like using household items, he ensures that his art resonates with individuals from all levels of income. Emir's artistic approach spans the realms of photorealism captured through his camera lens and the imaginative realms brought to life with his brushes, allowing him to express profound themes in a consumable manner. Furthermore, Emir pushes the boundaries of artistic expression by reimagining the ancient medium of painting within the limitless possibilities of the metaverse. Drawing inspiration from the standards set by preceding masters, he pioneers new techniques and narratives that resonate with contemporary audiences while honoring tradition.

To encapsulate his artistic ethos, Emir draws inspiration from a quote by Jean-Michel Basquiat in the 1981 cultural gem *Downtown 81*. When asked, "What's your medium?" Basquiat responds, "Extra large," after proclaiming that he is an artist. This humorous retort highlights the role of art in breaking boundaries and transcending conventional limitations.