

## **I Am Beautiful**

Acrylic

**Sold**

Prints available upon request

### **Natalie Hendrix**

#### **Artist's Statement**

This acrylic-on-canvas piece is inspired by Jade's struggles with her identity. Throughout the story, Jade is trying to figure out who she really is in light of the two cultures she lives in. One factor in this struggle is her appearance, particularly her hair and skin. Using the imagery of flowers in place of her natural hair, I wanted to show Jade could be confidently beautiful. The insecurities are gone and she is laughing, beautiful, and comfortable in her own hair and skin.

I felt an empathetic connection with Jade. She felt she couldn't go to big or too loud with her appearance or voice. With thick, curly hair, I too have struggled trying to fit a standard of beauty and acceptance that was impossible for me for me to achieve. Many people are unaware of this struggle. When painting her portrait, I utilized the element of surprise: flowers for her hair, symbolizing universal beauty.

#### **Bio**

Believing that all beauty in this world is a gift from God, she likes to use her art to highlight beauty found in unexpected places, with special attention to the details. Water drops on leaves, the depth and texture of skin, the contrasting colors of a sunset all inspire her acrylic and watercolor paintings.

Raised as a third-culture kid in Japan, Natalie's art incorporates a wide variety of cultural geological differences in scenery, dress, and color. The sheer variety in the world inspires her. Moving to Salem in 2004, she is a largely self-taught artist who also teaches art to children in private lessons and in group settings.

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