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Nashville Arts

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Tracie Grace Lyons

by Beth English

Sweet, Southern, and seriously talented—that's Tracie Grace Lyons. She's smart, fun, and very ambitious about her art career.

With a bachelor's degree in drawing in one hand and her suitcase in the other, the 23-year-old said goodbye to her Mississippi upbringing and has boot-scooted her way right into the Nashville art scene. Her watercolor work is influenced by her personal history, so it will be interesting to see how this young art starlet will change now that all she knows is firmly in her past.

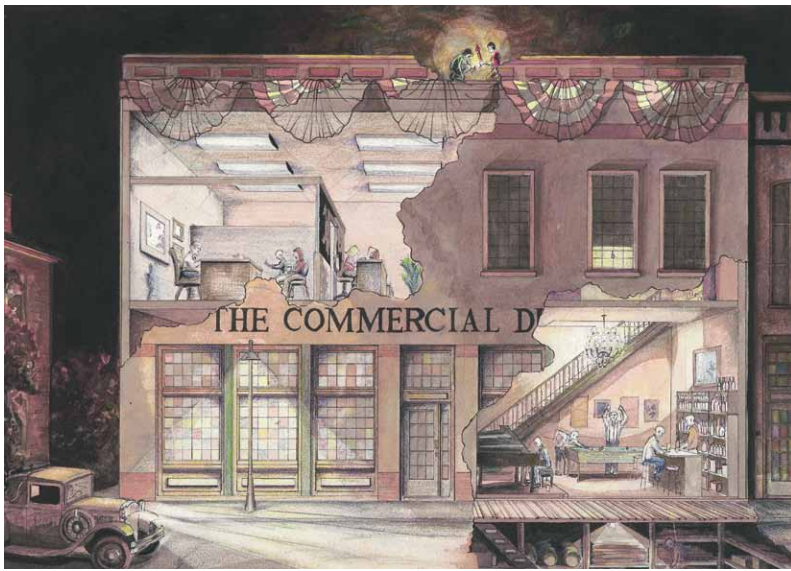
Technically she has a distinct process and follows a formula of steps for each piece. She said, "First is composition, then the characters, color, light, and environment."

Lyons gives new life to historic architecture, creating intricate, everyday scenes around buildings influenced by her surroundings and memories.

She sees peeling paint and broken brick and wonders about the history of the building. More interested in truth than in fiction, Lyons researches a building's history through books and interviews to depict accurately its essence in her paintings. She incorporates small, detailed scenes into the buildings like small, private windows into her character's world. The building's beauty is often enhanced by the personality of the people who occupy it.

Each character in her work is a direct reflection of her own life and personality. For Lyons, traditions are meaningful. She is inspired by her childhood memories and continues to see herself as the little girl who never quite grew up. Lyons approaches her drawings with a childlike sense of wonder. Her innocent spirit is refreshing, and each piece captures that pureness in her soul. *Nashville Arts* welcomes this bright young talent. ✓

Tracie Grace Lyons can be contacted through her website at www.traciegracelyons.com.



FAR LEFT: *Ascent of Unity*, Watercolor, pen, and ink on paper, 20" x 14"

ABOVE: *Commercial Dispatch*, Watercolor, pen, and ink on paper, 13" x 17"

CENTER: *Condemned Shack*, Watercolor, pen, and ink on paper, 12" x 17"

BOTTOM: *Age of Enlightenment*, Watercolor, pen, and ink on paper, 14" x 21"

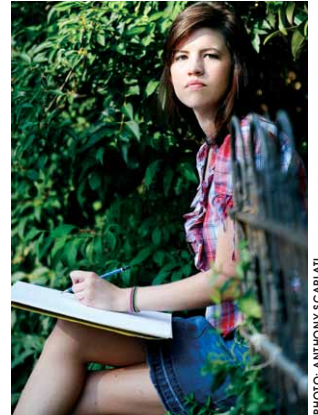


PHOTO: ANTHONY SCARLATI