



My name is Alyson Rae Weinberg, but I go by Aly Rae. When I first visited the *Young at Art* studio, my work was childish and juvenile. That wasn't exactly unexpected because at the time I was a child (I was taking classes just for fun).

Then in my sophomore year in high school, I showed Elois a "finished" pencil drawing of *Captain Jack Sparrow*, for which I had received non-stop praise from my high school art teacher. The compliments all went to my head, so I felt that it was "perfect". To my utter astonishment, Elois told me that we could push the quality of the drawing further. At first I was devastated because I believed that my high school teacher's word was final. At the time, I didn't understand how two artists could be so polar opposite in their opinion of my work. Plus I had already sprayed the drawing with "finishing spray". After some painful convincing, I decided to trust Elois. Several weeks and several loads of charcoal-covered laundry later, Elois and Sonia agreed that my drawing was finally finished. This was the first "best drawing" I ever did. My picture had much more depth, character, "pizzazz", and flair. I was blown away by their "superhuman" ability to notice the tiniest, most obscure details in a drawing. Over time I am also developing an eye for details. *Captain Jack Sparrow* was the first drawing that I wasn't embarrassed to show.

I can say with complete honesty that I learned more from these two artists than I did from my high school art teachers and my Moorpark college teachers! They pushed me further than I thought possible. After finishing Sparrow, my art skills started snowballing (in both speed and size). Soon I was completing 18" by 24" drawings in days! My work became more and more detailed. The last drawing I did at *Young at Art*, was a life-size portrait of myself wearing a cowboy hat. This was the final piece to my portfolio and the clincher that contributed to my acceptance to my dream college, *Otis College of Art and Design*.

Soon I will be a college student (yikes! That's a scary thought!) and I couldn't have done it without Elois and Sonia. Thank you for helping me to develop my talent and also exceeding my dad's high expectations. You have been great advisors. I will miss you both very much.

Parents, your kids will love *Young at Art*. The environment is fun, cheerful, and creative. It is the happiest place in Moorpark. For teens, if you are thinking about art school, you'll need at least 10-20 finished pieces of art work to develop a portfolio (that may mean 2-3 years of serious study). For adults, you will love it too! You are never too old for *Young at Art*! And, if one day, in the not too distant future, you are at the mall and you see a clothing line by Soleil Rae, you will know that *Young at Art* helped make that a reality!

Elois and Sonia, my heartfelt thanks.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Aly Rae". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.