Have you ever studied color theory?

I freaking love color theory. I’ve never taken a color theory class or anything, but we’ve covered it briefly in our classes, and I’m trying to work on my color theory. I really like colors. I love colors so much. I hated when we had to do black-and-white projects. I love color.

What software do you use for your digital art?

I really like Procreate, but I also use a Wacom tablet with Photoshop occasionally, whenever I feel like I want to pull it out and set it up.

How did you learn to use the software?

Trial and error. I don’t get how people use a stylus with an iPad because an iPad is a finger touch thing, so I draw with my finger on an iPad, but (I) obviously (use) a stylus for the tablet. You learn by doing. Those overlay layers and the effect layers were so fun to play with.

Will you describe your work with commissions?

I started doing commissions sometime in middle school, I think like seventh grade, but even now I’m laying pretty low in commissions because I’m trying to focus on school and stuff. It’s kind of just when I feel like it. I used to make people little logo designs. Now, it’s mainly just I’ll draw their characters or a person.

How would you describe your art style?

I don’t really do realism anymore. Now that I have more free reign on what I like to draw, I go for more of an illustrative style that’s kind of semi-realistic. It depends on what I’m doing.

What do you think about before you start to draw?

I like drawing wacky subjects—very surreal stuff—and I like colors. I don’t like when people say, “I hate using this color in my art. This is just tangent,” but it’s just like, “No.” The way that a color works is (that) it depends on what colors you’re pairing it with, so any color looks nice if you use the right palette.
Is this something you'd like to pursue as a career?
I do want to pursue (art) to some higher degree just so I can feel like I've accomplished something with it, instead of just feeling (like) I threw it away. It is something you can do as a hobby and still do professionally without training, but I'd like to pursue illustration alongside some science field.

Are your school art pieces and personal artworks different?
This year, they’re definitely merging together more, which I'm really happy about. Definitely in my freshman year and middle school, the assignments were very clear cut and strict, and even if I could have some control over what I was doing, it definitely wasn’t what I would draw for myself.

SQUIGGLY STYLE:
Junior Shannon Xie paints on a sheet of plastic hung from the ceiling. She said she likes doing both digital and traditional painting, with her traditional art pieces being mainly oil and acrylic paintings.