Shannon McEvoy

*Nonnahste* Artist Statement

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I am an introvert. I have always been quiet and pensive, sometimes even shy. On the other hand, I am also a very dramatic person. I can be gregarious and expressive. I am driven and passionate about life. What I hope to capture in my facial expression is the simultaneous peace and passion that make up the quietly intense part of my personality. One eye hides mysteriously behind my hair, while the other stairs out at the viewer in a confrontational manner. The dramatic shadow on my face highlights these two opposing sides of my personality.

This painting is based off of a photo taken from my computer, and so it is a mirror image of my likeness. The title, *Nonnahste*, is meant to evoke this idea about reflection and introspection. The first part, *Nonnahs*, is my name backwards, as this painting is actually the reverse of how most people see me. Because of this mirror-image point of view, however, the painting is much more intimate; the viewer sees me from my own perspective.

*Nonnahste* is also meant to sound similar to “Namaste”, a traditional greeting used at the end of yoga practices. It is usually said with both palms touching at heart center, similar to my hands in my painting. It refers to honoring a person’s spirit. Because my portrait stares out at the viewer, in a sense I am saying “Namaste” to the viewer and to the universe.

I am a spiritual, searching person. My hand gesture may also be construed as prayerful. I feel that in this painting I am praying to God and the universe to help me find what I am searching for.