

Lillian Frances Bio - Long

Six years ago Lillian Frances stood hypnotized in the crowd at a Sylvan Esso concert, vibrating like a tuning fork, and thought to herself, “that looks like the most fun a person can have and that is what I am going to do.” This pursuit of fun is reflected across all of her artistic mediums: songwriting, music production, graphic design, film, and even her handmade Lil’ Franny Packs - fanny packs sewn from repurposed stuffed animals on her great-grandmother’s 100 year old sewing machine.

Lillian began singing and writing songs on the guitar in middle school, and in her college years played her own brand of acoustic folk around LA. She first started recording her own music in her college’s student-run recording studio. She loved the act of capturing her songs, but was dismayed at the male-dominated scene and yearned to be in complete control of her own sound. After graduating, she attended the Beat Lab Academy and learned the ins and outs of music production.

After a year-long stint living in Spain and honing her production skills, Lillian moved back to her hometown of Davis, CA, to continue to develop her craft. In 2016, a hand injury rendered her unable to play the guitar. She was forced to dive entirely into creating and performing in the electronic world, pushing her to expand her sound and create vast musical landscapes with her computer.

Lillian’s art is inspired by the creative nature of children, and the curiosity they hold for the world. Her aesthetic is saturated with bold colors and playful imagery that reflect her exuberant personality. Like kids play-pretend on the playground, she builds imaginary worlds by collaging together sounds and images that call her attention. While crafting her music, Lillian isn’t bothered by genre, or motivated to create in a particular style. Instead, she tugs and twists and pulls apart whatever sounds spark joy, then lets them trip over each other until they embrace just how she likes. In this way, she is a trailblazer in her own soundscapes, stumbling into spontaneous worlds she is always surprised and delighted to discover. Her unique alt-pop style has been compared to Sylvan Esso, Lorde, and Billie Eilish.

Lillian’s music has been featured on NPR’s Heavy Rotation, Capital Public Radio and Indie Shuffle. Past festivals include Sacramento PorchFest (2018, 2019), the Davis Music Festival (2017, 2019), and the Davis Cherry Blossom Festival (2018, 2019, 2020); notable performances include opening for Sylvan Esso, and playing alongside Shakey Graves, Sage the Gemini, and Lexi Panterra.