

Artist Statement for *Discordia*

Natascha Pearson is a fiction writer based in Humboldt County, California, and an MFA postgraduate in Creative Writing at Antioch University Los Angeles. She is currently working on *Discordia*, a novel set in a futuristic dystopian world that follows a green witch navigating tyranny, resistance, and self-identity amid ecological and political collapse. Alongside speculative fiction, Pearson writes creative nonfiction, including *Somebody's Giant*, historical fantasy such as *Sirens of Whitby*, and maintains an active literary blog at littlelostforest.com.

Her writing is rooted in lived experience. Art, for Pearson, is a way of processing the life she has lived rather than erasing it by honoring memory, emotion, and contradiction. Through storytelling, she seeks connection with others who recognize themselves in these experiences, believing that shared narratives create space for healing, recognition, and collective understanding. Her work is driven by a desire to contribute to something larger than herself: a future shaped by empathy, free thought, and expressive freedom.

Writing serves as both reflection and manifestation. Pearson often returns to the page to connect fragments of memory, to examine moments when her mind was clouded or when she was processing trauma, and to trace the beauty that exists alongside darkness. She is interested in feminism, equality, self-discovery, and the quiet power of nature and mysticism. Her work does not avoid darkness but instead embraces complexity, believing that shadow and softness can coexist and that both deserve language.

When she considers herself as an artist, Pearson thinks first of love, love for the people who shaped her, for the stories that carried her through loneliness, and for the communities she continues to build through art. She is deeply influenced by the lineage of women who came before her, particularly her mother, and writes with an awareness of inherited silences and unrealized expression.

Art, to Pearson, is meaningful because it records time and emotion. It teaches, deconstructs, and reimagines. It offers escapism and confrontation, solace (saa-luhs) and resistance. Art connects people across differences, communicates what language alone cannot, and serves as a tool for healing, justice, and unity. At its best, it leaves an imprint that shapes how we see ourselves and others. It is a form of deep and loud self-expression.

Writing has given Pearson a sense of belonging and a way to push back against systems that silence or divide. It has offered language where there once was isolation, and community where there was distance. Through art, she believes we remember that we are not alone and that we exist in relation to one another, shaped by shared rhythms, stories, and unseen threads of connection.