

Name: Sam Stamler
City: Cincinnati, Ohio

About: Sam Stamler (b. 1994) is an American artist and commercial retoucher living and working in Cincinnati, Ohio. He received his BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2016. After working in several commercial photography studios in New York City, he relocated to his native Cincinnati to pursue retouching full time.

His photographs have appeared in such publications as Bloomberg Businessweek, The Cincinnati Enquirer, and Lenscratch, and his artwork has been exhibited around the country and across the web.

Sam currently retouches images for a diverse group of local, national, and international clients, and is thrilled to call Cincinnati home.

Re-Art: I approached this work quietly. I embraced thinking, and I embraced reacting, but I tried to stay quiet.

Israel is the land of my forefathers, the physical manifestation of my Jewish background, and my 2008 summer vacation destination.

I wanted to make something beautiful—something delicate and fleeting and singular that references millennia of history and the vastness of the sea. I decided to make a Star of David.

But Israel is also a foreign policy item. It's a story in the Times. It's a tweet from @realDonaldTrump.

I had to make something ambiguous. If it was easy, it wouldn't be the truth. Life is probably too short to tell the whole truth anyhow. A Star of David just wouldn't do.

Do you know how many times non-Jewish friends have asked me about my views on Palestine?

I remembered sitting in synagogue as a little kid, thinking about how the Star of David is based on a regular hexagon.

I guess it felt profound enough at the time that the memory stuck with me.

It's blue because Israel's flag is blue.