

# © Scott Fischer

Princess Bean
Disenchantment

# **About Armani Art**

Armani Art has been a part of the North Texas cosplay scene for 6 years, with a particular love of event and group cosplays. Armani Art started as an actress, painter, and crafter whose hobbies eventually led her into cosplaying many of her own favorite characters in comics, movies, and a few of her own original creations. She found cosplay to be the perfect hobby that encompasses so many of her favorite things, and gave her a hands-on creative outlet beyond working as a graphic and web designer. Armani Art can always be found at events or conventions cosplaying alongside others.

Follow Armani Art at Instagram.com/armaniart

# - Interview -

# How did you get into cosplay?

I had been attending conventions with friends since high school and had always wanted to cosplay, but could never manage the courage to do so. However, every Halloween my mother and I would go all-out with crafting elaborate costumes for parties, and it was always a lot of fun. In 2015 I decided I really wanted to dress up as Gamora from Guardians of the Galaxy for a Halloween party with coworkers -body paint and all, no colored spandex because I'm a crazy person, and all of the amazed reactions and praise I received bolstered up my courage to finally cosplay at a convention.

# Who is your favorite character to cosplay and why?

I have a love hate relationship with my Gamora cosplay. She really is my favorite! But boy is all that body paint all day at conventions a hassle. Also, full leather in Texas as I'm sure most cosplayers can attest to. So, I'd say my favorite cosplay characters actually tend to be ones that aren't screen-accurate. They are twists on characters or original ideas that I can craft and create whatever I'm comfortable with.

## What tips do you have on making a costume?

Start with manageable goals and something small. You don't want to burn out or discourage yourself by trying to reach for something crazy. You can easily build up from there! I've found that by starting with cosplays that reflected my strong-suits and things I was already good at really helped. If you're good at art, something with unique body paint or hand painted items will really shine! If you like acting, a character with a big personality will make you memorable. But there are always online tutorials and things to help you branch out. Cosplay can often be difficult but rewarding! So don't be too hard on yourself, and start small.

### What is your favorite memory of being a cosplayer?

Dancing with friends at a Guardians of the Galaxy premiere at Alamo Drafthouse in the lobby while the Vol. 1 & 2 soundtracks played is definitely one of my favorite memories! But I have also really enjoyed the crafty pool parties I've done with friends. The unique ideas people come up with for swimsuit cosplay versions has always been fun.

### What advice do you have for fans getting into cosplay?

If you see that someone has done a version of a cosplay you love, reach out to them and see what tips/ideas they might have to help you along with yours! The cosplay community is one that comes together and bonds over the characters we all love and enjoy. So make a few friends and chat about your favorite characters together and you'll find that other cosplayers can be a wealth of knowledge and support.

### If you could have a weapon or superpower to fight the forces of evil, what would you choose?

I actually have a love of Domino's Luck. I think it's the best and most useful superpower. How I wish I had that luck while trying to get somewhere on time, or maybe even the luck to have the villain not snap correctly.



