

Artist Statement

In my work, I am captivated by portraiture, and I illustrate individuals who inspire me through oil painting. When choosing certain individuals, the decision is made partially on their physical characteristics but mostly on their other attributes.

My grandmother, who I never knew, was also a portrait painter and influenced my father's appreciation of the art world which he then passed on to me.

Over time, I found that the process leading up to the finalized paintings, whether in a series or stand alone, was just as important to me. Therefore, stretching my own canvases, projecting and tracing my images directly on the canvas in graphite, and then color blocking everything before adding additional glazes with oil paint is what drives me to create.

While portraiture has progressed from emulating the Greek and Roman ideal of the human body, the more realistic representations of a variety of human bodies still pertain to the original thought process behind evoking the beauty of it all.

My work focuses on representing subjects I form relationships with, made up of different ethnicities. I combine the naturalism of the human form with an expressive background made up of vibrant colors to create a dynamic painting. The duality between the realistic looking figures and the flatter backgrounds are what push my paintings beyond just a figure on canvas.

I currently strive to create images life size to push the audience to step back to visually see the painting as a whole whether in a series or alone because, like in life, sometimes you need to take a step back to gain a new perspective.

I gain an understanding of how my subjects present themselves with the knowledge they are being photographed through various photoshoots. Knowing that a camera is present in comparison to a candid shot, they want to be shown in their best light using poses and facial

expressions that are appealing. However, by being aware, their hand gestures appear awkward unintentionally. Most people do not know how to position their hands and instinctually mimic others such as models used in advertising.

The ability to illustrate these interactions and their physical characteristics are key to how I apply that knowledge to my paintings.

Seeing past the pose and illuminating their personalities is crucial for me to express so that the viewer can relate better to the portrait.