

I was - and still am - largely inspired by faces. I was taught that the face is overused. Oftentimes nearly abused. This has affected me greatly throughout my life; where to find the line in which something breaks away from a long tradition of representation but somehow remains within its identifiable features. This was especially a great issue in my art education. I was faced with the aggressive disregard for portraiture. A well painted face was boring, overdone, and lacked conceptual prowess. What was important was having a robust concept; an idea that was completely original or had an original spin on something from moons prior. Despite this, I continue to be enamored with the authentic face. I am fascinated by the combination of accurately proportioned portraits and unnatural color. I am interested in the stories they weave for themselves, once treated as an equal. The choices made throughout the painting process often feel like a negotiation. I consider what the individual may want. I let them guide me to their preferred destination. Every brush stroke is both a question and an answer; a constant loop of feedback from the individual being brought to fruition before my eyes. It is futile to try and get someone to see what you see but you may help them understand why you see what you do, if you so choose. In turn, there is beauty in the unraveling of visions, all distinct from one another. I find myself exploring the body now but I see that simply as an extension of the face. An extension of facial expression. My role is that of a gardener. Nurture the imagery and give it space to grow. I want to create imagery that is capable of making its own decisions. Although I want the bodies and faces to speak, what they say is not for me to decide. The language of the figures is interpreted as wildly as ancient texts, with just as much stipulation. With my older work, along with my newer work, I invite you to see what you will and craft any story you'd like; for what you see has a lifespan worth of experiences, feelings, and thoughts actively being woven within.

