



Elijah Ford's current work explores the way loving friendships and fleeting memories can interact within a portrait. This California Native received his B.A. in Painting from Cal State San Bernardino in 2011 and his MFA from California Institute of the Arts in 2014. A month after graduating from CalArts he moved to Detroit, knowing little about the city but believing it was the right place to start his art career. His first step on his Detroit journey began with One Custom City in the Talking Dolls studio where he learned to screen print. Soon enough, his scope of work expanded to include artists and institutions like Nancy Mitchnick, Chris Schanck, Complex Movements, and MOCAD. He now works out of Klinger studios, in Hamtramck, Michigan. \* See note below

*Studio Visit:*  
Elijah Ford





*Jamie and Sharon/210w*, painting, 2016. 60 x 41.5 x 1.5 in. Image courtesy of the artist. [elijahford.com](http://elijahford.com)



*Swam/8w*, painting, 72 x 72 in, 2016. Image courtesy of the artist.



*How do you modify alternative reality in your paintings, and why do you do it?*

I value the vibrancy friends can bring to any moment, we enrich each other's life just by exchanging empathy and live energy. Like flying down a surreal freeway, not expecting anything from the destination, for the ride exceptionally satisfying. The work is a collection of memories overlapping in a disorienting perspective and intense, varying color creating an everlasting representation of a bond. I wanted to stage the paintings to have a physical effect on the viewer so they can absorb a piece of love and happiness I have received in their memory. I acknowledge paintings spiritual power to live beyond the

artist, for me to reach accurate representation of multiple plains in time it was necessary to alter the reality within the image. I modify the reality as an attempt to make superior work far from a traditional portrait, revealing it had been through well-resolved transformations. The reality of the mortality of my relationships is washed over layer after layer so my friendship can be enjoyed and internalized by the viewer and affirmed for my well being, securing my future.



*Luis/210e*, painting, 36 x 60 in, 2016. Oil in canvas. Image courtesy of the artist.