

Artist Statement

When you were a child imagination simply existed all around you, and there wasn't a thing you could do about it. The monsters that lived under the stairs would make their presence known, and you could visit another dimension just by rubbing your eyelids in the dark. It takes a little more work now, but even as an adult you don't have to spend all of your time in reality.

I use my canvas as a portal to the world of imagination inside my own head. I draw a lot of inspiration from fictitious tales I've consumed, be they written on paper or captured on film, be they fantastic or horrific. I often describe my paintings as "Works of Fiction", comprised of vibrant colours, and a cast of characters. I explore themes of "definite versus indefinite" by painting solid architectural structures amid waves of ghostly surreal or abstract expressions.

Specific statements about individual works:

1. Halloween Mourning: This painting was started in a local cemetery on a chilly Halloween morning. For a while I set it aside because I just didn't know how to finish it, but it found a new life during quarantine 2020. With lots of opportunities to take my dog on long walks, I started taking photos of houses, churches and cemeteries in my neighbourhood. Some of these structures ended up in this Halloween themed painting, filled with witches, tombstones, and grackles.

2. Surroundings: Inspired by the floral patterned wallpaper that my grandparents used to have in their bathroom. This painting encompasses my emotional reaction to saying goodbye to a familiar setting in a home renovation. It was not necessarily a sad goodbye but it did feel strange and uncertain at the time. I imagine the figures reaching toward the carousel of hounds in the middle of the hallway, are feeling just as uncertain about approaching the mysterious carnival ride.

3. Watery Graves: Sometimes I start paintings with rough sketches and ideas, and sometimes I start with no plan at all. "Watery Graves" was the result of the latter. In times where you don't know where to start, I think it can be best to just jump in, turn up your favourite music, and splash some paint around. I like to think of this process as a dance around the canvas. Focusing on the overall movement and flow of energy, I decided on the depiction of a soul swimming away, as it's previous home sinks in the river.