Artist Statement

Ben Stanford

Throughout the course of my academic training, I have always found myself drawn to the human figure. While I continually push myself to explore new ways of approaching the figure, I find the aspects of tradition and craftsmanship to be a place where I feel at home and comfortable in the creative process. While capturing the likeness of my subject is of high priority, I try to strike a balance between deliberate rendering of form and intuitive response; providing a space where formal considerations interweave with the beauty of the human figure, culminating to something that is more than just a portrait.

The human presence is something that is not solely encapsulated by physicality, but is a landscape that forms around emotions, values, and spirit. I strive to excavate these qualities and bring them to the surface. Rarely, if ever, are we allowed opportunities to have an unbroken extended gaze at another person. My art is an invitation to have that experience.

In many ways, painting becomes less about simply portraying what I see, and aligns more with the process of translation. This notion of translation not only allows me room to set up a corresponding dialogue through the use of color and atmosphere, but provides a space where the portrait not only reflects the sitter, but inevitably becomes a portrait of the artist as well.

	Title	Media	Original Format
Figure 1:	Everything That Rises	Painting	Oil on Board, 23”x40”
Figure 2:	Backlight	Painting	Oil on Board, 16”x20”
Figure 3:	Bluestem I	Painting	Oil on Board, 16”x20”
Figure 4:	Bluestem II	Painting	Oil on Board, 16”x20”
Figure 5:	Drift	Painting	Oil on Canvass, 24”x50”
Figure 6:	Elise Sitting	Painting	Oil on Canvass, 30”x40”
Figure 7:	Head Study I	Drawing	Graphite, Charcoal on Toned Paper, 9”x12”
Figure 8:	Head Study II	Drawing	Graphite, Charcoal on Toned Paper, 9”x12”
Figure 9:	In Our Image	Painting	Oil on Canvass, 32”x55”
Figure 10:	Sunrise Projector	Painting	Oil on Board, 18”x24”

Figure1: All That Rises

Figure 2: Backlight

Figure 3: Bluestem I

Figure 4: Bluestem II

Figure 5: Drift

Figure 6: Elise Sitting

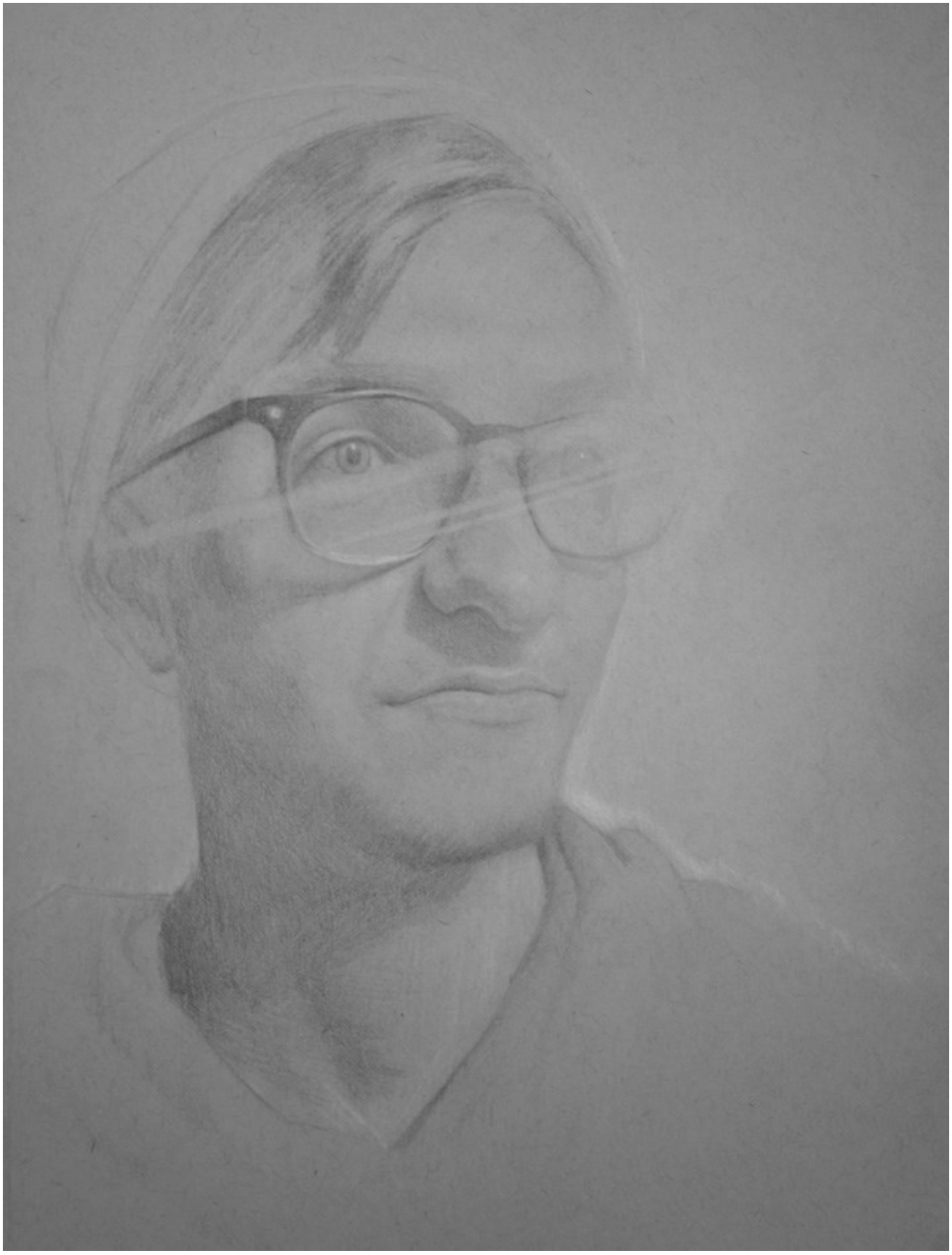

Figure 7: Head Study I

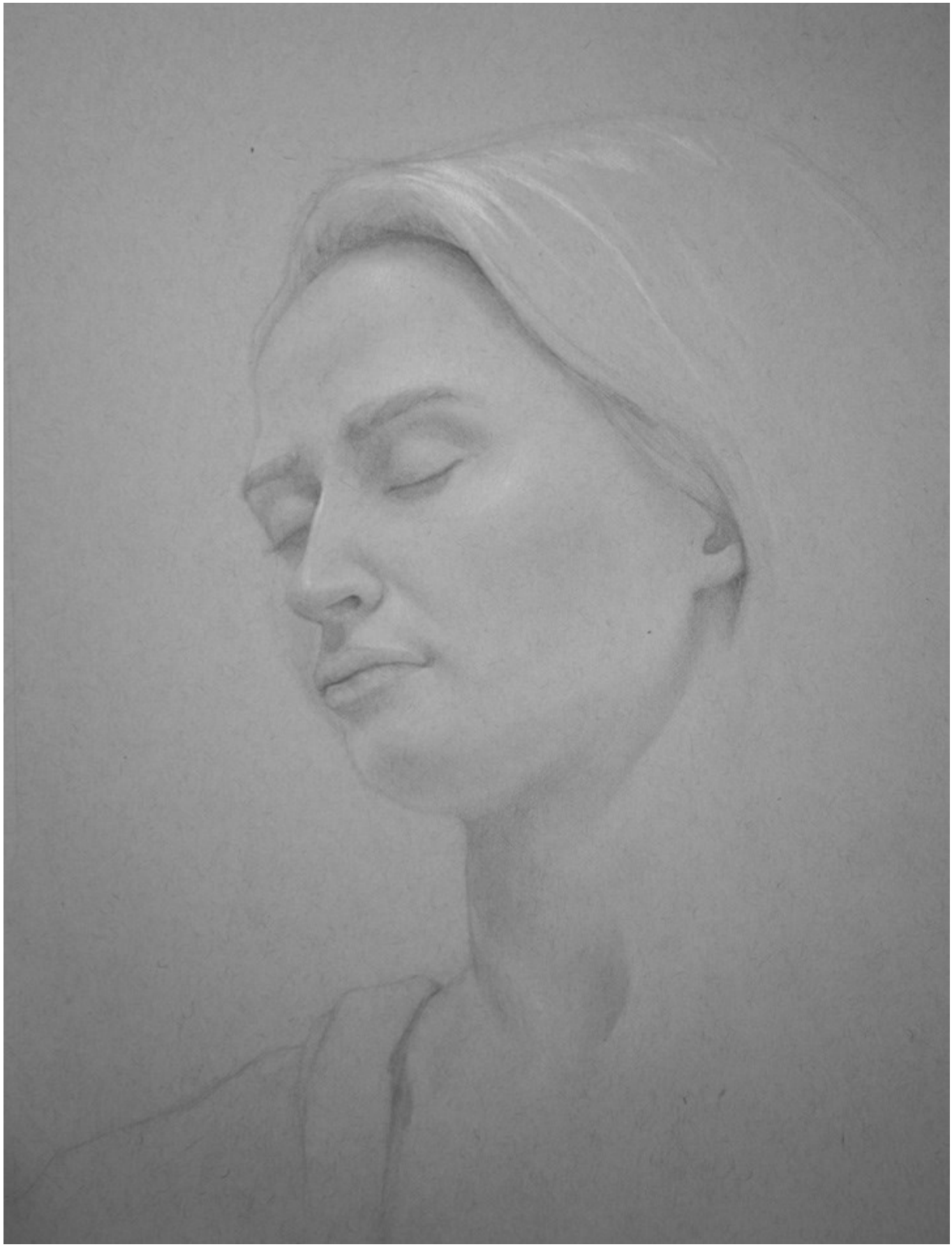

Figure 8: Head Study II

Figure 9: In Our Image

Figure 10: Sunrise Projector