



Claire Paquette

2024 Spring

Capstone - Painting

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

My work revolves around the concept of the stranger. The stranger is someone who is unknown to us and thus can be alluring and apprehensive. I paint these people as a way to crystalize a fleeting moment and to immortalize them forever in paint. Studying my reference photos is not only an act of striving for visual accuracy but also a way to study the essence of the individual. This parasocial relationship allows me to observe people more freely without the requirement of social engagement. I am just as much of a stranger to these people as they are to me. Yet, by isolating these specific moments I aim to contradict the nature of time and memory.

By fully rendering the people within my paintings I deem them to be the focal point while leaving the background to be less important and thus more loosely painted. This contrast further emphasizes my relationship to the subject and the closeness I strive to have with them. Artists that have served as particularly potent references are Edward Hopper and Mamma Andersson. Both of these artists toy with their compositions in a similar manner, exploring the dynamic between what to fully render and what is pure color. Their influence guides my own exploration within the confines of paint as a medium.

My paintings aim to confront the viewer and force them to contemplate their own relationships with people they encounter everyday. It is a common belief that people are these enigmatic, complex beings that we will never fully understand. However, when studied further there are fundamental bonds that unite us all. We are all linked by shared experiences and a common humanity that is able to transcend our differences. This connection serves as a way to cultivate empathy and through the act of nurturing these relationships comes the ability to enrich our lives in profound ways.

Title	Original Format
Figure 1: Girl in Stripes	Oil on canvas. 20 x 20 in.
Figure 2: Man in Jacket	Oil on canvas. 20 x 20 in.
Figure 3: Oldsmobile	Oil on canvas. 20 x 20 in.
Figure 4: Volleyball Boys	Oil on canvas. 30 x 24 in.
Figure 5: Packed in the Van	Oil on canvas. 24 x 36 in.
Figure 6: Packed in the Van (detail)	Oil on canvas. 24 x 36 in.
Figure 7: Packed in the Van (detail)	Oil on canvas. 24 x 36 in.



Figure 1: Girl in Stripes



Figure 2: Man in Jacket



Figure 3: Oldsmobile



Figure 4: Volleyball Boys



Figure 5: Packed in the Van



Figure 6: Packed in the Van (detail)



Figure 7: Packed in the Van (detail)