



Hazel Shelton

2025 Fall

Capstone - Painting

Department of Art and Art History

Artist Statement:

I make paintings of landscapes and the beings that inhabit them. I am inspired by dreams, almost-too-close observations of the world around me, weird animals, the unloved and weird and otherwise underappreciated (be it worms or people), and multispecies theory. My paintings are celebrations of the sentience of their inhabitants and how our proximity to them changes us. They are meditations on questions like what might happen if we spend time close to a particularly insightful Gila monster – even if she never shares what she knows. As I paint, I am interested in creating feelings that defy easy categorization. At the simplest level, I invite strangeness. While strangeness can feel uncomfortable, I have found it also pairs well with good humor and curiosity.

I approach painting with an interest in the materials I am using, constantly experimenting with techniques and recognizing the materials' agency as I work with – and sometimes against – them. I love the endless approaches you can take with oil paint, and how it invites chaos at every turn. With enough solvent, thick paint becomes fractals that slip unpredictably down the face of the canvas. Inevitably, the paint finds its way onto surfaces that have never been close to a palette. Oil paint creates a web of mess that offers only one solution: keep painting.

Title**Original Format**

Figure 1: Synthesis

Oil on Canvas, 60 in x 36 in

Figure 2: The Flower Girl

Oil on Canvas, 24 in x 48 in

Figure 3: Growing Pains

Oil on Canvas, 48 in x 36 in

Figure 4: Late for Trial

Oil on Canvas, 36 in x 24 in

Figure 5: Sleep

Oil on Canvas, 40 in x 30 in



Figure 1: Synthesis



Figure 2: The Flower Girl



Figure 3: Growing Pains



Figure 4: Late for Trial



Figure 5: Sleep