

**Artist Statement:**

I paint portraits to describe the people who create the cultural movements that influence our perceptions and behavior. I am fascinated by how our similarities and differences cause us to group, and often play with painting strangers as friends and friends as strangers to explore common personalities. I draw from both advertisements and fine art when painting. Advertisements are key to giving me insight as to how we want to look, whereas fine art allows me to think about cultures, both past and present.

I use multiple layers of paint to create my subjects. The first layer is the portrait, which is the appearance of the person. I then add a layer of small iconic shapes on the surface of the painting to reflect my interpretation of the person. The iconic shapes can reflect the subject's interests, where they are going in the painting, or why I chose to paint them. In trying to separate the way a person looks from how I see them I am describing the distance we all overcome when interacting with one another, so that looking at the painting is meeting a person.