



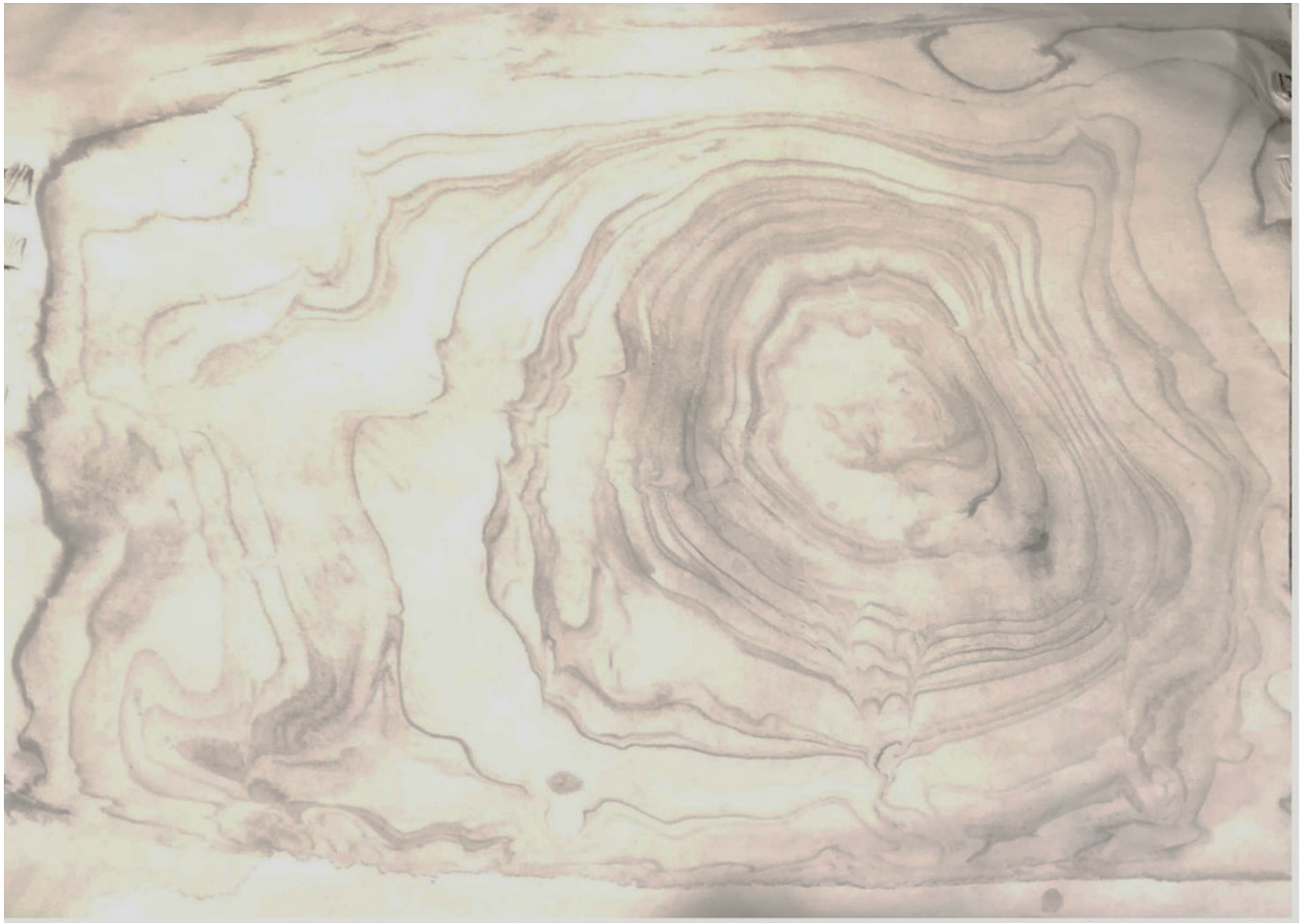


## **Penstemon Rostriflorus Dolphin**

Tate McDonald

This is an image of a Penstemon Rostriflorus flower that was taken on one of the trails in the Grand Canyon. There is a focused flower that appears to be a dolphin in the midst of a background of blurred out flowers. It shows the beauty of nature and the immense coincidences that appear in all of nature.





## **Michrochasm: Layers of Truth**

Aja Bos

For this piece, I decided to create an inkblot using the traditional Japanese art method of Suminagashi. Suminagashi involves dropping blots of ink into a pan of water and alternatively dropping dots of soap into the ink. The ink is adverse to the soap and will disperse away from it. After repeating this process continuously, rings of ink form in the water. These rings can be blown on and manipulated to form patterns. When the pattern is satisfactory, the artist dips their paper into the pan, thereby transferring the ink pattern to the paper. The result is a gray-to-black scale of ink patterns. This piece reflects my views on truth. I feel the truth moves as a unit. To me truth is not wholly black and white, and it does not completely conform to one shape or pattern. It is gray, and changes shape, and can be hard to pin down. I think there is a lot to be considered when we think about how our truths impact the lives of others. It is never too late to consider both sides of the story.



## **The Mobile Writing Station (Nature)**

Brandon Temple

*Plywood, hardware, found objects*

*Owned by artist*

Modern life is suffocating with quick actions. The action of jotting a note, the action of taking a photo, even an action as simple as moving oneself from point A to B. Little time or thought is put into these actions because of the extreme ease that it takes to carry them out. This ease is a result of modern digital technology that is meant to make our lives easier. Which it does. In return for ease, the understanding and consideration taken towards actions are shortened or forgotten. It is entirely possible to move through life without true consideration and love. This object brings consideration and thoughtful use to a mobile writing unit. Equipped to handle easy trails you are able to bring this device into nature and write. While any writing can be done, poetry is this device's focus because it also presses the viewer to take consideration. The transformation of this device from its mobile state to its open and useable state reflects the importance of taking one's time and attention to detail.







# Prairie Switch

Gabrielle Gonzales

*Wood, Prismacolor pencil, metal, cotton, acrylic paint*

The Prairie Switch, currently known as El Campo, is located in the coastal plains of Texas. The Prairie Switch was a railroad camp that served as a switching point on the Houston-Victoria Railroad and a shipping point on the New York, Texas, and Mexican Railroad. Ranching and Railroads were the primary industry during the 1880s; the small camp annually shipped an abundance of cattle and crops such as cotton, hay, and corn.

My ancestors migrated to the Prairie Switch from Mexico, seeking a better life and opportunities for work. After settlement, ranching, railroads, and church was what daily life consisted of as my family quickly grew to occupy the town. I relive my grandma's past as she describes her endeavors growing up in the Prairie Switch; her fond memories of picking cotton with her siblings and cousins, and Sunday rituals of god, family, and potlucks. As time continued, my family changed and evolved just as the town did. A greater distance has been created between generations, one that I now experience. I have no ties to the migration of countries or the great Vaqueros of Texas. I live in liminality, unattached and unknowing to my past, but perhaps liminality is my history.





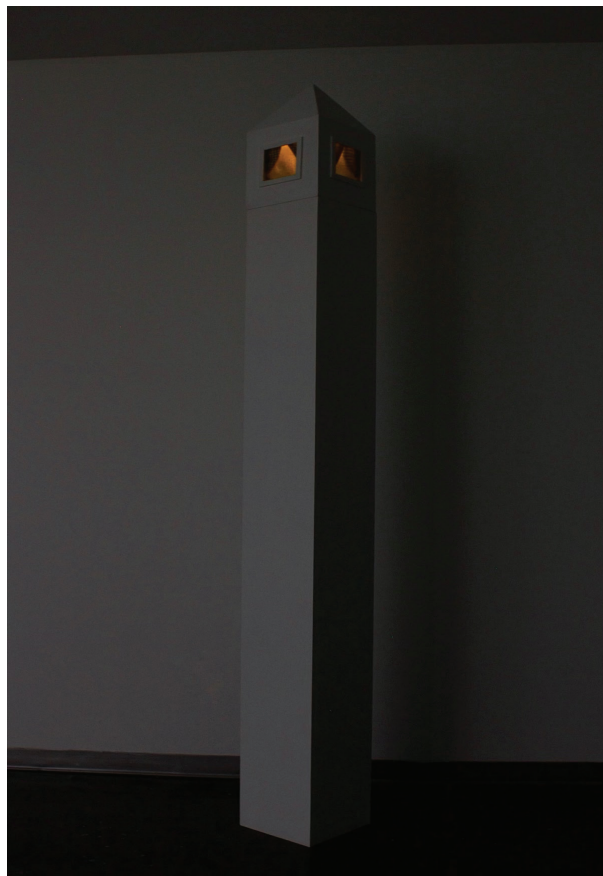


## —, Sweet —

Gabrielle Gonzales

*Plywood, glass, thrifted fabric, screws, paint, led lights, plastic film.*

The establishment of a permanent residency is a western concept that has gripped American idealism since colonization. Intertwining itself with the American dream, it is not only culturally crucial to own a house but socially crucial to own a house in a place, surrounded by people where it can become a home. Since moving to Colorado, the pressure of this concept has become more prevalent in my life. As a 22-year-old, I cannot say I fully understand what a home is to me yet. The lack of desire for permanency reflects as insatiability, causing guilt for the feeling of being dissatisfied. As a person that holds marginalized identities, feeling “at home” seems unreachable, and at times, unrealistic. Though, disheartening, I began to feel a greater magnetism towards concepts that liberate the emotions I have struggled with. I was drawn to nomadism and nomadic ideals; finding comfort that, I too, refuse to resign in an infertile place, seeking an environment that provides optimal possibilities and opportunities. Though American idealism is still placed on pedestals, I no longer find a need to appease these ethics as I connect more with my culture as a Mexican and Indigenous person.





# Grasping My Roots

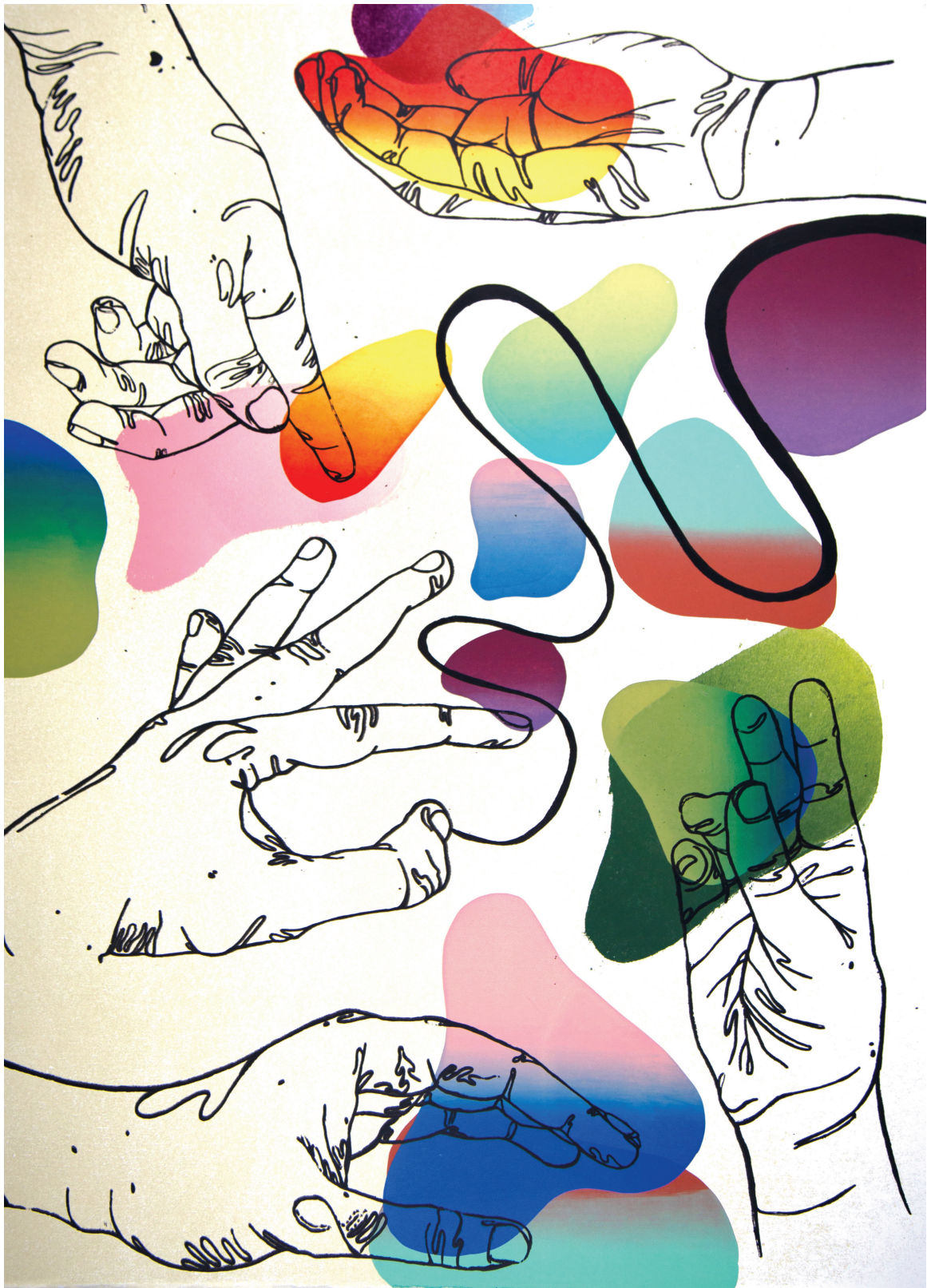
Cara DeStefano

## BFA Thesis

The American Family is a complex institution, and its idealization has held influence on my self-worth for my whole life. Being raised in the Christian faith imbued me with internal conflicts which came to light when my parents divorced. I had to reconcile traditional family structure and the truths I was raised to believe, with what I had actually experienced from adults in positions of power: mainly my father. Being a child of divorce is unsettling and the exposure I had to the judicial system silenced my voice and hindered my ability to advocate for myself.

The forms of human hands are used frequently to convey mood and body language between the subjects of my prints. Our hands can soothe or comfort, but also damage and manipulate. I have experienced both at the hands of family members and continue to struggle mending relationships from past trauma. Floral components reference the traditional, delicate nature of femininity in which I was brought up to embody. Flowers that hold familial significance are rendered to convey metaphor and the evolving stories within my larger body of work. This imagery also act as a tool for me to construct, examine, and then reshape gender expectations and recognize their impact on myself as a woman.

Constructing layered prints with controlled, delicate marks makes me feel secure. Deep thought can be applied to the conception and birth of a print, while a more mechanical thought takes precedence in the process of physical creation. This orderly system is my way of cataloguing my feelings in order to make something multifaceted yet engaging: something that will resonate with someone other than myself. Whether I am making a lithograph or monotype, printmaking allows me complete control over the representation of my experiences—something I was denied in the past. I am constantly subverting former influences as a way to move forward from the past and redefine myself into a new-found identity.







# Bite Me

Abigail Horton

*Digital painting, Procreate*

This piece is a study of the lips, one of the most vulnerable and expressive parts of the body. Using texture, color, and varied expression, the goal of this piece was to characterize the individual lips despite them all being the same object.



# Summertime, Peeled Two Ways

Abigail Horton

*Digital painting, Procreate*

The piece shows two clementines, both partially peeled. The clementine in the bottom left corner has stylistic blue shadows, while the one in the upper right has more realistic shading, but the same blue used in the drop shadow. The clementines are colored stylistically, with blocky, unblended colors.





# Disguising as I Go

Reagan Tucker



To see other images in this series, please use the QR code to visit <https://journals.colorado.edu/index.php/honorsjournal/article/view/2005>

*Printmaking, Relief*

20.5in x 24in

My body of work is a reflection of self. I am perceiving myself as a conscious being inside of a fleshy vessel and I explore the sentiments of that experience. I am building a relationship between myself and my perception of self. Striving to evoke malaise as a means to unearth buried emotions. I am investigating the transmutation of the internal self as it is expressed through the external self. Objective and subjective reality come together to see beyond the discomfort and harmonize my mind and body.





# City

Gabe Butler

*3D model (Blender)*

Creating this twinkling city was a test of my creative and architectural abilities. Simulating lens flare in an artificial 3D setting was a challenging yet rewarding task.





## **Bones**

Sage Jordan

*Sharpie*

*11in x 14in*

In a spontaneous turn of events, a man is able to take off his face. Butterflies are symbolic of the soul. The whole piece is an experiment on the mind.





## Airplane

Sage Jordan

*Sharpie, watercolor*

*9in x 12in*

I like to think our most fragile, beautiful inclinations make for the prettiest portraits. A face never lies, a hand always holds, and a bird may symbolize something bigger than we think.

# Self Portrait in Pride Colors

Max Roberts

*Acrylic on Canvas*

*18in x 30in*

Exploring my gender identity through self-portraiture. Using the colors of the Nonbinary flag, I ask myself who I am and what it means to be gender-nonconforming. I do not care how others perceive me as long as I am comfortable in my own identity and intrinsic values, therefore having a confident attitude within the piece.





# Violets

Max Roberts

*Acrylic on Canvas*

*18in x 24in*

Honoring and remembering the black lesbians who fought for all LGBTQ+ rights. Yellow and violets represent symbols of the lesbian identity, and the figure is confidently gazing at the viewer. Many of these women were forgotten in our modern narrative, this piece is giving them their rightful place in LGBTQ+ history.



# Martyrdom

Max Roberts

*Digital painting, Procreate*

Exploring the gendered expectations of transgender people. Idealized form of classical figures with top surgery scars showing the societal expectations for medical transition in order to be fully accepted. The societal expectation to suffer as a trans person, wherein inner transgender joy is the ultimate form of acceptance.





# Iced

Rachel Cunningham

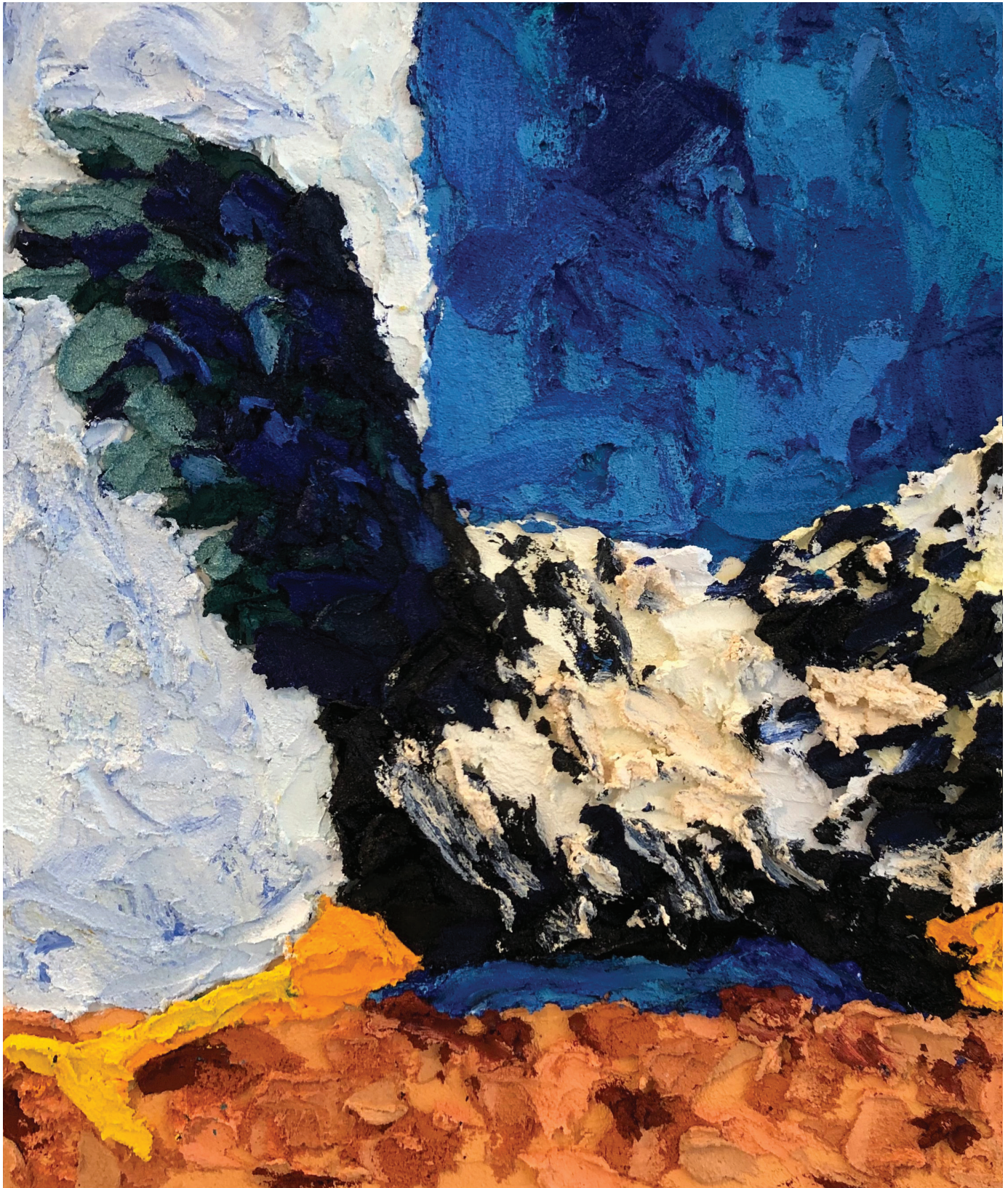
*Oil on stretched canvas*

*48in x 60in*

I create surrealistic and impasto oil paintings that explore themes of innocence and childhood. My work is primarily representational and explores the poetic meanings of symbolism. *Iced* inspired me to push my exploration of surrealism and symbolism further to tell the story of this girl comprised of baked goods.











## **Rooster on the Run**

Rachel Cunningham

*Oil, sand, acrylic on wood panel*

*16n x 20in*

Rooster on the run is inspired by my trip to Morocco where I witnessed numerous roosters in marketplaces with terrified and energetic looks.



## **Little Complexities**

Jessica Stouder

*Digital Photography*

All over, I see and hear “save the bees!” followed by a myriad of agreement, but not much in-depth thought or attention. The problems we face must be addressed on both global and local scales, and often the smallest scale analysis is the most crucial and overlooked. Look at the little complexities in nature, because we can learn from them.





## Nighttime in the Desert

Jessica Stouder

*Digital Photography*

The beauty of a dark desert sky is unmatched. As kids, we wish on shooting stars, and always look up to see the planes floating overhead. But as an adult, I look up into the sky and see the same mesmerizing stars from my childhood. However, when I look up, I also see light and noise pollution, and mistake planes and satellites for shooting stars. But no one ever thinks about how shooting stars are created most frequently by our own space trash burning up in the atmosphere. It's funny how we all see beauty in destruction. In this image, a plane creates the illusion of a shooting star.



# Alaskan Wilderness

Nick Gentile

The wilderness of Alaska is a seldom-visited, rarely-captured beauty of the world. These images hope to show just a shred of the surreal nature of Alaska, capturing Afognak Island, Denali State Park, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Brooks Range/Galbraith Lake, and Kenai Fjords National Park. Bears, Foxes, and sweeping landscapes make up a small part of my summer trip, but they were also one of the most profound experiences.

