

As my time as an undergraduate comes to a close while simultaneously living through a pandemic, I have observed that this is a challenging time for everyone. As it is such a difficult time, I found myself trying to find ways to almost escape this reality and create my own, more wonderful reality. So, while I tend to focus my work on issues revolving around mental illness and mental health issues, I found myself being drawn towards an almost surrealist escapism within my new body of work.

Being someone who has struggled with mental health for some time now, I've experienced a lot of ups and downs in my thinking and behavior. This past year has taken a downward spiral on my own mental health, as I'm sure it has for just about everyone. Because of this, the issue of escapism through whatever means necessary revealed itself to me. I used this idea of escapism through creating a surrealistic take on realistic subjects and environments.

Overall, I want the viewer to feel that same sort of escapism throughout each piece they come across. To enter the world of my work momentarily and try to feel and experience this world briefly before turning their attention to the next piece. While some are meant to illicit a more positive emotion and some more negative, the goal is ultimately to make the viewer *feel* and *experience*.